

# LEARN TO CUT YOUR OWN MATS

**Introduction to Mat Cutting** by Dennis Wert

See the club calendar for dates and times

First session July 16 at 7pm

On the CPS web site, under Competitions, there is information on how to size and mat your images for print competitions. However, should your image be selected for an exhibit, the preparation requirements are a little different, most notably, **DO NOT USE FOAMCORE** as the backing board.

Black or white mats can be used for regular competitions and exhibits.

Since I don't know the future of any of my photos, I prefer to use a white mat and mount according to the following information. This way my image is ready if chosen for the back wall or an exhibit.

## **MAT CUTTING**    **Price Increase effective September 1, 2025**

Per CPS rules the frame size is 16" x 20", this is the standard frame size CPS uses for the back wall and exhibits.

The photo size is limited to a maximum of 178 sq. inches.

The photo could be 11" x 17" or any other combination that fits in a maximum 16" x 20" mat while maintaining the maximum size of 178 sq. inches. In addition to the 16" x 20" mat board you will need a 16" x 20" backing board. The thickness of the mat and backing board plus glass must be thin enough to slide into the ¼" frame rail.

CPS will provide all the materials and instructions you will need to cut your own mat, and mount your photo. A mat board is \$2.00, a backing board is **\$2.00**. The total cost for a single mat is **\$4.00** and a double mat is **\$6.00**. This includes front mat/mats, backing board and mounting supplies.

This is a significant savings compared to buying a precut mat at Michaels or on Amazon.

## **MOUNTING YOUR PHOTO**

There are various ways to mount photos and my preference is to create a T-hinge to mount the photo to the backing board. This is a quick, easy, and economical method which will be demonstrated.

## **HOW TO CALCULATE BORDER SIZES**

Beginners should use the single mat setting, as you gain experience you can follow the dimensioning for double mats if you desire. Use the on-line MAT BORDER CALCULATOR found here:

<https://www.logangraphic.com> Select LEARN > BORDER CALCULATOR

Here is a video instruction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt8ph8nY8HM>

Follow the 4 step process and the results are displayed graphically showing the top, bottom, left & right border dimensions. These dimensions will be drawn on the back of the mat board for use with the bevel cutter and allow ¼" mat overlap all around your photo. Example: 16"x 20" mat with an opening for 11" x 14" photo actually has an opening size of 10 ½" x 13 ½". Keep this in mind when photographing your subject. Shoot wide so you don't lose important information when matting your final cropped image.

**NOTE: All dimension marks and cutting operations are done on the back side of the mat board.**

The **Logan Simplex Plus Model 750 Mat Cutter** user manual can be found here: <https://www.logangraphic.com/owners-manuals/750plus-en.pdf>

In the interest of saving time and to accommodate as many people as possible wanting to cut mats on any given night, please do your border calculations at home and make note of them so you are ready to cut when you arrive at the club. Make a sketch of your mat with required dimensions.

**NOTE: A slip sheet is required under your mat when using the bevel cutter. A slip sheet is just a piece of scrap matboard.**

Once becoming comfortable with operating the mat cutter you are free to use it any time the club room is open, **except as follows, Friday nights designated for print competitions, Board meetings or Mat Class.** The judging room is to be used for mat cutting, and supplies are located in the under counter cabinets in that room. Use one of the folding tables as your work surface.

Payment for matting costs will be on the honor system and a payment envelope will be provided for your use.

**Please return the table and all supplies to their proper place when finished.**

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