

## **Avoid Damage To Members Prints when Matting**

– A letter from Kevin Phelan

Having been involved with collecting and selecting photographs for club competitions and interclub competitions, I have noticed that the fixing of the backing board to the mat, is at times undesirable, as it can lead to and has caused damage to another print, usually someone else's other than the maker of the print in question. This occasionally happens when the photographic print surface of one print comes in contact with the backing tape, which may be lifting, on the back of another print.

Most people stick the backing board down onto the mat board usually with sticky tape like masking tape, and now, more often, with the brown backing tape. Both these rolls of sticky tapes, as are all rolls of sticky tapes, designed to stick to itself lightly, having a non-stick surface on one side, and the sticky side on the other, designed to stick with intensity to the surface it comes in contact with, and in our case, the backing board and the mat board, and not to release without damage to the cardboard surface. The usual custom when sticking the backing board to the mat board is to overlap the tape and leaving the overlapping end adhering to itself. Most of the problem causing damage to the photographic print occurs when the edge of the overlapping tape lifts and rubs against another photographic print, and unfortunately the tape cannot be released from that photographic print without causing unrepairable damage.

The brown backing tape comes in different qualities. Some people are buying their tape from the likes of the \$2 shops etc. Even though these tapes will do the job, more care should be taken and avoid leaving overlapping loose ends. Those tapes can be of a poorer quality, and the overlapping surface may lift very easily from itself. Always look to buying a good quality tape from a reputable store like art supplies, framing shops.

Good brands are Kikusui Tape and Rinrei Tape.

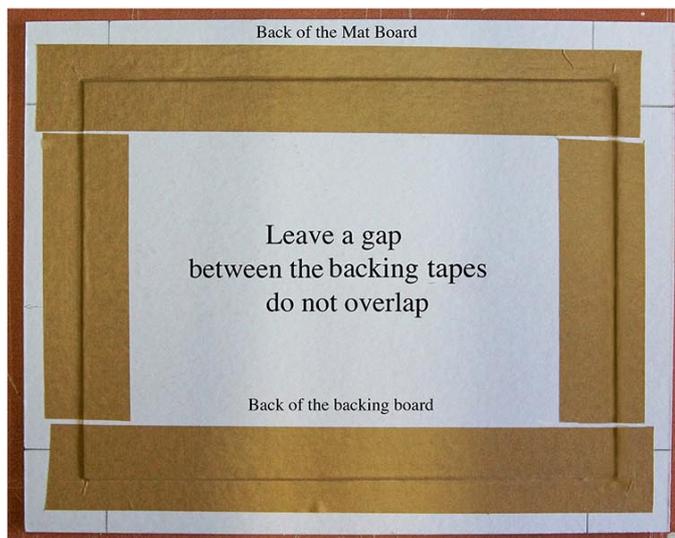
Go online to buy, it will cost more but the quality is there:

[www.tapesonline.com.au](http://www.tapesonline.com.au) They supply Kikusui tapes – look in the Picture Framing Tapes section. Also double sided tape is available. Buy 10 rolls and the price drops. (Get together with other club members to buy bulk.)

[www.clubframeco.com.au](http://www.clubframeco.com.au) They supply Rinrei Tapes – suppliers of all picture framing equipment – Mat cutters systems, double sided tapes etc. – Great Australian Company. They also have videos online showing how to cut mats, frame etc.

The Essendon Camera Club wants you to stop the overlapping backing tape ending on another piece of backing tape. All ends of any backing tape on your finished print should end on the mat board so there is no chance of an end of the tape lifting.

See examples of requirement:

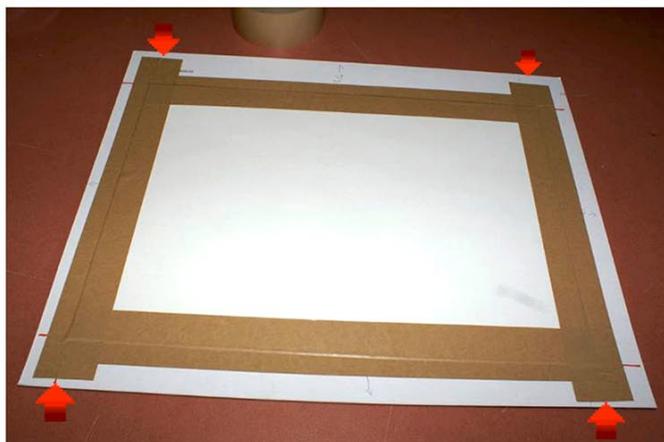


Example 1



Example 2

1st  
Tape opposite sides of backing board - starting at the one edge of the backing board and extending to the opposite edge - do not extend passed the edge of the backing board.



2nd  
Remove the two holding strips. Complete taping the other two sides and extend beyond the first two pieces of backing tape and ensure the tape is adhered to the mat board so it cannot lift.