

Float Mounting of Art on Heavy Paper

'The Hedgehog Methods'

There are two basic methods of float mounting:

Flush - where the paper sits on the surface of the backing mountboard

Raised - where the paper floats above the surface of the backing mountboard

Flush Method

Prepare Backing Board

Decide by how much larger than the artwork you want the backing mountboard. For, example, select 40mm border all round. Then cut the board to the outside size and cut a bevel window mount out of the mountboard as if covering the artwork by 10mm all round. ie., cut a 50mm border.

Make sure to mark the drop-out (middle part) with a pencil squiggle. The drop-out for surface mounting should be reduced by 1mm all round (cut 2mm from each of a short and long side) This will allow the tape B to move a little.

Position the Artwork

Place the artwork face down on a clean surface, then lay the drop-out onto the back of the artwork, leaving a 10mm gap all round. Weight the board + artwork to stop it from moving.

Strips A: Cut small strips of archival white gum tape, A, (or Japanese gummed hinging tape) to attach the board to the artwork. Place at the top the whetted tape onto the board over the bevel edge and no more than 5mm onto the back of the artwork. Depending on size of artwork place the strips app 50mm apart, 100mm for larger work.

Strips B: Strips of tape are applied along both sides and the bottom. The only difference is that a temporary folded strip of silicone release paper is placed on the bevel edge, which allows the tape to flex when dry, allowing the artwork some movement as the humidity changes. Strips B should be 50 to 150mm apart as the top strips A are supporting most of the weight.

Attaching the outer mount to the completed artwork support

Strips C: When the gum tape is dry place the outer mount over the drop-out taking care to register with

the squiggle. Then tape over the gaps between the strips A and B with gum tape C taking care not to cover the gummed strips. When dry, place in the frame, remembering to put a spacer between the artwork and glass.

Raised Method

Raised Float mount

To create an illusion of the art floating in the frame, follow the first three stages for flush mounting. You can use a spare piece of mount board with bevelled edges instead of cutting out a window mount.

After completing those three stages, glue or tape a piece of foamcore board to the back of the mounted artwork. This is then glued to the backing mountboard in the frame. Make sure that the artwork is correctly positioned and that the spacer between the glass and the artwork gives sufficient clearance.

