

# HOW TO MATT YOUR PRINTS

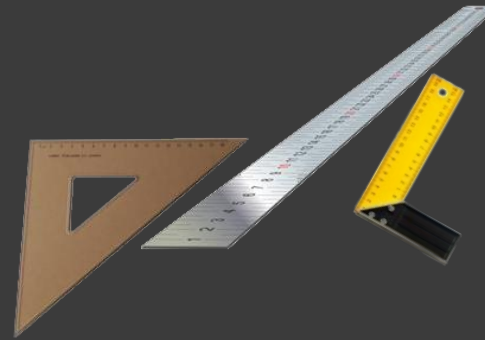
A Step by Step Tutorial

By Mario Gerada



# Requirements - Basic

- Pencil
- Straight Edge Ruler
- Set square
- Sharp Blade or Matt board Cutter
- Matting Cardboard (pref. acid free)
- And of course a print to Matt



# Steps

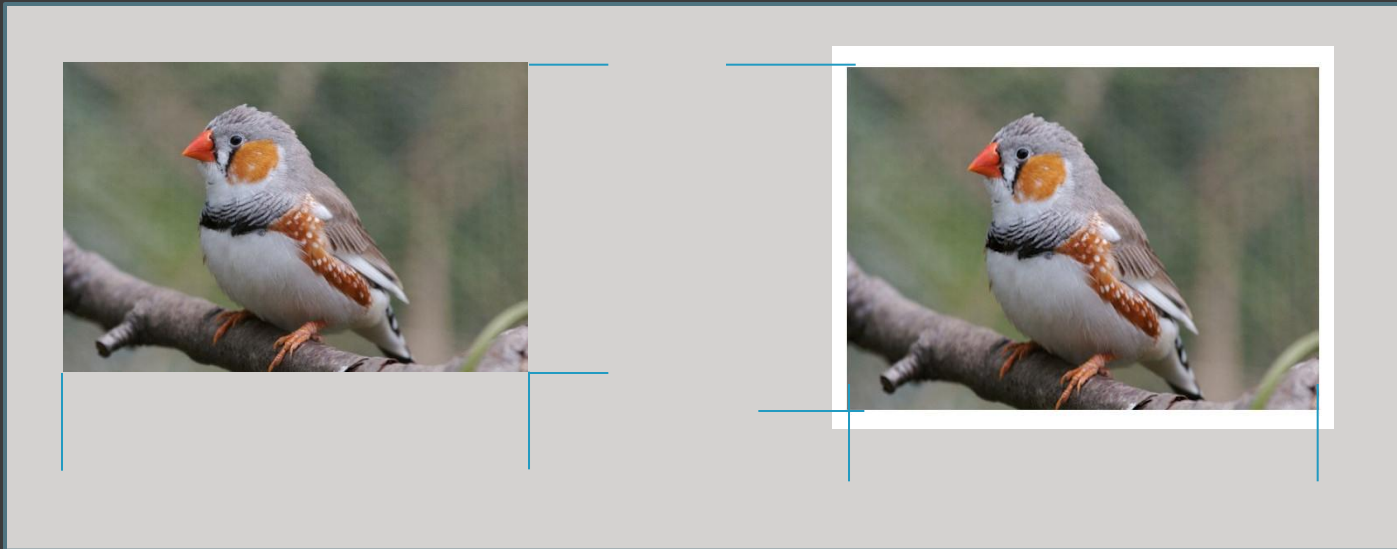
1. Measure the print you want to matt.
2. Make sure the 'Matting board' is square.
3. Transfer your measurements to the 'Matt Board'.
4. Check your measurements.
5. Cut the window for your print.
6. Position and tape your print to the board.

# Step 1 — Measure the Print



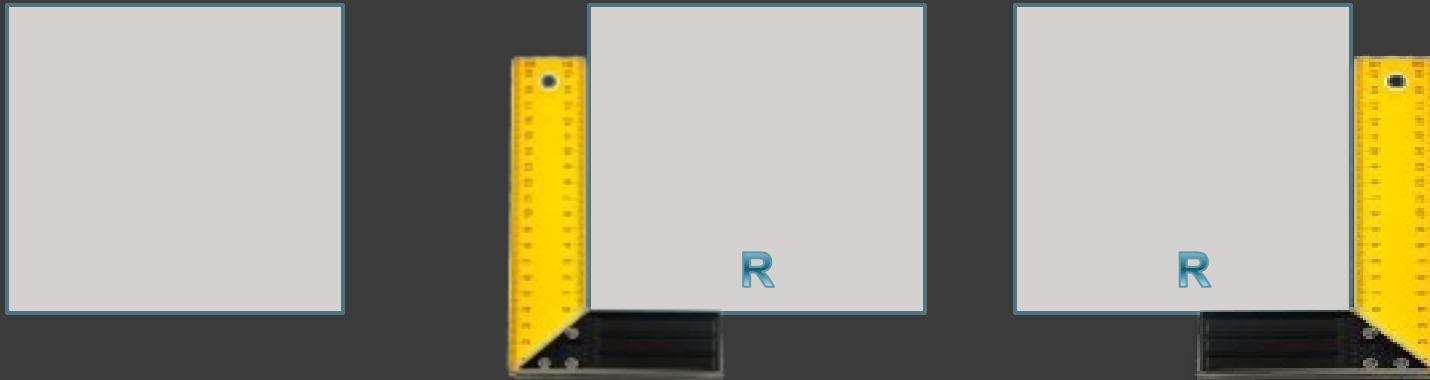
Measuring is the most important part of 'matting' or 'framing' a print. Incorrect measurements at the beginning will flow through to the end result.

