

**HOWICK CAMERA CLUB**  
**HOWICK TUTOR GROUP**  
**MOUNTING PRINTS FOR**  
**COMPETITION AND DISPLAY.**

The printing of your Picture (photograph) is not the last process that must be done!

In order to take part in Competitions and/or display the picture, you must complete the production process by mounting that print so that it is enhanced and will impress those, including the Judge, who are viewing the picture.

There are two levels that must be considered – (1) Internal Club competitions, (2) External competitions – North Shore, NATEX, and PSNZ Honours are three examples.

**(1) Internal Club Competitions.**

In this case, the level of print mounting does not need to be at the professional level that is required for the External Competitions or going for your PSNZ Honours.

For Club Competitions, the use of “reusable” mat (back) boards will cut costs considerably.

**Surface Mounting.**

**Method (1) - THE HOWICK MOUNT** – the reusable Mat Board. Originally shown by John Lloyd LPSNZ.

A very simple, low cost, method, as you remove your print after the competition, your “Mat Board” is ready to reuse at the next competition night.

Materials required for each print being displayed on competition night –

**The “Mat Board” -**

A 20 inch x 16 inch (508 mm x 406 mm) panel (the “Mat Board”). PSNZ and Howick Camera Club, maximum size. Which can be made of –

a) **“Quality Artist Canvas Panel” Acrylic Primed** – you will need to paint this board with Flat (Matte) Acrylic paint so that it is easy to repair/clean. This is a rigid panel that is canvas covered, and primed with an acrylic primer (white). This is a very durable panel. With care, you can expect to be using this panel for 20+ years.

The price varies between retailers – “Fredrix” from Gordon Harris, Newmarket was \$11-99. A different brand from Warehouse Stationary, Manukau was \$14-99.

b) **A heavy weight (2 mm (2000 microns) thick) glossy, cardboard panel**, which you will need to cut or get cut to the 20 inch x 16 inch size. Unless you seal the cardboard, painting can be a problem. Also, the corners are vulnerable to damage. This panel, while cheaper than a), is not as durable.

c) **Foamboard.** Has the same problem as for b). Note paints that use a solvent will dissolve the foam core – if this happens, you can fill the zone where the core has dissolved with “Bond-o-Fill”, sand off and repaint. (the voice of experience!).

d) **Plasti-flute (Coreflute) Sheet.** This is a rigid plastic sheet that has a surface pattern of lines due to the manufacturing – the pattern is noticeable as the sheet is glossy. The sheet as purchased is larger than the 20 inch x 16 inch size, you will need to cut or get cut to size. It is available in various colours including Black and White. The sheet available from Warehouse Stationary is 600 mm x 450mm x 3.5 mm. It was priced at \$5-50. Being used for out door advertising signage, it must be considered as reasonably durable. Water based (acrylic) paints don't adhere very well and thus can peel off. Spray type paints may have a solvent that dissolves the plastic. However, you could use this as the core for making your own canvas covered panel. Check to see that this may exceed the costs of purchasing the panel described in a).

e) **“Mat” Board. Thickness of 1mm (1000 microns).** This is the cardboard that is used for picture frame mounts. It comes in two types – Solid Colour, the front colour is right through the cardboard (Black is very abrasive to cutting blades), and White Core which has the colour only on the front viewing surface – more commonly used as it has a white edge when cut. It has two disadvantages when used as a “Mat Board” and you remove the print after each use in Club – It is light-weight, and will tend to buckle (bend) in the middle particularly in the portrait position. The edges and particularly the corners are vulnerable to damage. The matte front surface is easy to mark and not easy to clean. To stop the Buckling, you need to reinforce the card by gluing another sheet to the back to give the Matte board strength. It will still be susceptible to damage at the corners.

f) **3ply wood panel of 4 or 5mm thickness.** This needs to be either painted with a flat paint or varnished (note that a matte varnish is available) It is very durable and will last a very long time.

**The colour of the “Mat board” is important in that it must not detract from the print – it must support and project the picture being displayed.**

#### **To Support the Print –**

The print itself is generally quite flimsy and will flop around, unless you are using very heavy paper or the print has been printed onto a substantial material. I personally use 250 gram print paper.

#### **To support the Print, the materials required are-**

1) **Cardboard,** 1.55mm (1550 microns ) thick or you can go to 2mm (2000).Any stiff white cardboard will do, so long as it has a smooth surface. “Pasted Formacote” is a recommended mounting board. Gordon Harris Ltd., has such a card in the art section – A2 – 1550 mic - \$5-99 per sheet. You only need enough to fit the trimmed print size, so a sheet will go a long way.

