

INEXPENSIVE FRAMING TECHNIQUES

John Kennedy

**THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO FOLLOW THESE FRAMING SUGGESTIONS
OFTENTIMES THE VENUE (GALLERY, SHOW, MUSEUM) HAS THEIR OWN SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
THIS IS JUT HOW I DO IT**

**I THINK A GOOD PIECE OF ART IS MORE SELLABLE IF IT IS PRESENTED NICELY FRAMED
THE METHODOLOGY FOR FRAMING SHOULD BE INFLUENCED BY YOUR ART SELLING PRICE
IT MIGHT BE WELL WORTH THE MONEY TO HAVE EXPENSIVE ART PROFESSIONALLY FRAMED
BUT FOR ART IN THE MID-PRICE RANGE FRAMING COSTS ARE OFTEN PROHIBITIVE
THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS TALK**

Before we get started

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT I HAVE LEARNED THE HARD WAY OVER THE YEARS

**KNOW YOUR INTENDED FRAME SIZE BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR ART – THE LAST THING YOU WANT IS TO MAKE A GREAT
PIECE OF ART AND FIND THAT FRAMING REQUIRES A CUSTOM FRAME**

UNLESS YOU ARE WILLING TO PAY EXTRA FOR FRAMES, PAINT TO STANDARD FRAME SIZES

**IF YOU INTEND TO MAT YOUR PAINTING TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION – SOME FRAMES COME WITH MATS ALREADY
CUT, AND THOSE ARE ALMOST ALWAYS TO STANDARD SIZES**

PRE-CUT MATS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN STANDARD SIZES

**IF YOU WANT TO USE NON-STANDARD PAINTINGS USING STANDARD FRAMES CONSIDER INVESTING IN A MAT CUTTING
SYSTEM**

Some Helpful Hints

PAPER TOWEL AND GLASS CLEANER
BROWN PAPER
SINGLE HOLE (OR DOUBLE HOLE) D RINGS
PICTURE HANGING WIRE
PAPER HINGING TAPE
DOUBLE SIDED TAPE
FRAMING POINTS (NOT SHOWN)

OFFSET CANVAS CLIPS (IF NEEDED)



Materials

SCREWDRIVERS (FLAT AND PHILLIPS)

BOX CUTTER

RULER

WIRE CUTTERS

PENCIL

DRILL FOR PILOT HOLES AND BIT

POINT DRIVER (NOT ESSENTIAL, YOU CAN BUY

POINTS THAT CAN BE DRIVEN IN MANUALLY, THOUGH

THEY ARE AT TIMES DIFFICULT TO INSTALL)



Tools

AN ODD SIZED PAINTING 4" X 7"

**AN ODDER SIZE FRAME 8 ¾" X 10 ¾" I
BOUGHT ON SALE FOR LESS THAN \$10**

(PROBABLY BECAUSE IT IS AN ODD SIZE)

**IN THIS CASE I'LL CUT MY OWN MAT,
BUT THIS WOULD WORK JUST FINE WITH
A 5" X 7" PAINTING IF YOU CAN LIVE
WITH A WHITE MAT**

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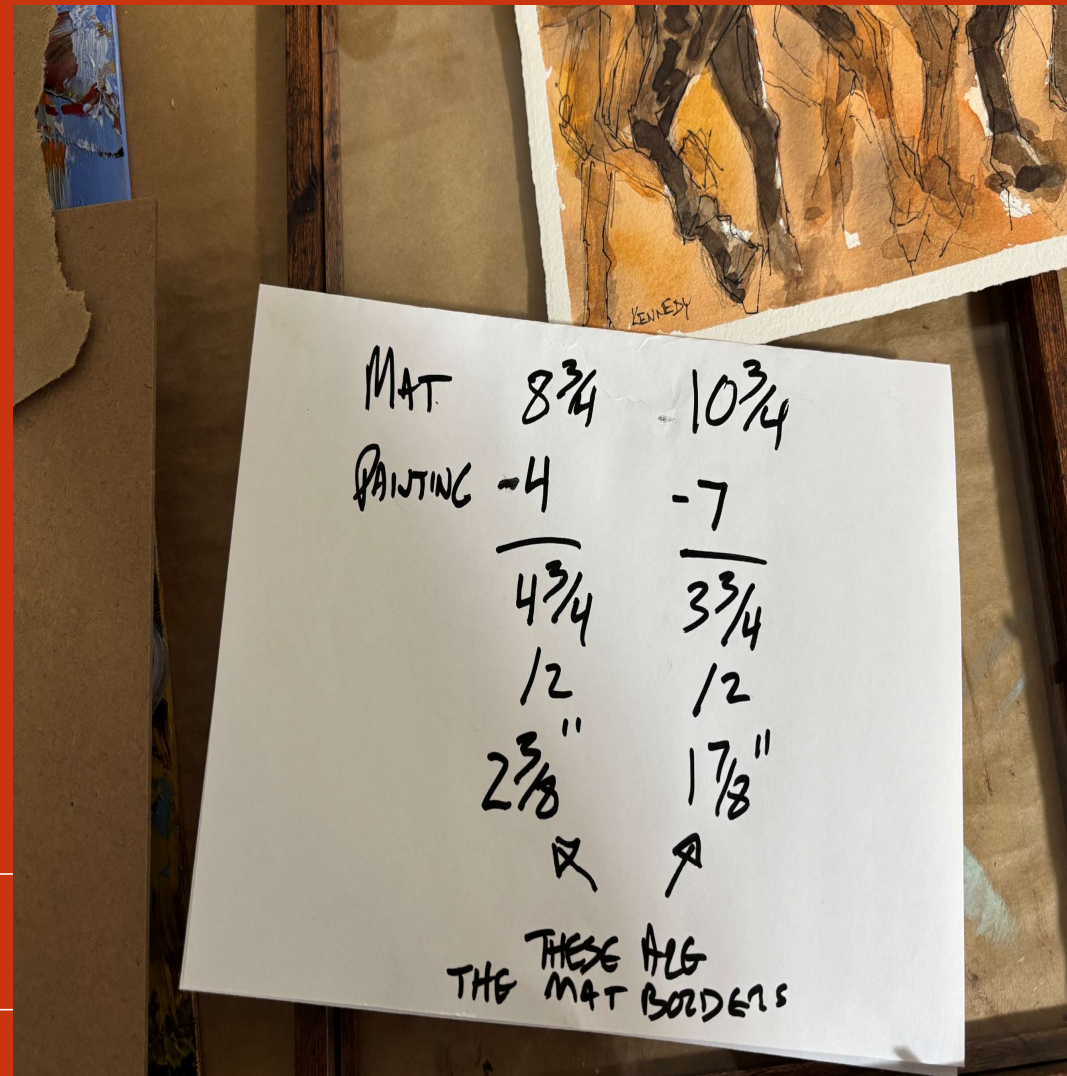


