Mounting Prints.

1. **Recommended mount board size is 20 x 16 inches or 50.8 x 40.6 cm. The print also may be up to this size and can be mounted to fit the mount board exactly. Smaller mount sizes can be used.**
2. **Decide if you wish to mount flush or behind a window mount.:**
    - **A flush mounted print is attached directly to the mount board.**
    - **A window mounted print is attached to the backing board and the window mount fitted in front.**
3. **Decide what colour the mount board should be.**

    In general shades should compliment or contrast with the colours in the print. Consult the colour circle for confirmation.
4. **Decide on the width of the borders surrounding the print.**

    You may have four equal borders or, as I prefer, the top and the two vertical sides equal with the bottom border larger. This arrangement gives better balance and incidentally an indication to judges the correct way up they should view the print!

    However, with a recommended fixed mount size of 20 x 16 inches the latter arrangement is not always possible, especially with very large prints. In these cases I make the top border smaller than the equal sized side borders and ensure the bottom border is larger than the top border.
5. **Mounting and Backing boards.**

    The mounting board we use commonly for competitions is about 2mm thick.

    This has sufficient strength to support a flush mounted print adequately.

    Using a window mount requires a backing board for support. I prefer a fibre board about 1.5mm thick. It is much cheaper than mounting board and does the job very well.

    For some external competitions such as the L&CPU club competition the total width of mount and backing must not exceed 4mm.

    It is worth reiterating that no adhesive tape of any kind should be evident on the back of mounts and that the backing board must be the same size as the window mount. Both are measures are to prevent damage to other prints with which they may come in contact.
6, **Cutting mounts.**

    It is much preferable to use a very sharp knife and a metal edged ruler or straight edge to cut mounts. Leaving ragged edges not

only produces a scruffy appearance – defeating the object of mounting, - but also leaves sharp edges which can damage other prints with which it comes in to contact. I also find it an advantage to cut on a cutting mat, though others don't.

Cutting window mounts really requires specialist equipment. I use the Longridge Bevel Mount Cutter. A rather elderly version but it performs more than adequately for me. Using this system produces bevelled windows accurately and neatly which greatly enhances a print.

7. Attaching the Prints to the Board.

There are several methods - various types of glue, double sided sellotope etc. – I prefer using an aerosol spray adhesive – Photo Mount. It allows some small (very) adjustment to be made as the print is placed down, is quite permanent and not much is needed per print.

Using double sided adhesive tape is much cheaper. John and Simon are both experts. I have found it to be very unforgiving when positioning a print – once it's on it's on.

Bevel Mount Cutter -

www.longridge.co.uk

My Method of Mounting.

My method will not suit all as it relies on getting mount, print and backing sizes exactly right in one. No room for errors.

1. Measure and cut the window mount board to exactly 50.8 x 40.6 cms.
2. Measure the dimensions of the print in cms.
3. Borders.
    i. Calculate the width to be adopted for the top and side borders by subtracting the width of the print from 50.8 cms for landscape format prints and from 40.6 cms for portrait format prints. Dividing the result by two gives the border width for the sides and for the top.
    ii. Calculate the width of the base border by adding the newly calculated width of the top border to the height of the print and subtracting the result from 40.6 cms for landscape mounting and from 50.6 cms for portrait formats.

Note that for large prints this method may give bottom borders smaller than top /side borders. To resolve the problem, I retain the same size for the side borders but adjust the top border width down in size such that the

bottom border becomes significantly larger but the whole appearance retains balance.

Mark out on the *back* of the mount board the lines to be cut using the Longridge Mount Cutter marker.

As the cut will be bevelled it is necessary to add about 2 mm to each measurement so that the print is overlapped sufficiently once the window is put in place.

4. Cut out the window. Using the Longridge Cutter the cuts are made following the marks on the back of the mount.

   Cut carefully and precisely, any inconsistency will show up and draw the eye away from the print.

5. Cut the backing board to fit completely the whole of the window mount.

   I simply place the window on the backing and mark the edges in pencil, the cut. Any trimming needed can be done later once the print is in place.

7. Mark the position of the print on the backing board using the original border measurements (not the adjusted measurements which added 2 mm).

   I find it sufficient to mark where the top two corners of the print will be placed.

6. Apply spray glue to the back of the print in a ventilated space, making sure the corners and the edges are sufficiently covered.

   Be careful not to get glue onto the front of the print. It can be removed carefully with petroleum spirit but the site is always faintly visible subsequently.

   Attach the print to the backing board and use a clean roller or a clean cloth to press it down to ensure good adherence.

   Allow to dry for a few minutes, horizontally.

7. Meanwhile spray glue onto the back of the window mount, again making sure the corners and edges are well covered. It is even more important to avoid glue getting on to the front of the window mount. It is virtually impossible to remove it without leaving an ugly mark.

8. Attach the window mount to the backing mount, to which the print has been attached, making certain that the window overlaps the print sufficiently leaving no gaps.

9. Examine the edges for slight overlaps of the backing board and trim carefully and neatly.