2) An easy to use **neutral glue-**

**Glue Sticks** – there are several brands for under \$2-00 each. Rub the glue onto the area so as to form a complete uniform coverage of the surface that the print is to be mounted on. (Also see NOTE in Attaching the Print to the Support Board).

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**Adhesive Spray in a pressurized can** – expensive at \$32-00 to \$56-00 per can. This is a “contact” spray on adhesive –properly used, it can result in a very uniform coating. You need to mask off the area that you do not wish the adhesive to go! Be very careful with the spray type of adhesive. Important – carefully follow the instructions on the container! (Also see NOTE in attaching the Print to the Support Board).

### **TOOLS REQUIRED FOR THE HOWICK MOUNTING METHOD**

**1) A Cutting Mat – A2 size.** This is to protect your worktable and to save the cutting blade when it penetrates the board being cut!

**2) A Ruler – 600mm (60cm).** Needs to have clearly read graduations.

**3) A Mechanical Pencil, 0.5mm lead size** – Is designed that the “lead” is inside a nozzle and this means that the “lead” can be prevented from touching and discolouring the edge of a mounting board. Such Mechanical pencils are used in Draughting work when using a guide. Use only HB and B grade “leads”. Other “leads” harder than HB will groove the card surface and “leads” softer than B will smudge and may be difficult to erase without damaging the card surface.

**4) A cutting Straight Edge** – A steel ruler can be used, but for stiffness, a piece of Aluminum unequal angle of 600mm (60cm) can be used. Make sure that the cut edges at the ends are sanded smooth to not damage the print! Also, put a couple of masking tape strips on the wide side of the unequal angle so as to protect the print. NOTE – Ullrich Aluminum has unequal aluminum of 25mm x 50mm x 3mm section available in 2.5 m lengths (minimum cut length). Get this length cut into 625 mm (623.5 cm) which will produce 4 straight edges – share the cost!

**5) A “Box Cutter” knife** which has “break off” tips so that a fresh cutting edge is easily available. Get spare blades and when replacing a blade ALWAYS wipe off the preservative oil so that you do not stain the print and the Stiffening Board!

**6) A Guillotine.** To trim your print. While you can do this with the “Box Cutter” knife and the Straight Edge, it is best to use a Guillotine – preferably with a rolling cutting blade.

**7) A Roller** – to roll your print onto the support board. This expels the air that will be trapped between the print and the glue on the Print Support Board. Trapped air produces bubbles that can be seen and will degrade your picture.

**The roller can be –**

**a) A Print Squeegee** – this has a rubber coating on the roller to stop damage to the print. It is equipped with a handle for ease of use.

**b) An Inking Roller** – like the Squeegee, but the rubber coating is harder. Also has a handle. Gordon Harris Ltd has a variety of these in 150 & 200 mm sizes.

**c) A Kitchen Rolling Pin** – a harder surface than a) and b). Make absolutely sure that the Rolling Pin surface is perfectly clean and dry before use, otherwise you will mark the print beyond repair – hint – use “cooking paper” between the rolling pin and the print.

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This will stop moisture damage, BUT you still must ensure that the Rolling Pin surface is clean of all contaminants and dried on bits! These bits will imprint onto the print (picture) surface resulting in an unwanted pattern that will be seen!

**All of these tools can be regarded as having a very long life, and therefore are effectively a one off purchase.**

**8)** A soft, artists Rubber (Eraser). Used to erase marking out lines when direct mounting of the Print onto the Mat Board.

### **ASSEMBLY OF THE HOWICK MOUNT:-**

#### **STEP 1 - TRIM THE PRINT-**

For a clean cut when trimming the Print, use the Guillotine. Trim to give either, a narrow White Border, or trim so that the Print is Borderless. This is your choice.

#### **STEP 2 - ATTACHING THE PRINT TO THE SUPPORT BOARD-**

**1)-** Using the Mechanical Pencil, mark the periphery of the print onto the Support Board.

**2)-** Then apply the glue in a uniform coverage over the complete area – see NOTE below. If you do not apply the glue over the full surface, will show as glue lines or spots where the glue has been applied and bulges where there is no glue! This is very poor practice.

**NOTE** – good practice is to leave a thin strip (about 2 to 3mm) free of glue around the outside edge of the print, or the Print Support board, so that any migration of the glue during rolling (glue oozing out from underneath the print), will prevent the glue from contaminating the roller, and getting transferred to the print front surface, and ruining the print!

**3)-** Position the print onto the glued surface and then press down at ONE edge only to locate the print.

**4)-** Then using the Roller, roll the print down onto the Support Board, rolling in ONE DIRECTION so as to EXPEL any AIR and thus prevent BUBBLES between the print and the Support Board. Bubbles appear as “bumps” protruding above the mounted print surface!