**THIS IS HOW TO CALCULATE THE WIDTH
OF THE MAT, HEIGHT AND WIDTH**

**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FRAME
SIZE AND THE PAINTING SIZE DIVIDED BY
TWO, TELLS YOU THE MAT BORDERS**

MY LONG EDGE BORDERS ARE $2\frac{3}{8}$ "
MY SHORT EDGET BORDERS ARE $1\frac{7}{8}$ "

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SO I CUT A MAT



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**I REMOVE THE STANDARD HANGING
HARDWARE AS IT MIGHT PUSH UP
AGAINST THE BROWN PAPER BACKING**

**PLUS IF ANYONE TAKES THIS APART IT
LOOKS CHEAP**

**I ALSO REMOVE ANY STICKERS ON THE
BACK OF THE FRAME**

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YOU CAN USE MASKING TAPE TO ADHERE YOUR PAPER TO THE MAT BOARD, BUT MASKING TAPE IS TYPICALLY NOT ARCHIVAL

A MORE PROFESSIONAL METHOD IS TO USE PICTURE HINGING TAPE, WHICH IS WATER ACTIVATED

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**DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE PAINTING, I
NORMALLY HINGE AT TWO OR MORE PLACES ON THE
TOP OF THE PAINTING**

**THE ART ONLY NEEDS TO BE HINGED AT THE TOP
(THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT A HINGE)**

**IF YOUR PAPER IS EXCESSIVELY BUCKLED, THEN IT
MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO FLATTEN IT FIRST**

**BUT IF I'M SELLING ART CHEAP I OFTEN JUST USE
MASKING TAPE**

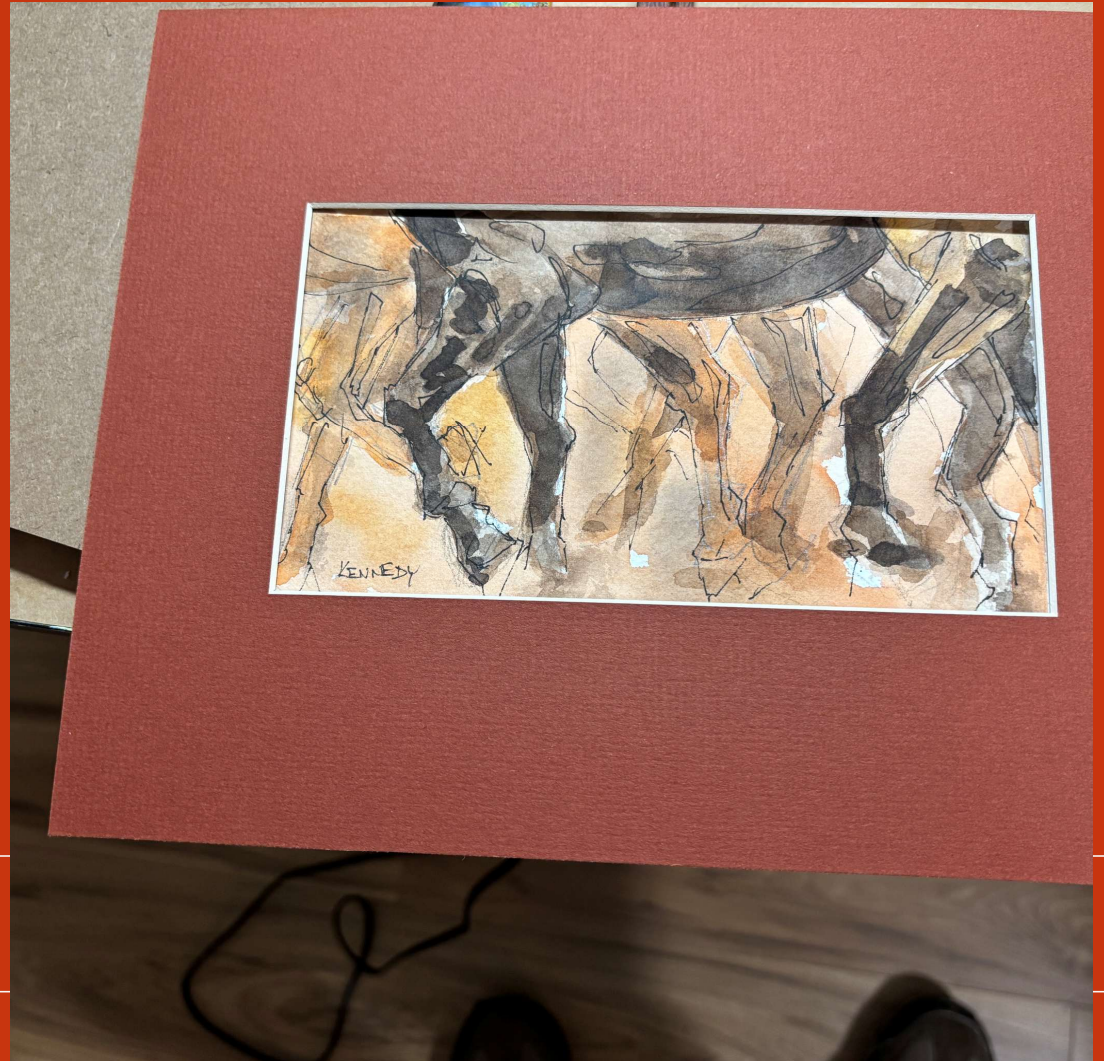
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**JUST ADDING THE MAT MAKES THE PICTURE LOOK
SO MUCH BETTER**

