



## Matting a Print

For each of your projects that you will be doing this semester you will be required to mat one of your images. This lesson is designed to teach you how to mat your image.

1. We need to measure your image. There are two ways that you could measure. If you want the image to have a white border around it you could measure appx. 1/4 inch beyond each side of the image. For example if the size of the image in Fig. #1 is 7x10.5" then your measurement would be 7 1/4 x 10 3/4". If you want the mat to crop into the image some you would measure from inside the print on one side to a little inside the print on the other. Keep your measurements in no less than 1/4" increments. In other words don't use measurements of like 7 1/8". You'll see why later. Write down the measurements you got for your image.

2. Because we are using a bevel cutter you will need to cut from the back side. Our mat board has a white side and a black side. Either side can be used as the front side of the mat. Place your image on each side and see which looks best do you. Usually the color of the mat will emphasize the same color in the print. So if you have a white mat it will emphasize the whites in the print. You will need to decide where the emphasis should be. You will draw out your lines for cutting on the opposite side that you want to be the front.

3. Subtract the measurements from the size of the size of the mat board. The mat board that you will be using is 11x14". So if our measurements were 7x10.5" as in Fig. #1 you would do the following:

a. For the sides simply subtract the 7 from the 11 = 4". Then since we have two sides we divide by 2 to get the size of the sides. In this case it would be 2".

b. Since the 14 dimension is the longest you would subtract the 10.5 from 14 = 3.5" This would give you your difference for the top and bottom areas. Then divide by 2 since we have a top and bottom (2) and we have 1.75". Because of an optical illusion that causes the bottom to seem

smaller than the top when you mat, usually the bottom is given more size to make it visually more correct. So let's take a 1/4" off the top which would make it 1.5" and add a 1/4" on the bottom to make it 2". (See Fig. #2).

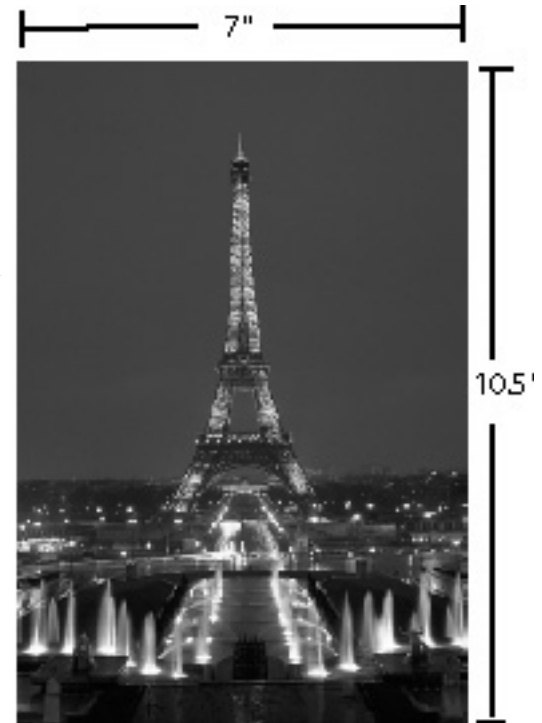


Fig. #1 Measure the print

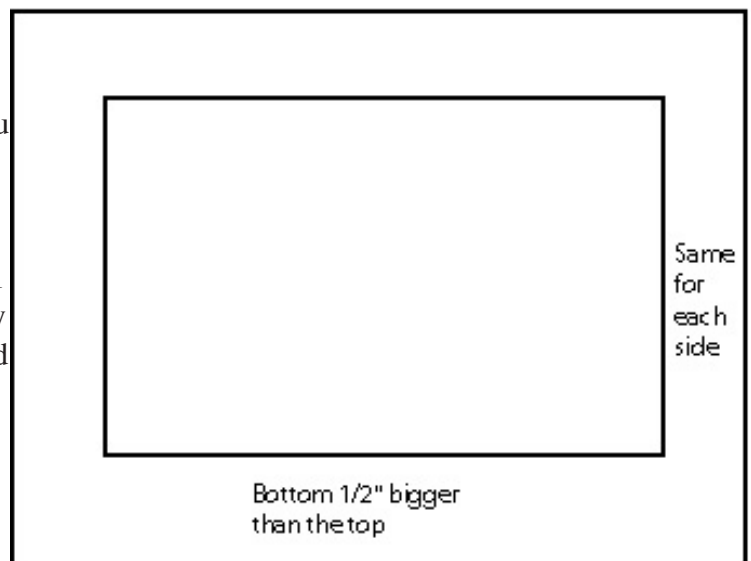


Fig. #2 Sides and bottom

4. On the back side of the mat board measure two dots for each side (including the top and bottom). For example for the bottom of our example we would measure in 2" and place a dot at each measurement. Then draw a line going through the two dots. Make sure you draw the line so that it will cross the lines going perpendicular to the line that you are drawing. So you will have a drawing like Fig. #2 except the inner lines will extend beyond the other lines.
5. Set the mat cutter to the settings for the size your going to cut. Example: if your cutting a 2" side you will set the mat cutter to the 2" mark. Remember to change the size for the top and/or bottom sides as at least one of them will be different.
6. Use the bevel cutter to cut the mat. Place the cutter in the track and line up the line on the cutter with the line drawn out on the mat. Press the cutter handle down and pull towards you to cut. Cut until the line on the cutter lines up with the line on the mat on the side you were pulling towards.
7. Cut each of the 4 sides and the inner board should fall out.
8. Use exacto knife to trim the corners up if needed.
9. Tape the image in place using masking tape.