

# Woodley Photographic Club

## A Guide to Printing and Mounting

This guide gives information on how to produce mounted prints for Club print competitions. It covers printing and mounting images as well as where prints, mounts and equipment can be purchased.

### 1. Printing

#### Printing Your Own Images

Printing at home will provide the opportunity to take control of the printing and to test out various versions of an image. A specialist photo printer will generally produce a better-quality print than a standard 'office' printer but will be more expensive overall. Printer costs range from around £200 to £1,500 depending upon the quality expected and whether the printer is wide format. The additional cost of ink and photo quality paper will also need to be considered, as will the need to process images that meet the print profile and paper requirements. Canon, Epson, Brother and Hewlett-Packard all make excellent printers, many of which are reviewed on-line by photo magazines and tech companies.

#### Ordering Prints On-Line

Prints can be ordered on-line from professional photo printing companies. Standard low-cost prints will be sufficient for most competitions although fine art or giclee paper might be better for some images, but these would cost more. Lustre finish paper will suit most images. Gloss finish paper would suit images where they have vibrant colours or are black and white. Standard print costs are typically 80p to £1.00 for an A4 lustre print. Fine art paper could cost from around £2.50 each and upwards to £10.00 each depending upon size. Postage is sometimes included in the price per print but will often be on top, in which case ordering several prints at once will be beneficial.

On-line photo printing companies will generally require the image to be uploaded in JPEG format and in the sRGB colour profile at 300 dpi. The on-line system will often show how the image will fit within the paper size selected and give an indication of the quality of the image. Where an exact size of paper is not available to fit the image, the next size up should be selected and a white border used to fill the non-image area (see Section 2).

Example on-line photo printers companies are:

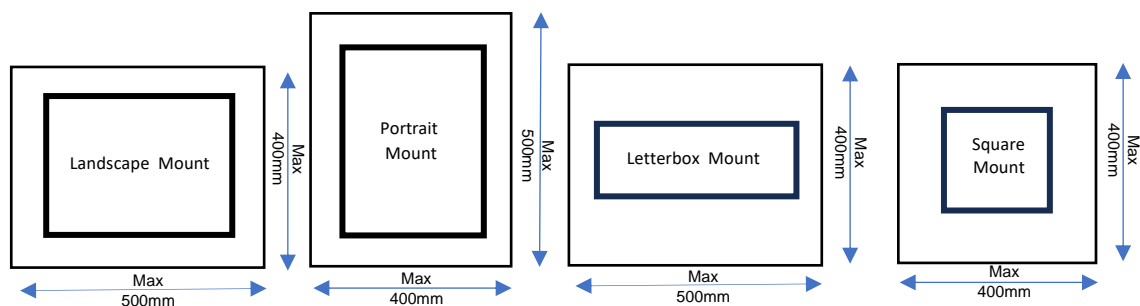
- SIMLAB: <https://www.simlab.co.uk/best-professional-photo-printing-uk>
- DSCL (DSColour Labs): <http://dscolourlabs.co.uk/>
- Point101: <https://www.point101.com/>
- Loxley Colour: <https://www.loxleycolour.com/prints/prints-mounting/photoprints>

## 2. Mounting

### Size of Mount

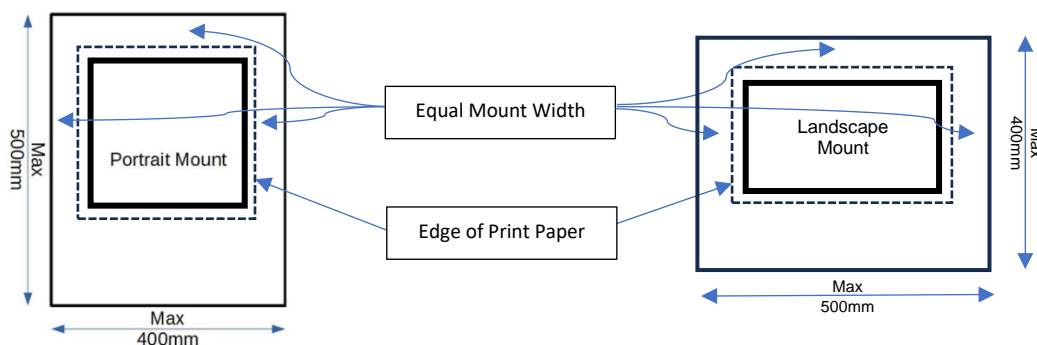
Woodley PC competitions require prints to be mounted behind a stiff card or board mount, preferably with a bevel along the edge of the inner opening where the print will be displayed. The mount must be no larger than 500mm x 400mm, and no more than 4mm thick; including the photo, mount and backing board. The backing board is used to secure the print to the back of the mount and to protect it from damage. This can be any card or piece of mount board as it will not be seen by the judge, but pre-cut mount boards can be purchased. For most Inter-Club print competitions, such as those run by the Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs, the mount **must** be 500mm x 400mm with no more than a 2mm tolerance and for the mount to be no thicker than 4mm. It is advisable therefore to use 500mm x 400mm mounts when possible as this size of mount tends to be favoured by judges.