**(DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE GAP WE SEE AT THE TOP,
ONCE IT IS IN THE FRAME THT WILL BE PRESSED
FLAT)**

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I CLEANED THE GLASS, PUT THE MATTED PAINTING IN, PUT THE BACKING BOARD BACK IN, AND FOLDED DOWN THE GLAZING POINTS (ON THIS CHEAP FRAME THEY WERE ALREADY INSTALLED)

AS I STARTED TO PUT THE DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE DOWN I NOTICED IT WAS NOT STICKING VERY WELL, PROBABLY DUE TO THE OILY SURFACE OF THE FRAME, SO I TOOK SOME SANDPAPER AND SANDED THE BACK OF THE FRAME LIGHTLY

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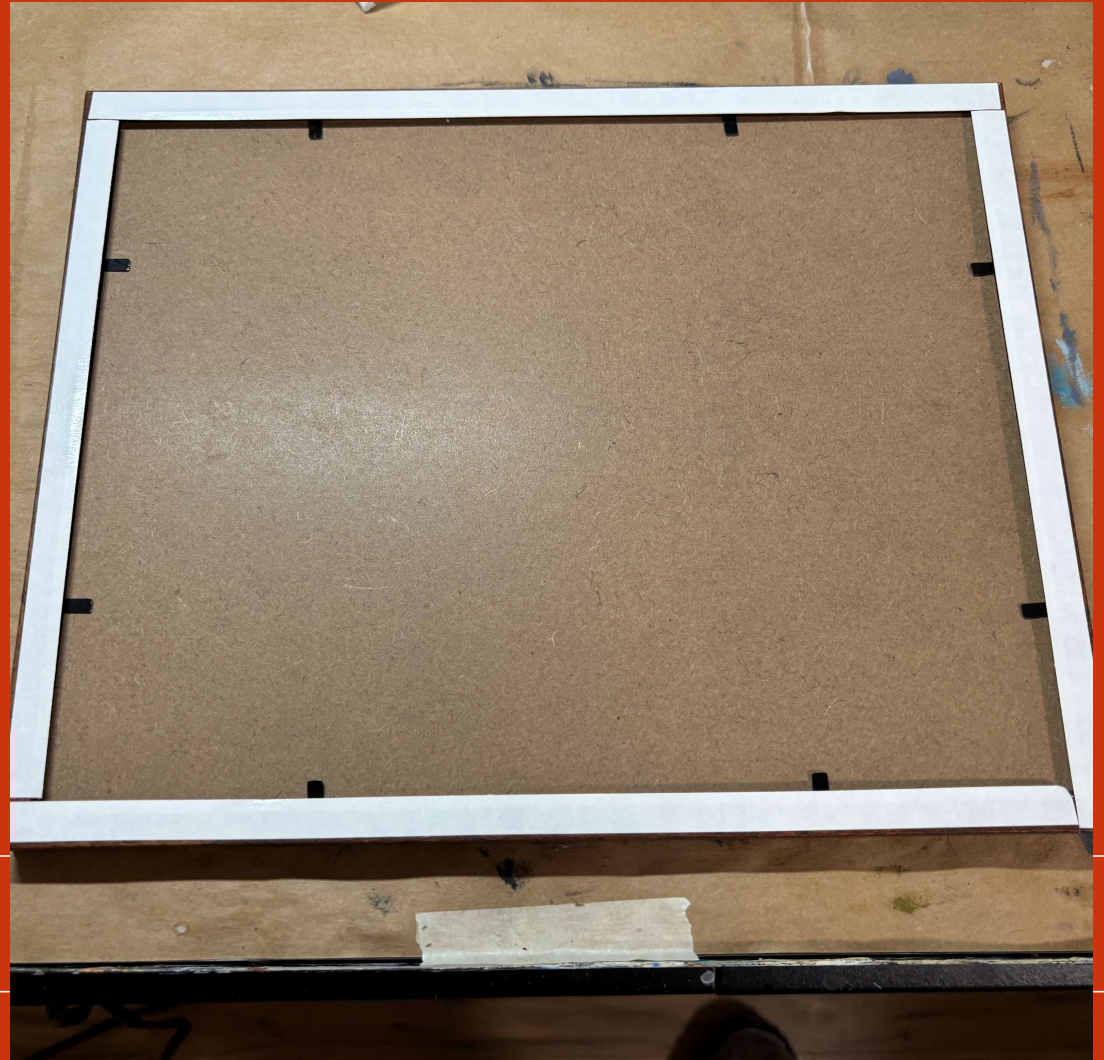
DOUBLE SIDED TAPE DOWN, I RUB IT DOWN WITH A CLEAN PAPER TOWEL TO MAKE SURE IT IS ADHERED NICELY TO THE FRAME

