

CREATIVE CMC DESIGNS

A 'BURNING LOVE' FOR MAT CUTTING

GUNNAR CMC

This eye-catching design was inspired by the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley. Created by Jared Davis, MCPF, GCF, this is an artwork created entirely using layers of matboard. Davis has been using and working with GUNNAR computerized mat cutters for over 25 years and is a recognised specialist in this field.

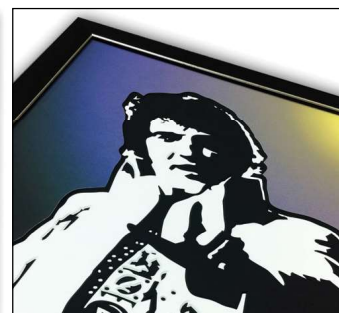
“This one-off piece is a personal favorite created only for myself,” Davis says. “When GUNNAR first launched its groundbreaking AiOX CMC several years ago around the same time as my visit to Graceland in Memphis, TN, I knew it would be possible to do something different that could really push the machine’s capabilities, along with the upgraded version of its GUNNAR Mat Creator (GMC) software.”

Traditionally, framers would use a CMC to create a matboard border for an existing image or artwork. But Davis wanted to harness this technology to create an exceptional artwork using multiple layers of matboards.

Davis says creating this concept was a unique challenge that ultimately required a number of separate steps. “Using my background in graphic design, I started by creating a suitable design using Adobe Photoshop that I knew could be cuttable on a GUNNAR AiOX CMC. I wanted to allow as much fine detail as possible, so this initial part of the design process took several hours.”

Next, he converted his digital jpeg image into a vectorized artwork using a few steps in Corel Draw. This could also have been done using Draw Mode in the GMC software. However, given the detail and the high number of separate opening cutouts, it would have taken considerably longer. But GMC Draw Mode did come in handy during testing.

Once the artwork was vectorized, Davis was able to easily import it into the GUNNAR Mat Creator software from Corel Draw. Within GMC, he then had to sort over 180 cutout openings into four separate cut layers of matboard. “This was a bit of a puzzle to figure out, because I couldn’t cut every opening into the same layer of matboard without it all falling apart,” he says. “I had to consider how windows were grouped and layered in order to create a design with more enhanced details. Using extra layers of matboard also



● Davis’s CMC’s capabilities were critical to achieving this unique design, a tribute to Elvis Presley.

helped produce a more three-dimensional effect.”

Once Davis figured out the layering for the cutouts, a test cutting process commenced on the CMC using scrap matboards. After another hour, with a few broken blades and a small pile of matboard offcuts, the process was completed.

Measuring 37” tall by 13.5” wide, the completed artwork contains over 180 windows and uses four separate layers of matboard. It also took more than 45 minutes to cut. To finish off the assembly, each layer of matboard was carefully glued using a combination of double-sided tape and small dabs of PVA glue to secure the narrowest parts.

The yellow and purple spotlight effect of the outside matboard layer was created using another interesting process. Using Adobe Photoshop, Davis designed a gradient color effect as an image. He then printed this image this onto some thin fine art photo paper. This gradient print was then dry-mounted onto the surface of a black core matboard which was manually trimmed for alignment before cutting in the CMC. Davis also specifically used black core matboard for additional layers with the design in order to provide a more sharpened and refined result.

“A CMC is an essential time-saver for any framing business,” Davis says. “And technology keeps improving, making these machines even better as time goes on. I’m proud to have this unique tribute to Elvis hanging in our home.”