Measure the image only and not the surrounding white border.



When you have taken the measurements, subtract for window over-lap. This will allow for fine tuning the position of the print in the matt window.

# Step 2 - Make sure the 'Matting board' is square.



- Edge 'R' is my *'reference'* edge.
- Use your *'reference'* edge to square up the sides.
- Trim if necessary.

## Step 3 - Transfer your measurements to the 'Matt Board'.

Now here's the tricky part. Use a sharp pencil or marker of your choice, take your time and mark out the board carefully. Start by deciding how wide you want your border to be.

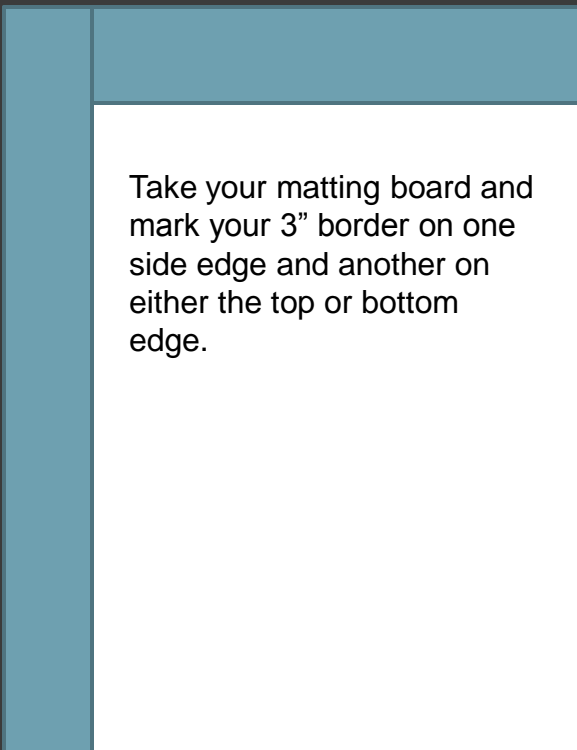
Let's for now say it's going to be a 3" border plus the measurements you took earlier for your window.

Take your matting board and mark your 3" border on one side edge and another on either the top or bottom edge (fig1 next slide).

Now mark out the measurements of the window you took earlier (fig2 next slide).

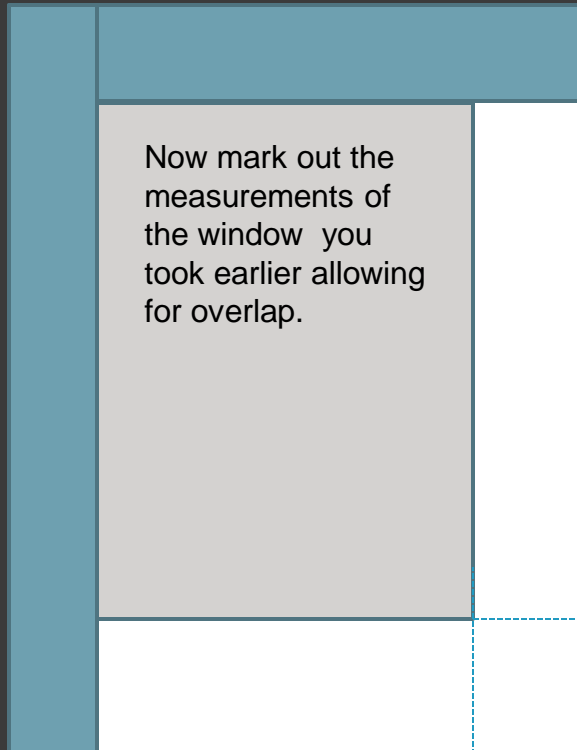
Finally mark out the two opposite 3" borders and trim off excess (fig3 next slide).