I LEAVE 1/16" – 1/8" BETWEEN THE OUTSIDE EDGE OF THE TAPE AND THE OUTSIDE EDGE OF THE FRAME

AT THIS POINT I WILL PRE-CUT A PIECE OF BROWN BACKING PAPER ABOUT 2" ALL AROUND BIGGER THAN THE FRAME

REMOVE THE TAPE COVERING

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**OKAY THIS IS A DIFFERENT FRAME, BUT THE
PROCESS IS THE SAME**

**I PUT THE ROLLED UP BROWN PAPER ON THE FRAME
AND ROLL IT OUT ONTO THE DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE**

**THIS I FIND IS THE BEST WAY TO AVOID WRINKLES
IN THE BROWN PAPER**

**ONCE IT IS LAID OUT I RUB IT WITH A PAPER TOWEL
TO MAKE SURE IT IS ADHERED TO THE PAPER**

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TRIM THE EDGES WITH A BOX CUTTER USING YOUR FINGER ALONG THE SIDE OF THE FRAME AS A GUIDE TO TRIM ABOUT 1/16" IN FROM THE EDGE OF THE FRAME

YOU CAN ALSO SQUIRT WATER ONTO THE BROWN PAPER TO GET IT DAMP

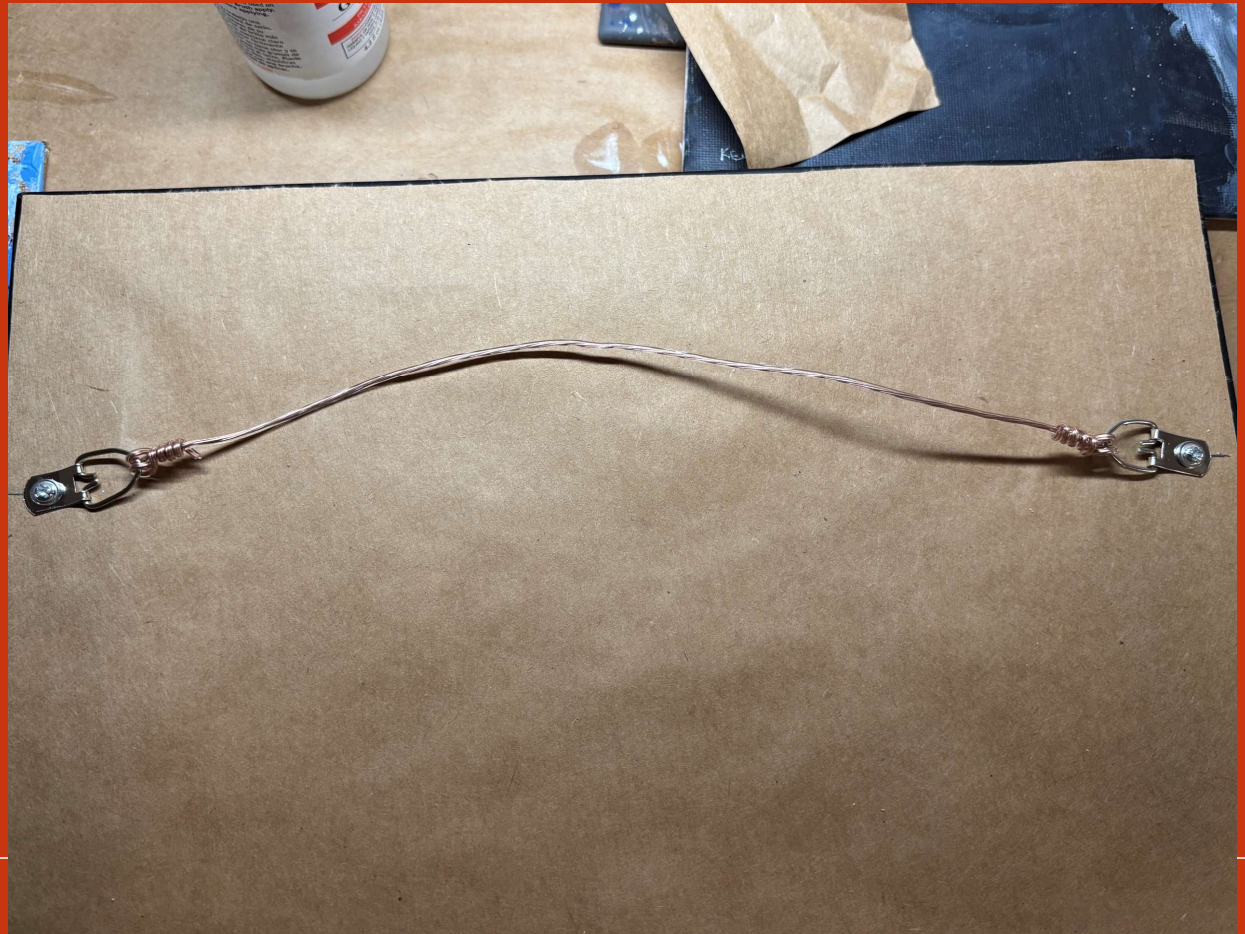
THE PAPER WILL SHRINK WHEN DRYING AND BECOME TAUTER

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**I ALWAYS PILOT DRILL FOR THE HANGERS
TO PREVENT SPLITTING THE FRAME**

