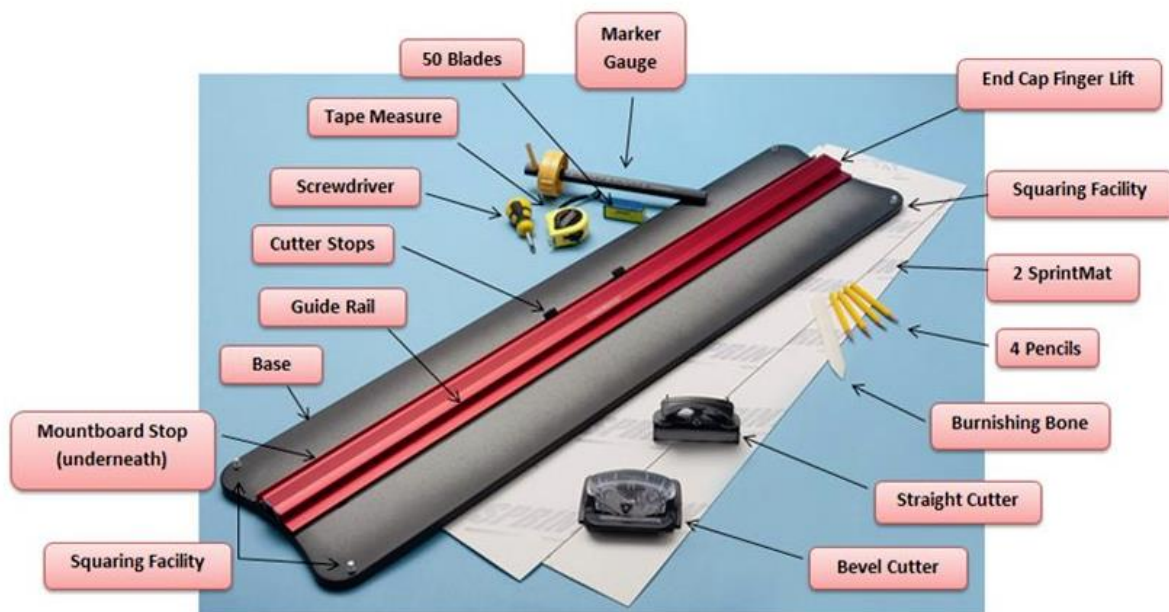


Mounting Prints For Exhibitions and Competitions

Generally mount boards for exhibitions and competitions measure 40cm x 50cm.

Items that are required for mounting a print:

- a. A mount board cutting kit is necessary if an accurate clean cut aperture is to be prepared, typical cutting kits are manufactured by Longridge, Logan and others. The use of steel rules and craft knives is not recommended. Longridge kit approximate cost: £270-£300, Logan kit consisting of a baseboard, cutter guide and two cutters and spare blades, approximate cost: £150-£200. The Longridge kit contains the items shown in the picture:



