

GETTING STARTED WITH PRINTS

A

A CHEAP AND QUICK WAY AT THE VERY BEGINNING:
(Putting your toe in the water without a big cash outlay)

- Get someone else to make the print for you
- Get someone else to make you a 40 x 50 cm mount, and cut a window if you want
- Then you put it all together. Here's the basic information.

1. Use a commercial printer: Try DS Colour Labs(www.dscolourlabs.co.uk)
ProAm Imaging & Sim Lab (www.simlab.co.uk/proam)
Costco (if you're a member which costs about £30 a year) Reports vary on quality.
Loxley (www.loxleycolour.com) - Good, A Which best buy, quick but expensive.

2. Some Art Shops will cut mounts and bevel windows for you. For a small number, this is cheapest. Pinnacle paper and Mount board are available from paperspectrum.co.uk, who also sell mounts with pre-cut windows.

3. To assemble your print on the mount, there are various ways. Talk to experienced photographers, or look at a demo. YouTube has several videos. Google YouTube photo mounting techniques. Truro Camera Club has a demo on its website. Longridge.co.uk, suppliers of Mount Cutting systems and all the paraphernalia you can think of, has videos on mounting but often rather sophisticated, and involving their excellent but expensive kit.

4. To start simply, you can **Surface Mount** your print, using Print Spray or double-sided tape. It's not easy, and you must get the print attached flat. Too much spray or careless use of the DS tape and your print will ripple, which is ugly.

For **Window Mounting** get yourself a flat surface, a soft pencil, rubber, ruler, Scotch Magic Tape to position your print, some scissors, and an art knife (A Stanley Knife will do for now, but be careful.) Buy some genuine Mounting Tape from an Art Shop or Photo Supplier. Do **NOT** even think of making do by using Decorators' Masking Tape. It does not stick reliably, comes off and can damage other people's prints if it is in a pile. Frank Reeder will show one way to mount without using extra card backing, or you can use backing card, mount your print on that, and then attach the backing card to the back of the mount, with your mounting tape, making sure there are no sticky bits exposed at the end.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEMBERS

ABOUT THEIR FAVOURITE KIT

B

INKJET PRINTERS: There is a range of printers, some with large ink tanks, most with less economical cartridges. This paper does not deal with choice of printers.

PROFILING PRINTERS AND MONITORS: To make your monitor match the colours the printer will produce, use the club's Datacolor Spyder Profiler on free loan, or buy one of your own. If you don't use the printer manufacturer's paper (and few people do), you should also use a computer profile for the paper and your printer.

PRINTING PAPER: Members recommend people new to printing save money by sticking to one or two papers until they get used to them. They suggest starting with a pearl or lustre finish and asking the manufacturer to provide a profile for you to put on your computer. My favourites: Permajet Oyster and Ilford Galerie Pearl or Gloss. Also liked are: Fotospeed, Paper Spectrum, and Pinnacle, (cheaper than some).

MOUNTING: If using Spray, use 3M Photo Mount cans (expensive)
If using Mounting Tape: Use proper Brown mounting tape from Paper Spectrum, or from Turners Ltd, Art Supplies at Rowsley. or on-line from Paper Spectrum who also supply Mounts. Maple Framing in Stapleford also supply mounts cut to size.

SMALL MOUNT CUTTERS for CUTTING OUT WINDOWS:. Logan is our favourite; they supply bevel edge cutters and straight edge cutters. www.logangraphic.com

SELF-HEALING CUTTING MATS: Suppliers include Uchida and Axminster. Never use a bevel edge cutter directly onto a Cutting Mat or you will cut bits out of it! Logan supplies special card to cut onto. Seems expensive, but is purpose-made and lasts for ages.

MOUNT CUTTING SYSTEMS: Here the favourite is Longridge, who have excellent but expensive systems and a host of videos on their site. www.longridge.co.uk

SMALL KIT: 600mm Metal Ruler (Safety Ruler if you prefer), T- Square, Soft Pencil, Stanley or Craft Knives, Scotch Magic Tape, Double-sided tape are all widely available.

CARRY CASES AND STORAGE BOXES: NOMAD are very popular. Remember to buy a sheet of foam with each case to cover the internal rivets.

SUPPLIERS: Firstly, Photoshows like the NEC March show are good for most of this. You can see equipment demonstrated and save postage by carrying it home! Lion Picture Framing Supplies in Birmingham has a huge catalogue (lionpic.co.uk) and for my money, the local Aladdin's Cave which supplies most of what you'll need is Maple Framing www.mapleframing.co.uk, who sell from an unpromising-looking warehouse in Stapleford, No 1 Sandiacre Road, Stapleford NG9 8EX.