**I PUT THE HANGERS BETWEEN 1/4TH AND
1/3RD DOWN FROM THE TOP OF THE
PAINTING AND LEAVE SOME SLACK IN THE
WIRE, JUST BE SURE THE WALL HANGING
HARDWARE WILL NOT BE VISIBLE**

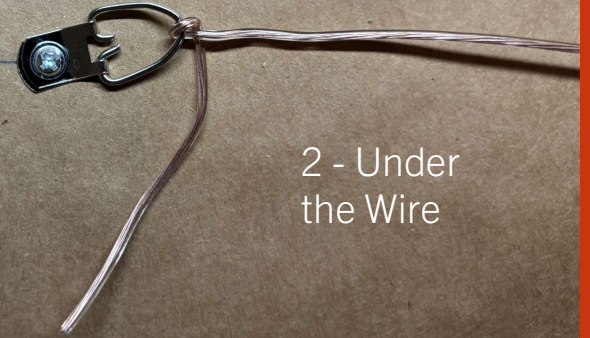


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1 - Under
the D Ring



2 - Under
the Wire



3 - Through the D
Ring from the top
on the other side of
the wire



4 - Wrap wire 3-4
times tightly and
trim excess



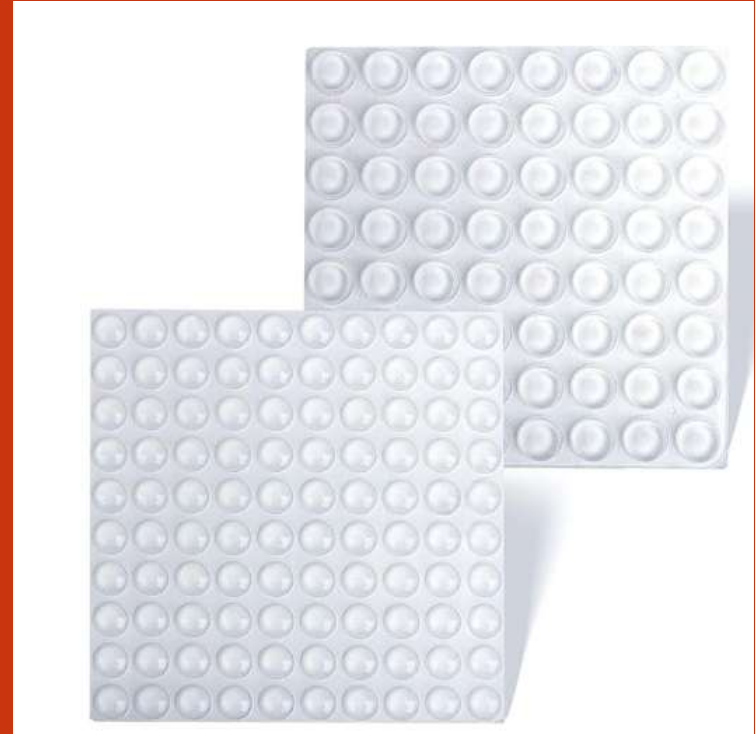
The Knot

FINISHED



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**YOU CAN ADD RUBBER BUMPERS TO THE
BOTTOM CORNERS OF YOUR FRAME. THEY
PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE WALL, AND
PREVENT THE PICTURE FROM SHIFTING OUT
OF LEVEL.**



Pastel Paintings

FOR WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS (ALMOST ALWAYS UNDER GLASS) IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAT THE PAINTING, THAT KEEPS THE PAINTING FROM TOUCHING THE GLASS

FOR PASTEL PAINTING UNDER GLASS A MAT MAY NOT BE THICK ENOUGH, AND PASTELS (LIKE OILS) ARE OFTEN UN-MATTED

IN THAT CASE A PASTEL SPACER NEEDS TO BE INSTALLEED BETWEEN THE ART AND THE GLASS



Pastel Paintings

**AN 8" X 10" OIL PAINTING ON CANVAS
BOARD MOUNTED IN A \$7 FRAME**

WE WILL USE SOME OF THE SAME TOOLS



Oil or Acrylic Paintings

**NOT A WHOLE LOT OF PREP HERE, JUST
DROP THE CANVAS IN THE FRAME**

**FOR THIS SMALL FRAME I'M USING MY
POINT SHOOTER TO PUT TWO POINTS IN
BOTH THE LONG SIDES AND ONE POINT IN
BOTH OF THE SHORT SIDES**



Oil or Acrylic Paintings

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO INVEST IN A POINT SHOOTER, THERE ARE SIMPLE TOOLS THAT CAN MAKE INSTALLING THE POINTS RATHER EASY

THIS CAN BE DONE WITH A FLAT BLADE SCREWDRIVER AND THESE FOLDED POINTS, BUT THAT CAN BE A BIT DIFFICULT ESPECIALLY WITH HARD WOOD FRAMES