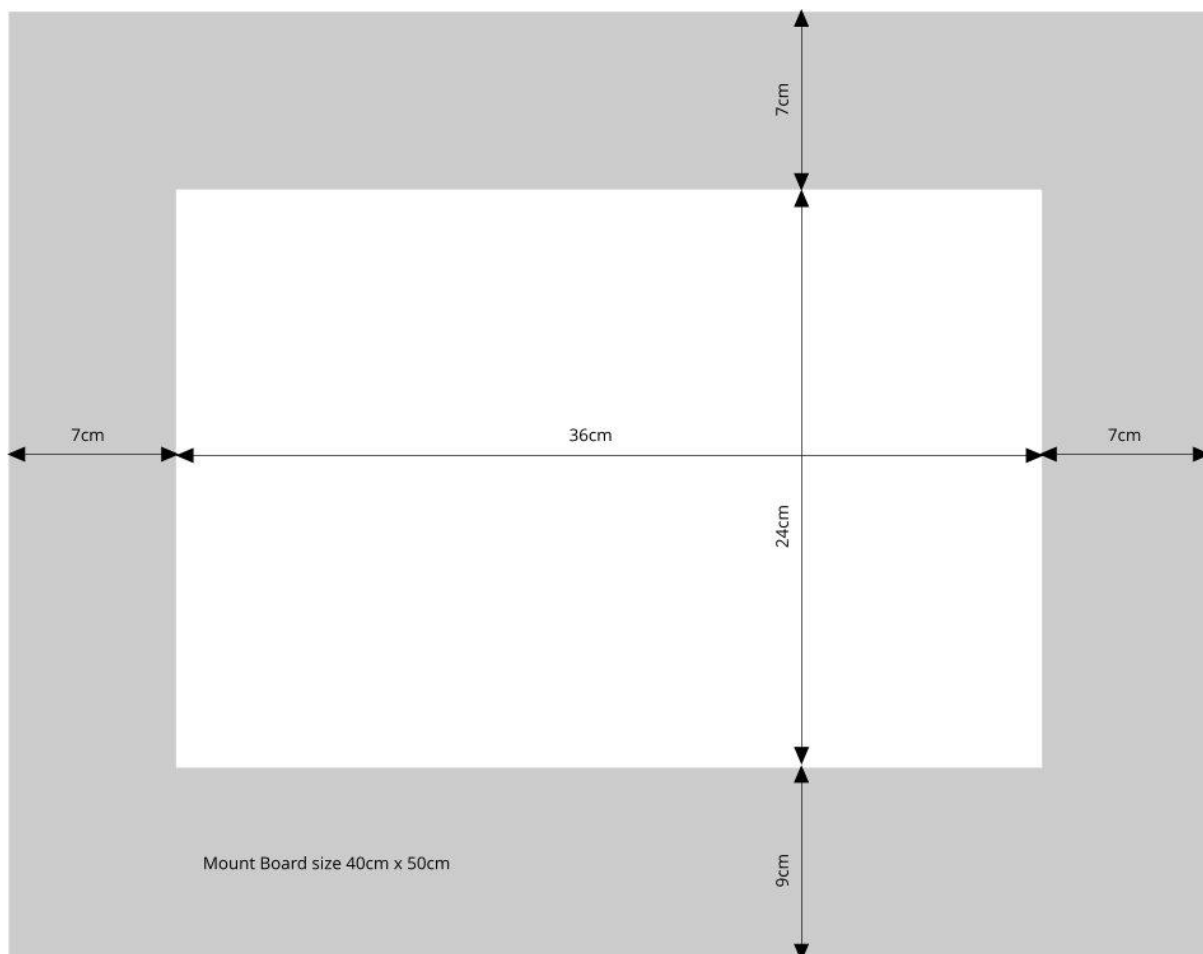
- b. Mount board for which there are a wide range of choices, pre-cut to 40cm x 50cm from suppliers like Paper Spectrum: <https://www.paperspectrum.co.uk> for people who only want to try a few prints, pre-cut mounts are available but they are standard sizes and the aperture is equal all round which does not give such an aesthetically pleasing result.
- c. Backing board from the same supplier, in this procedure 40cm x 50cm backing board is chosen, although 42cm x 45cm backing board is available and self-adhesive mounting tape can be used, this allows the mount to be reused.
- d. Self-Adhesive Tape 25mm x 50m from Lion ECO15+ here <https://is.gd/UXFOD8> cost £1.75 per roll, **please do not use Drafting/Masking tape as it is a well-known fact that it will work loose causing the mounted picture to become detached from the mount and possibly become damaged and damaging other photographers mounted pictures too** Hobbycraft: <https://www.hobbycraft.co.uk> also supply this type of tape
- e. Copydex adhesive from Wilko or Amazon costs approximately £3.90 for 125ml tub

Procedure For Mounting The Picture

1. Decide on the size that the picture will be printed, the default picture size from full frame cameras can be typically printed up to 51cm x 34cm at 300 pixels/inch resolution, obviously this is too large for the 40cm x 50cm mount board and default picture size from crop sensor camera images can be printed up 36cm x 24cm, without having chosen to increase the image size