**5)-** Trim the Support Board neatly to the edges of the Print. (Use the Cutting Mat under the Support Board to protect your table, the Straight Edge to guide the Box Cutter when trimming).

### **STEP 3 – ATTACHING THE SUPPORT BOARD TO THE MAT BOARD.**

There are 3 effective methods of attaching the support board-

- 1).** Small balls of “**Blu Tac**” pressed onto the back of the Support Board. Low cost and reusable for up to 3 times. Position the print onto the “Mat Board”, press down firmly to attach. Easy to remove/reposition print.
- 2).** **Velcro dots and/or strips attached to the Support Board and the “Mat Board”.** Note that these are permanent attachments and are difficult to remove/reposition. Could be used to provide the main attachment to the “Mat Board” with “Blu Tac” to support the corners.
- 3).** **“3M Command” brand picture hanging strips.** Easy to use and remove. **Unfortunately, cannot be reused after removal from the “Mat Board”.** The hanging strips attached to the back of the Support Board can be left in position for future use. Depending upon the size of the Print/Support Board, 1 to 3 strips are required on both the Mat **and** Support Board. It is important to follow the instructions that are on the Package.

To obtain the best appearance of your picture on the “Mat board”, do the following-

- 1).** Attach to the back face of the Support Board any of the above:-

4 small balls of “Blu Tac” – 1 in each corner, about 10 to 15mm from the edges.

or 4 “Velcro Dots” – remember that these are not recommended for temporary mounting. The same positioning as for “Blu Tac”. Note the “Velcro Dots” attached to the Mat Board may damage the Mat Board when removing.

or 3 of the “3M Command” picture hanging strips. Easy to remove the hanging strips from the Mat Board and replace with new hanging strips for a different sized Print.

#### **Comments-**

“Blu Tac” is very good for temporary mounting and can be easily removed for the next print, no matter what size or orientation. If left on too long – 2months, may tear the back of the Support Board (card board) on separating the Support Board from the Mat Board.

“Velcro Dots” will definitely cause damage to the Mat Board when removing these. For a very long display time, these will keep the Print and Support Board in place. Not really suitable for the Howick Mount.

“3M Command” picture hanging strips are the best for short/long time mounting. You would need to replace the strips on the Mat Board for a new print of a different size or orientation.

#### **POSITIONING for Normal and Conservative mounting -**

**a)** The picture **MUST** be equidistant from the vertical sides of the “Mat board”.

**b)** The picture **should be mounted** so that the **Picture Horizontal Centre Line** is **ABOVE** the “Mat board” **Horizontal Centre Line**. This puts the picture on a “Pedestal” and thus, will lift the presentation, above the ordinary!

A “**Rule of Thumb**” is anywhere between 20mm (2cm) to 30mm (3cm) above the “Mat board” horizontal centre line and the Picture centre line. There is no exact measurement.

c) You can mount the Print anywhere on the Mat Board if you think that the print would gain from such positioning – you take the risk!

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**Method (2) – THE DIRECT MOUNT** – used for permanent mounting, external competitions, and for PSNZ Honours Board submissions.

The Mat Board used is the Picture “Mat Board” of 1mm (1000 microns), the front side is white, off white, ivory, neutral grey, or black. It is available as solid colour or White Core. The black solid colour is very abrasive and will dull cutting blades very quickly.

There are two effective types of mounting –

**A)** The Print is directly glued to the Mat Board front surface.

**B)** The print is mounted on a separate piece of mat board, as per the Howick Mount, (the Support Board), but this is glued directly to the front surface of the Mat Board. This method raises the standard of the print mounting. It provides a slight “Drop Shadow”.

**C)** The print is mounted on the Support Board as per B), but has another smaller piece of mat board (20mm smaller on both dimensions) glued to the back of the Print Support Board. The Print is effectively mounted on two layers of Mat Board and this assembly is in turn glued to the main Mat Board. Now the print will give a definite “Drop Shadow Effect” with a very superior appearance.

### **Positioning and Gluing the Print onto the Mat Board –**

The same positioning criteria are used as per “THE HOWICK MOUNT”.

**A)** Where the Print is to be glued directly to the Mat Board, position the trimmed Print and scribe **lightly** around the edges of the print using the “Mechanical Pencil” so as to determine the area where the glue is to be applied – do not let the glue be closer than 3mm of the scribed line. The scribed lines will show where to place the print onto the glue, in the correct place. Get this wrong after rolling the print onto the glue is ruination of the Picture Assembly! You cannot remove the Print without tearing both print and Mat Board! When the Print is securely glued in place, use the Soft Eraser to rub out the pencil scribed lines – you do not want these to be visible!