Oil or Acrylic Paintings

THE REST OF THE PROCESS IS IDENTICAL

PUT DOWN THE DOUBLE SIDED TAPE

ADD YOUR BROWN PAPER

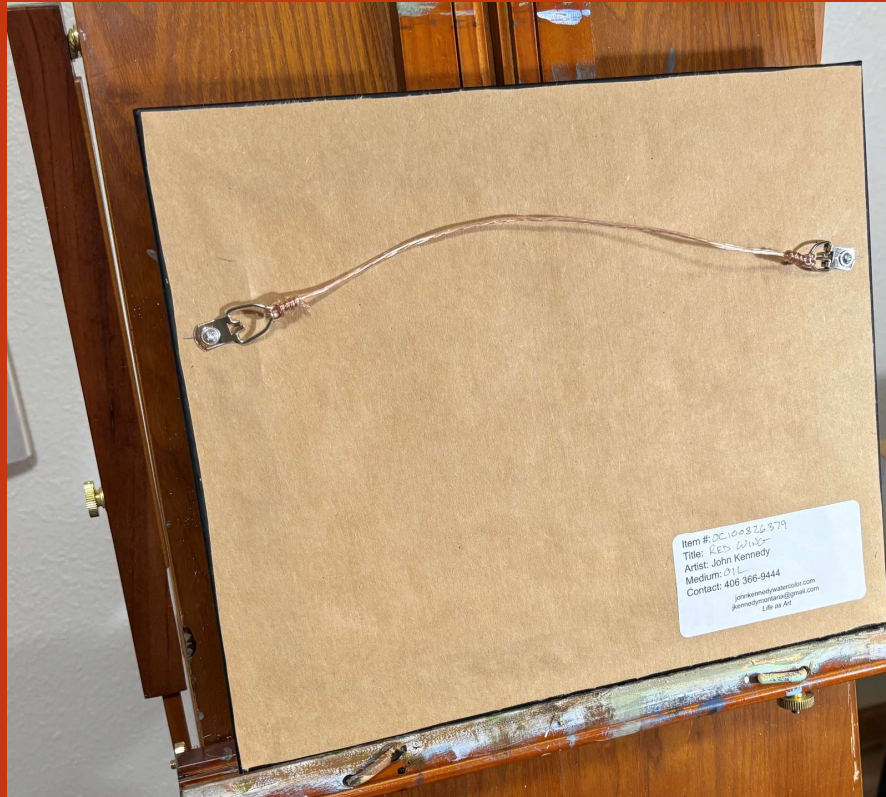
TRIM OFF EXCESS

ATTACH HANGING HARDWARE



Oil or Acrylic Paintings

FINISHED



Oil or Acrylic Paintings

FRAMING SHOULD BE NEAT

GLASS SHOULD BE CLEAN AND FREE OF ANY DIRTY (CHECK BEFORE YOU SEAL THE BACK)

BACK OF ART SHOULD BE COVERED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE (SOMETIMES NOT POSSIBLE LIKE GALLERY WRAP OR REALLY ODD FRAMES)

PAINTING SHOULD BE SOLID IN THE FRAME (SHOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR IT TO SLIP)

WIRES SHOULD BE USED FOR ALL ART WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VERY SMALL PIECES WHERE SAWTOOTH HANGERS ARE THE ONLY SENSIBLE SOLUTION

General Hints

BACK OF ART TAGS

IF YOU PREFER NOT TO USE THE BAA BACK OF ART TAGS YOU
CAN MAKE YOUR OWN

I USE AVERY STICKERS AND JUST PEEL AND STICK THEM TO THE
BACK OF MY ART

I DON'T PUT A PRICE ON THE BACK OF MY ART, IF I EVER DECIDE
TO RAISE OR LOWER THE PRICE I DON'T WANT THE BUYER TO
SEE REMNANTS OF THE OLD PRICE

General Hints

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**SPECIAL HARDWARE IS PROVIDED TO HANG
THE PAINTING, THOUGH THEY OFTEN
SUPPLY ONLY ONE HANGER, SO IT IS
DIFFICULT TO HANG WITH WIRE**

