

MOUNTING PRINTS – HOW TO MATCH PRINT TO MOUNT BOARD

This depends on what you start with, whether you are using pre-cut mount boards (this could be commercially cut or one that you have used before) or are cutting a new window in a plain mount board.

PRE-CUT MOUNT BOARD

1. For this method you need to print the photo to fit the window.
2. Before you print the photo measure the size of the window and decide whether you want to show a white border on the print.
3. Let's say you are using the standard Paper Spectrum 500x400mm boards with a pre-cut A4 window (i.e. what we supply through the Club) then the window is 190x280mm
4. You now need to print the photo to fit that window:
 - so if you don't want a white border resize the image to 192x282mm, which will give a 1mm overlap on all four edges
 - or if you want a 3mm white border all round then size the image to 184x274mm
5. BUT the aspect ratio of your image is unlikely to match this, in which case you've got three options:
 - a) re-crop the image to match the aspect ratio of the window, set the crop dimensions to suit the window, set DPI to 300 and use the resampling option
 - b) stretch the image to suit the desired aspect ratio, only do this if the original isn't far out and if doing this. To do this select Document > Resize Document... (that's in Affinity Photo, might be slightly different in PS/LR but it should be basically the same process), change units to millimetres, deselect the link between the two dimensions set DPI to 300 and enter the dimensions that you want
 - c) print it so that both dimensions are smaller than the window, which will give you a white border all round but it won't be consistent, so if you've got a square image print it at, say, 180x180mm and mount it in a vertical mount with 5mm borders at the sides, but larger borders top and bottom – or better still with 5mm borders top and both sides and a much bigger border at the bottom, this will require first resizing the document then resizing the canvas, if anyone wants to know how to do that please ask.

CUT WINDOW TO SUIT IMAGE

1. For this you are cutting the window to fit the print
2. Print your image (or get it printed), in either case do not print borderless, you need a bit of white border regardless of whether you are displaying it or not. If you want to have a white border, make sure that it is big enough to give a bit of overlap with the mount board.
3. Measure the image then decide whether you want a white border showing, if you do then add about 6mm to both dimensions and if you don't then deduct 2mm from both dimensions. Mark these adjusted dimensions on the back of your mount board

4. Draw a rectangle on the back of the mount board that matches these dimensions, generally position it centred horizontally and above centre vertically.
5. Lay your print over the marked-up mount board to check that it fits how you want it and that it is square
6. Cut the window from the back of the mount board to match the rectangle, with the splays going out

Whichever method you use make sure that the DPI you submit in to accompany your print matches the print as closely as possible, i.e. use the same file that you used for the print, just export it at max 1920x1080 pixel

If you get your printing done commercially then you will need to think through the mounting before you send the image for printing, and size it precisely to suit your requirements, then tell the printer that you want it printing 1 to 1 on A4 (or whatever paper size you want). I had one occasion when I'd set the image up with a white border with a black or grey pin line in the middle; the printers took the pin line to be my trimming border and trimmed it to that line (they did re-print for me at no extra cost)