**B)** Using the “Support Board” that is to be glued directly to the Mat Board, do the same as for **A) after gluing the Print to the Support Board!**

**C)** If you use the extra, smaller piece of Mat Board so as to provide the “Drop Shadow” effect, turn the “Support Board” so that the print is in contact with the Mat Board and **lightly** scribe as in **A)**. Then apply the glue to the extra piece of Mat Board, turn the

assembly print side up and place into position using the scribed lines for correct position, check measurements and reposition accordingly. When correct, roll the print assembly onto the Mat Board.

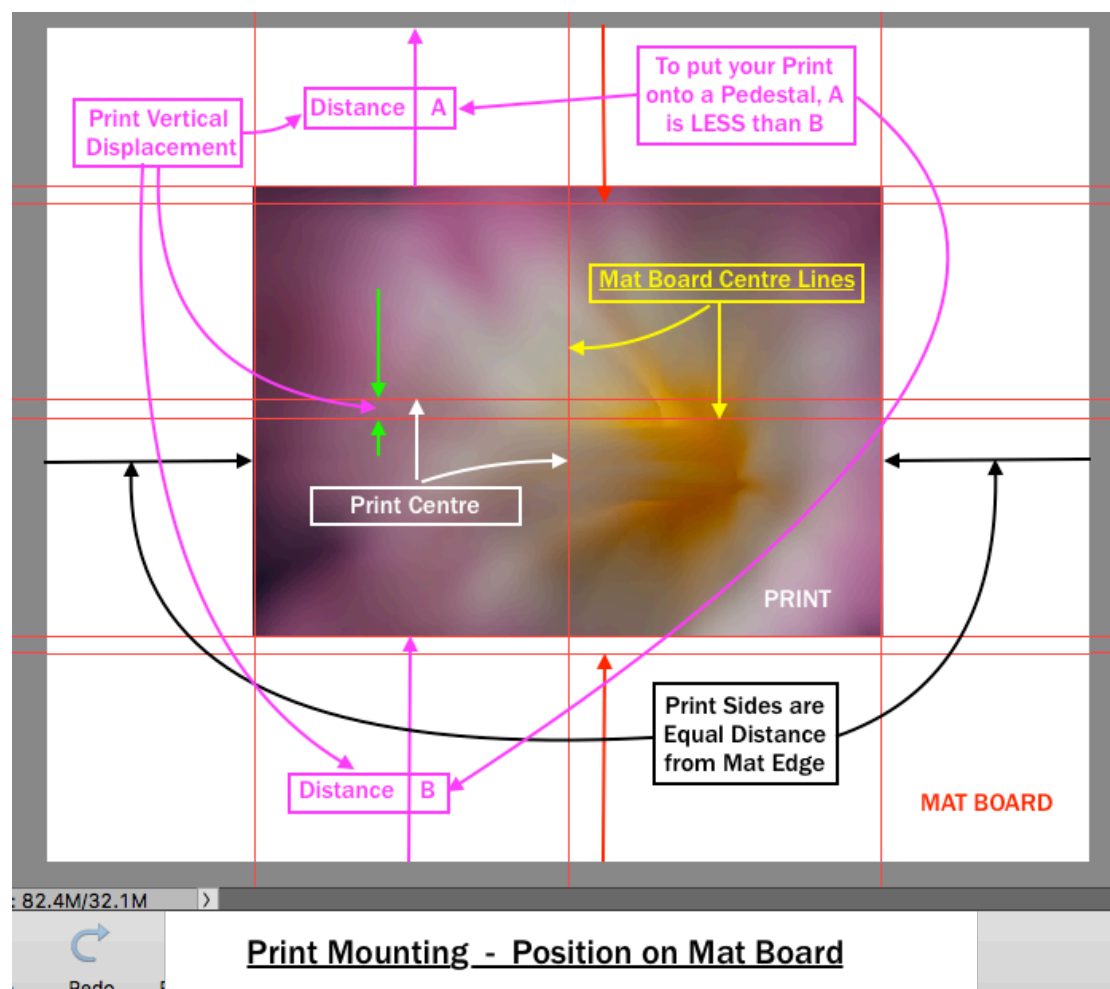
Now using the Soft Rubber, erase the scribed guidelines because if you do not, these lines WILL BE VISIBLE!

### **RECOMMENDATION-**

If you are doing the **Direct Surface Mounting method** for the first time or if you have not done this method for a while, do a practice run using scrap Mat Board and say an expendable 6 x 4 print. Practice makes perfect! **In each case, make sure that the Print is the CORRECT WAY UP! Mounting the Print the wrong way up causes the blood pressure to rise!**

Happy Print mounting,

Frank C.



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