**I PURCHASE EXTRA HANGERS SO I CAN
ADD THE WIRE, I GET THESE FROM AMAZON**

**YOU CAN SEE THERE IS NO WAY TO COVER
THE BACK IN PAPER, SO I USE MATBOARD**

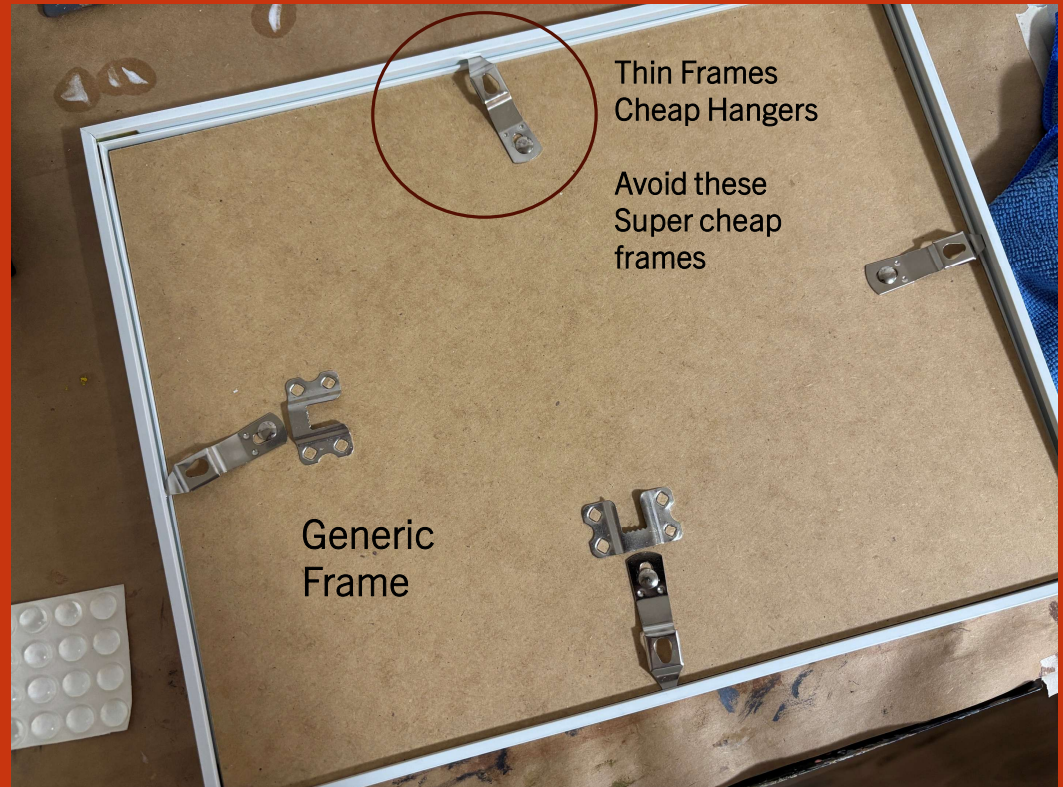


Metal Frames

THE WIDTH OF THE FRAME MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO ADD THE D RINGS AND HANG WITH WIRE

IF YOU DO DECIDE TO USE A METAL FRAME, MAKE SURE THE FRAME IS THICK ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO SCREW IN THE D RING HANGERS – YOU MIGHT HAVE TO USE SHEET METALS SCREWS INSTEAD OF THE SCREWS SUPPLIED WITH THE D RINGS

THE BACK CAN STILL BE COVERED.



Metal Frames

OIL AND ACRYLIC PAINTERS OFTEN USE GALLERY WRAP CANVAS TO AVOID THE COST OF FRAMING

SOME ARTISTS PRIME THEIR CANVAS WITH A WATERCOLOR GROUND FOR WATERCOLOR WORK

THE BACK OF ART TAG SHOULD BE STAPLED TO THE FRAME (IF A STICKER THEN A PIECE OF CARD STOCK IS STAPLED AND THE LABEL IS ADHERED TO THE CARDSTOCK)

IT MIGHT MAKE A BETTER IMPRESSION IF YOU PAINT THE EDGES

A BACKING PAPER IS GENERALLY NOT INSTALLED

Gallery Wrap Canvas



**MATTING AND FRAMING ACRYLIC OR ANY OTHER
MEDIUM PAINTED ON ART PANELS CAN BE A
CHALLENGE**

**NORMALLY ACRYLICS ON PANELS ARE NOT MATTED,
BUT I'VE DONE IT A FEW TIMES, AND A NEIGHBOR
ASKED ME TO MAT THIS ACRYLIC FOR HER**

**A VERY INEXPENSIVE MICHAELS FRAME AND A VERY
NICE ACRYLIC PAINTING ON 1/8" CANVAS PANEL**

Matted Acrylic Painting



THE INTENTION WAS TO JUST DROP THE PAINTING INTO THE SPECIAL MAT OPENING, BUT YOU CAN SEE THAT THE PAINTING IS LARGER THAN THE MAT OPENING.

AND EVEN IF IT FIT, WOULD YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE THE EDGE OF THE ART PANEL?

SO MY INTENTION WAS TO LET THE MAT OVERLAP THE PAINTING BY ABOUT ¼" ALL AROUND

NOTE: THIS WAS A TERRIBLE MAT, SO I MADE A NEW ONE.