# Step 3 - Transfer your measurements to the 'Matt Board'.



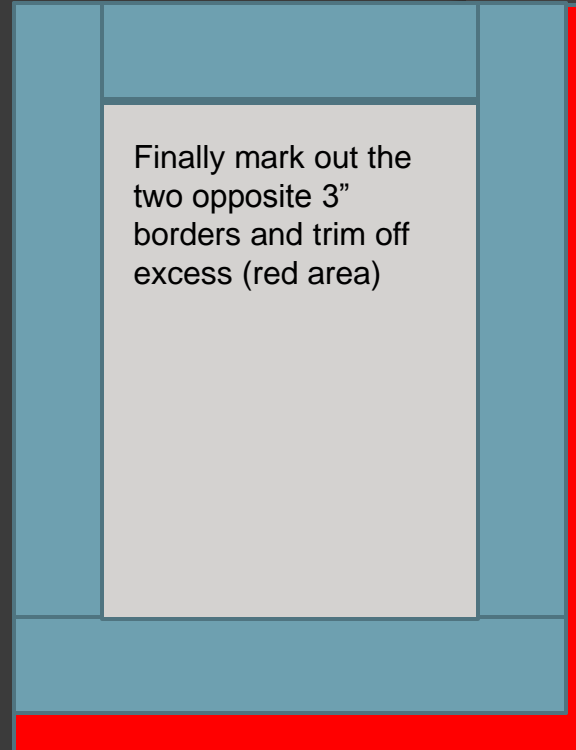
Take your matting board and mark your 3" border on one side edge and another on either the top or bottom edge.

fig1



Now mark out the measurements of the window you took earlier allowing for overlap.

fig2



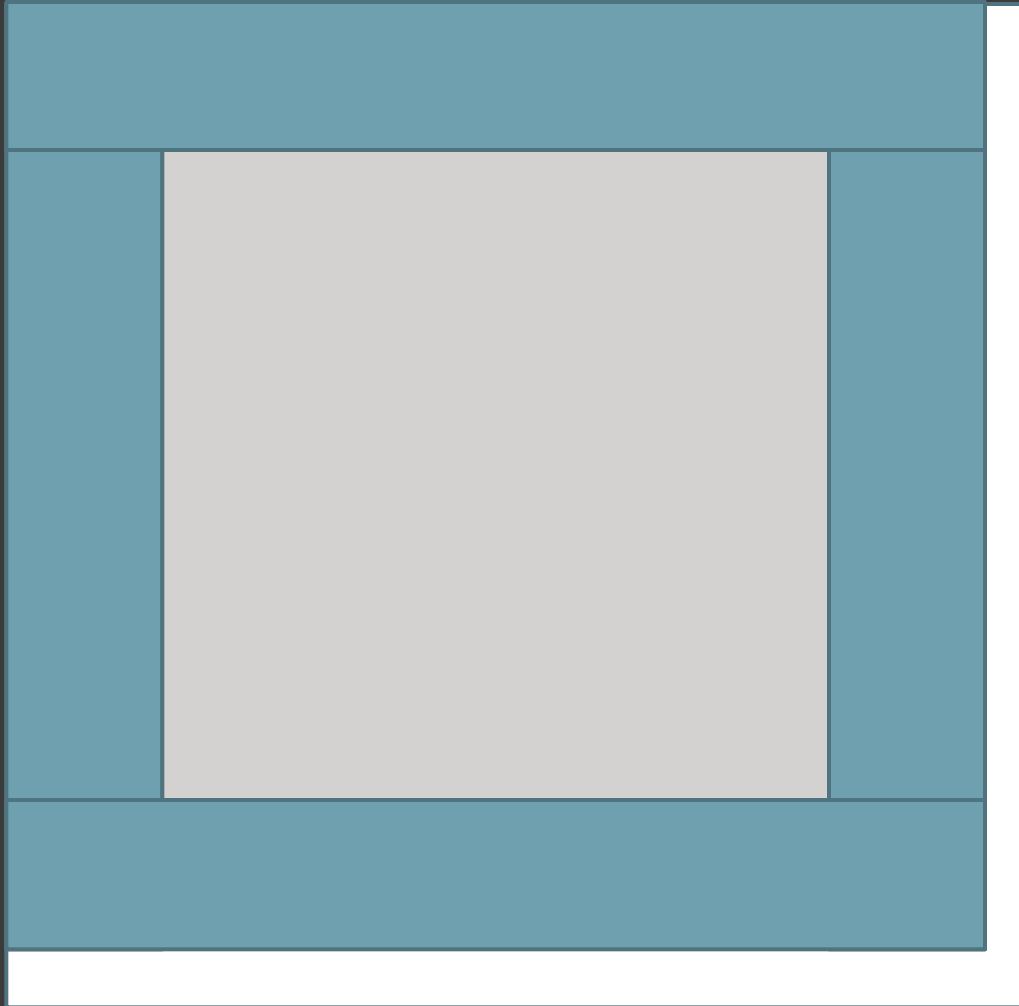
Finally mark out the two opposite 3" borders and trim off excess (red area)

fig3

There are many, many ways to mark a matt board, this is just one way.

# Step 4 & 5

- Check your measurements.  
Cut the window.



Before cutting, check your matt measurements for accuracy.

Use a very sharp blade for cutting matts.

Using a straight edge ruler cut each line three (3) times.

1<sup>st</sup> cut to mark and score the board.

2<sup>nd</sup> cut half way through

3<sup>rd</sup> cut straight through.

Cutting the board this way helps to keep the cuts straight and clean.

Practice cutting on a 45 – 50 degree angle to achieve a bevel cut or purchase a bevel cutter.



# Step 6

- Position and tape your print to the board.

Position your matt over the print and align it the way you want. Tack it with a little strip of masking tape. Turn it over and make any necessary adjustments.

When positioned correctly add strips of making tape to hold it permanently in place.