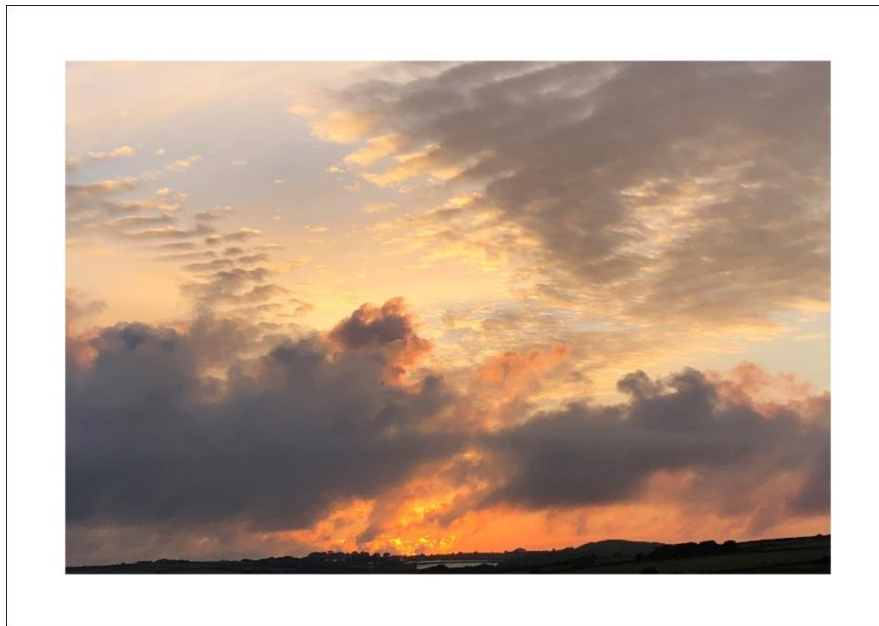
Mounting Prints For Exhibitions and Competitions

2. Here is a technical bit that is used for printing the picture, the picture is to overlap the cut aperture by 4mm in both the length and width of the picture, so in the example aperture chosen i.e. 36cm x 24cm I would print the picture 36.4cm x 24.4cm on A3 printing paper
3. The maximum length of image to be mounted in the 40cm x 50cm mount board would probably be in the range 34-36cm
4. Let us assume we want to cut an aperture in the mount board 36cm x 24cm
5. We need to mark out that aperture on the back face of the mount board preferably using a marking gauge with a sharply pointed pencil.
6. Assuming that a landscape orientated picture is being mounted, therefore the picture needs to be horizontally central in the mount, the dimension from one edge to the aperture is calculated as follows: $(50-36)/2 = 7\text{cm}$, using a measuring tape or rule mark a small fine pencil line 7cm from both edges of the mount board.
7. Set the marking gauge to this mark and scribe a fine pencil line along both edges of the mount board.
8. To calculate the position of the cutting line at the top and bottom of the mount board, this is calculated as follows: $(40-24)/2 = 8\text{cm}$. However to a practiced eye, if the picture is mounted vertically central in the mount it would look odd, it looks better when mounted to have a wider border at the bottom than at the top and this gives the impression that the picture is not falling out of the mount, as it would if it was centrally mounted. So in this example a line would be scribed 7cm from the top edge and 9cm from the bottom edge. See illustration below:



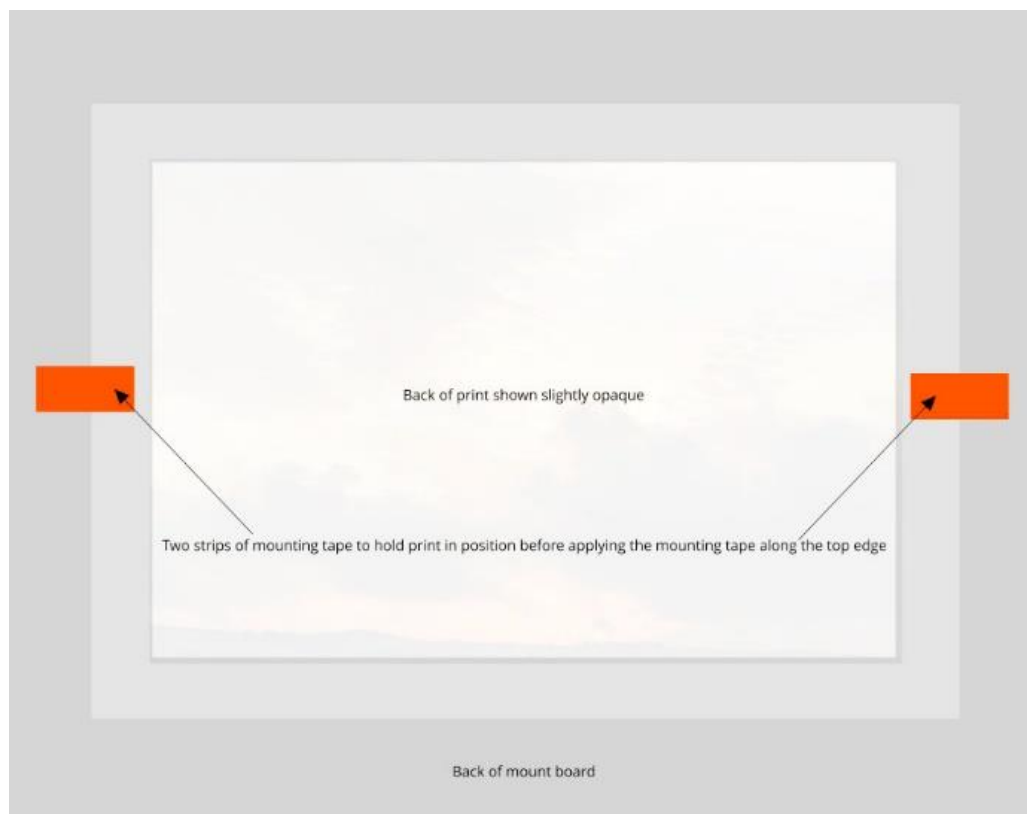
Mounting Prints For Exhibitions and Competitions

9. The procedure now is to place the mount in the cutting base and cut out the aperture using the bevel cutter, as the lines have been marked out on the back of the mount, that side should be upper-most when you place it in mount cutter – so that the lines can be seen.



Example picture to be mounted, centrally printed on A3 size paper, the picture area has been printed 36.4cm x 24.4cm.

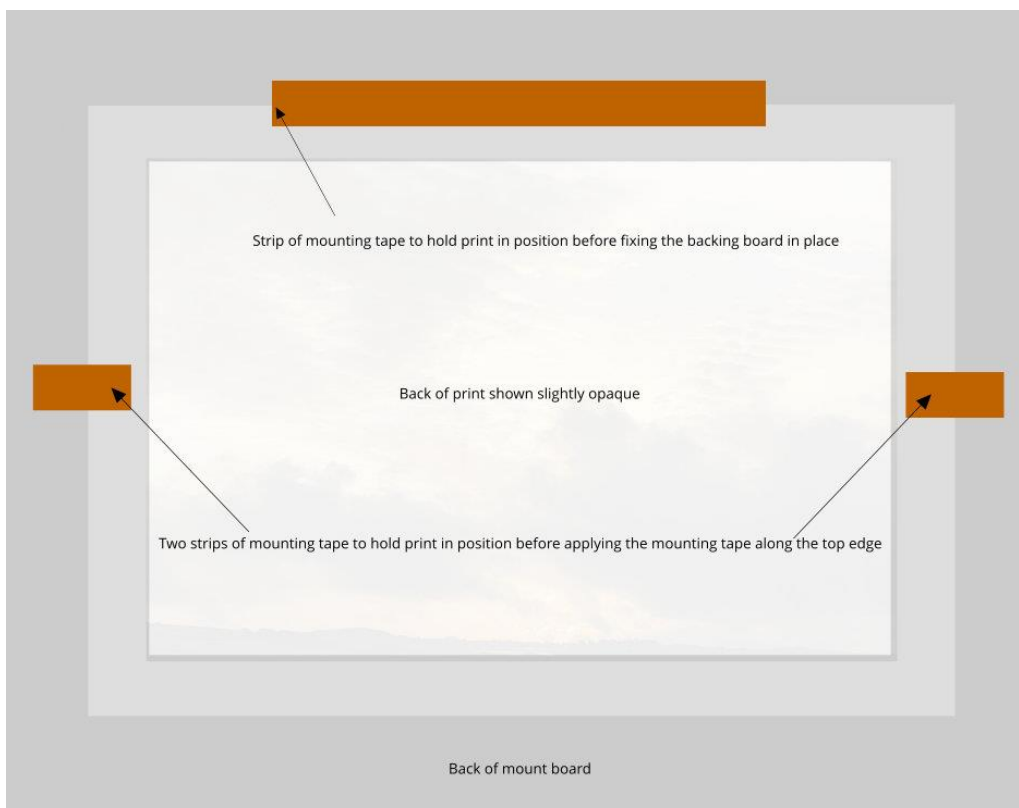
The pictures that follow are to illustrate what happens after the aperture in the mount has been cut out.