The mount can be orientated either in landscape, portrait, letterbox or square formats (see below). Multi-image mounts, such as triptychs (3 images in one mount) can also be entered, but the maximum overall size of the mount remains 500mm x 400mm. For square format the maximum size would be 400mm x 400mm.



### Placing the Print

Fix the print to the back of the print using mounting tape or masking tape. It is often best to just fix the top edge so that the print falls naturally behind the internal opening. The backing board is then fixed to the back of the mount using tape or glue to cover the print and secure it into position. The image within the mount can be any size, and can be rectangular or square and can either be placed centrally within the mount, or off-set, such as in a portrait mount where the image sits nearer to the top of the mount (see below). Where the print is off-set towards the top, the mount width at the top and on the two sides should ideally be kept equal with the bottom area the largest width.

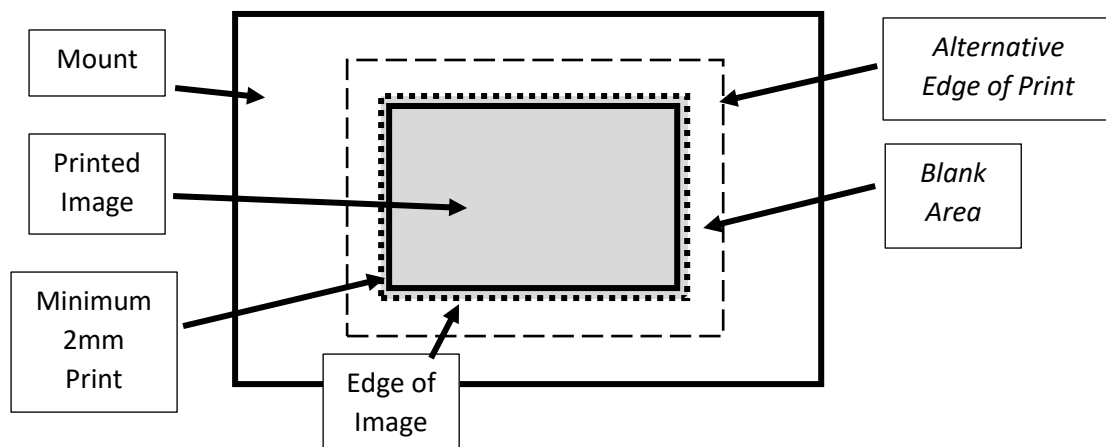


## Colour of Mount

It is recommended that you use white, off-white, or black mount board. Black and coloured mounts should best be used to complement or contrast with specific colours within the image. The backing board can be made from spare mounting card or spare card and does not need to be the same colour.

## Ordering the Correct Print Size for the Mount

On-line printing companies will offer a range of standard paper sizes, usually in matt and gloss finishes. It is advisable to print the image at least 2mm larger on each side than the internal opening of the mount. This will enable the print to be positioned with no print edge showing. Be careful, however, not to lose important parts of the image. Where available paper sizes do not enable this to be done, select the next paper size up and add a blank border around your image (e.g. a white area). This will also provide a means of fixing the image to the back of the mount.



## Purchasing Mount Board

Mounts can be purchased from stores such as Hobbycraft or can be purchased on-line from specialists. These are usually available either as standard sizes or can be ordered to your own specification. The external and internal size of the mount will need to be specified as well as the colour of the mount board. Example on-line suppliers are:

- eFRAME.co.uk <https://www.frames.co.uk/mounts>
- Cotswold Mounts <https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/>
- DIY Framing (High Wycombe) <https://shop.diyframing.com/category/arqadia-mount-board>
- Paper Spectrum <https://www.paperspectrum.co.uk/mount-board-21-c.asp>

## Cutting Your Own Mounts

Cutting your own mounts will require specialised cutting equipment. Mount cutting, or 'Mat' cutting equipment can be purchased from suppliers such as:


- Logan Mount Cutting <https://www.logangraphic.com/>
- Longridge <https://www.longridge.co.uk/>
- You may also need to purchase a cutting mat, steel edge, and trimming equipment.

## Professional Mounting

Some picture framing shops will mount prints, and some may cut mounts to specified sizes.

## Submitting the Print for Competition

The print should be submitted in accordance with the competition rules and guidance. Prints will be allocated a competition number in advance. This will be supplied on the night of the competition when the prints are brought for display and judging. For WPC Print Competitions a label, as shown below, should be fixed to the back of the print. WORD or PDF versions of the labels for you to print are available on the WPC Website.

	<b>Woodley Photographic Club</b>
Name:	Ann. Nonymous
Title:	An Interesting Picture
Competition:	TOC2: "Minimalistic"
Category:	Advanced
Date:	23-Sep-2019
Number:	37
Judge:	A. Judge
Score:	

## Submitting a PDI of the Print

While the print will be displayed under lights for the judge to assess, for most competitions the audience will also see a digitised version on a nearby screen. As well as mounting your print you must, therefore, submit a Projected Digital Image (PDI) version via the competition submission page in PhotoEntry before the specified deadline. The digital image should match the printed version (crop and colour) to ensure the audience sees that same as the judge. See the guidance on the WPC Website for preparing a PDI.

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