

Accurately Measuring Artwork for Framing

Although it might sound cliché, when getting ready to measure a piece of artwork for framing, the saying 'Fail to Prepare, and Prepare to Fail' could not ring more true.

First, have a think about what you might need to complete the task and make sure it is all to hand.

The following is a good starting point:

- A flat surface in a well lit area.
- An accurate ruler or tape measure that is at least as long as the artwork being measured.
- A pencil, sheet of blank sheet of paper and an eraser.

Next, determine the artwork's original size. Measure the portion you want to be viewable from the finished frame. If the print goes to the edge of the paper, this is fairly straightforward, however, if this is not the case, you will have to choose how much of the artwork you would actually like to see.

If a mount is not being used for the framing project in question, there is little more to do as your frame will be cut so that the artwork will fit precisely into it.

However, since the vast majority of frames are mounted, you will need to determine the offset. When framing, it is important to ensure that the artwork is totally covered by the mount window, because for the edge of the artwork paper to be exposed because the window is too large, it would look wholly unattractive.

Therefore, the next step is to decide how much of the mount should overlap the artwork's edges. This is known as a mount offset. In most cases, either $1/16''$ or $1/8''$ is subtracted from each side to accommodate the offset.

Subtract the original width and the height dimension from the mount offset. If you write everything out as highlighted here, you will be more certain of your measurements. This is simple enough, but be careful, as many mistakes are made subtracting fractions. It might be that you want to ask

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someone double check your maths first, before you make any costly mistakes. Once you are sure that what you have to hand is correct, when you are ready to commence framing you should be equipped with all the information you need to get your sizing right.