Mounting Prints For Exhibitions and Competitions

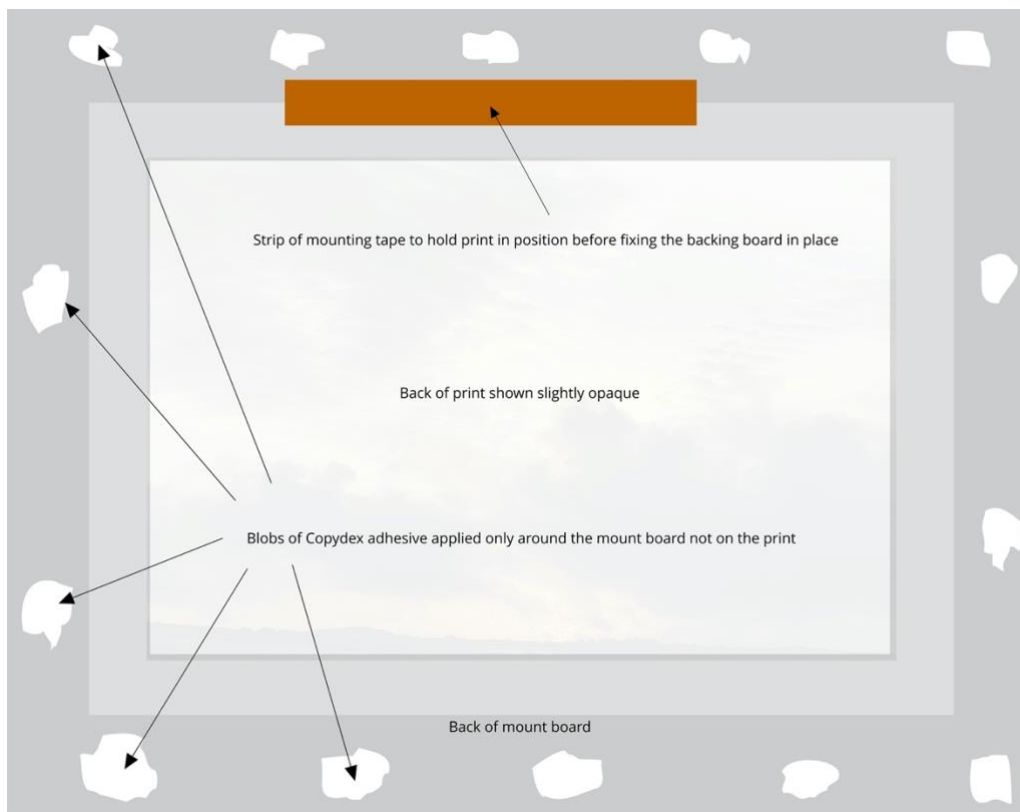


In this view the print is shuffled about until the overlap is equal on the four sides then the two pieces of mounting tape are pressed down to prevent the print moving relative to the aperture.



Mounting Prints For Exhibitions and Competitions

In this view the strip of mounting tape is applied to the top edge of the print. This will be sufficient to hold the print in place and allow it to expand and contract. At this point the two small strips of mounting tape are removed.



Prior to placing the backing board in place several blobs of Copydex adhesive are applied, the backing board is aligned with the mount board and pressed down.

References

Longridge have a number of excellent videos which photographer may find useful regarding all aspects of mount cutting: <http://www.longridge.co.uk/guides.aspx>