Matted Acrylic Painting

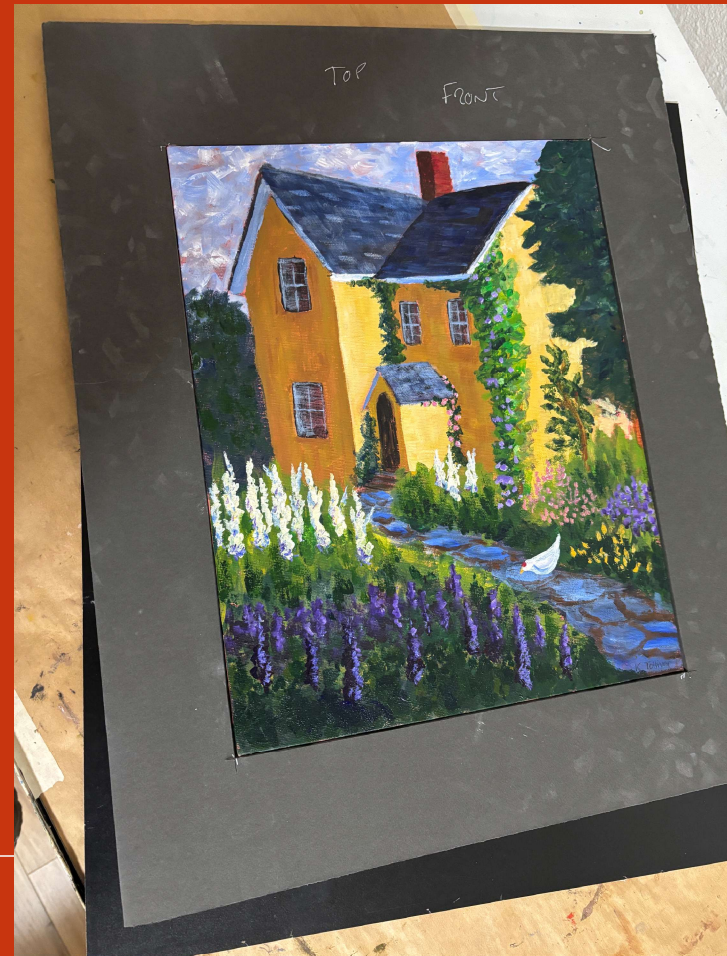


I CUT A PIECE OF HEAVY MAT BOARD OF THE SAME THICKNESS AS THE CANVAS PANEL, WITH OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS TO MATCH THE FRAME, AND A RECTANGULAR INSIDE CUTOUT TO MATCH THE CANVAS PANEL.



Matted Acrylic Painting

HERE IS THE PAINTING NESTLED IN THE CUTOUT.

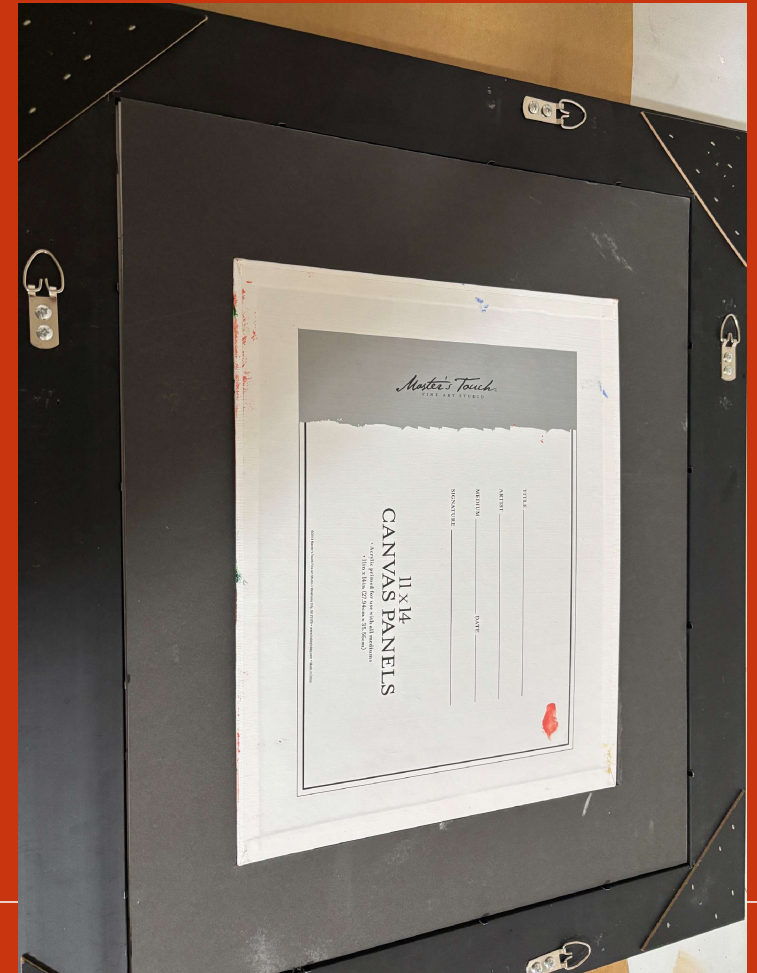


Matted Acrylic Painting

**FROM HERE I JUST DROPPED
THE PIECES IN PLACE**

**GLASS
MAT
MY SPECIAL CUTOUT
THE CANVAS PANEL
THE FRAME BACK BOARD**

**WITH THE PAINTING LOCKED
IN PLACE IN THE
RECTANGULAR SLOT THERE IS
NO NEED TO TAPE ANYTHING,
IT CANNOT MOVE.**



Matted Acrylic Painting

THE FINAL PAINTING

**THE SAME PROCESS CAN BE USED ON ANY ART
PAINTED ON CANVAS BOARD THAT YOU MIGHT FEEL IS
ENHANCED BY THE ADDITION OF A MAT.**

**OR IT CAN BE HELPFUL IF YOUR CANVAS PANEL IS
SMALLER THAN YOUR FRAME AND YOU WANT TO USE
THE MAT TO UTILIZE A LARGER FRAME WITH A
SMALLER PAINTING.**

Matted Acrylic Painting



FRAMING NEED NOT BE TERRIBLY EXPENSIVE

WOOD FRAMES ARE EASIER TO WORK WITH THAN PLASTIC OR METAL FRAMES, ALL WILL WORK BUT THE ATTACHMENT OF THE HANGING HARDWARE MAY REQUIRE SPECIAL MATERIALS, SOME METAL FRAMES (LIKE BLICK GALLERY FRAMES) COME WITH ALL THE HANGING HARDWARE THAT IS NEEDED

IF YOU CAN'T PUT A BACKING ON YOUR PAINTING, TRY TO MAKE SURE YOUR BACKING IS NEAT

SEARCH FOR FRAMES IN RUMMAGE OR ESTATE SALES OR GOODWILL

ART IS PRICED WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE QUALITY OF FRAMING, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE MONEY ON GOOD FRAMING LET THE CUSTOMER KNOW THAT IT IS JUST A DISPLAY FRAME AND THEY SHOULD CONSIDER REFRAMING IT

General Hints