

Adjusting Mat Sizes for Standard Frame Sizes

A general rule of visual preference is that the smaller the artwork, the larger the mat area around it. By keeping a frame smaller with the larger area of mat, you will draw attention to the artwork. It becomes the focus of the final presentation.

A good way to keep framing costs manageable is to choose two or three sizes that you will plan to use for your paintings and invest in two or three sectional frames that fit those sizes along with mats, glazing and backing for each size. Then you can remove one painting and reuse the mat, frame, backing and glazing for a new painting. If you like to keep your older paintings for bin work, all you need is a new mat and backing to reuse the frame and glazing.

However when framing smaller pieces of artwork, it may be difficult to fit your work into standard size frames and maintain the required 2 ½" visible mat under the frame without making awkward mats. Realizing that framing may need to be cost effective for the artist, there are some guidelines that may help. In some cases, it would require excusing the 2 ½" visible standard, but never going below 2".

<u>Artwork/Print Size</u>	<u>Suggested Outer Size</u>	<u>Mat Board Width (centered)</u>
5x7	11x14	top/bottom: 3" right/left: 3 ½"
8x10	12x16	top/bottom: 2 ½" right/left: 3"
11x14	16x20	top/bottom: 2 ½" right/left: 3"
11x17	18x24	top/bottom: 3 ½" right/left: 3 ½"
12x16	18x24	top/bottom: 3" right/left: 4"
13x19	18x24	top/bottom: 2 ½" right/left: 2 ½"
16x20	22x28	top/bottom: 3" right/left: 4"

*This information came from the Mat Board Center