Making a Mount

General Points.

1. This description is based on the Logan Elite Mount Cutter but the principles will apply to any mount cutting equipment. It is widely available from framing sites on-line and also on Amazon. The best price I’ve come across recently is at www.DIYframing.com, but do look around. Also www.Axminster.co.uk is a good source of mounting and framing equipment. Finally, uTube offers many guides on mounting photographs and is well worth looking at.
2. You can buy mount board pre-cut to 500mm by 400mm (the required size for club print competitions) from Seawhites of Brighton, based in Partridge Green, at £8.95 for a pack of 10. Alternatively, buy some A1 size mount board which can be cut to size to produce two 500mm by 400mm boards.
3. Make sure the mount’s side borders are the same size. Make the bottom border a little larger than the top one - this isn’t mandatory, but it mostly works well.
4. Always work with a sharp blade to obtain a clean, smooth, bevelled cut. If your cut is not perfectly smooth, replace your blade and use the spoiled board as a backing board instead.

Measuring the aperture to be cut.

1. Cut the mount to size or use a precut 500mm by 400mm board.
2. Accurately measure the width and height of the photograph to be framed.
3. Subtract the width of the picture from the width of the mount, and the height of the picture from the height of the mount. Halve the results to obtain the sizes of equal side borders and equal top and bottom borders. Then if you prefer having a bigger bottom border, add a few mm to the bottom border and subtract the same amount from the top border.
4. Finally, to avoid unsightly gaps between the picture and the borders, increase each border by 2 to 3 mm.
5. Example: To mount a 420 by 300mm landscape print on a 500 x 400mm board.
6. Mount Width less Picture Width = 500 – 420 = 80, so side borders are 40mm each.
7. Mount Height less Picture Height = 400 – 300 = 100, so top and bottom borders are 50mm each.
8. For a bigger bottom border, increase it by 10mm and decrease the top by 10mm, giving borders of 60mm at the bottom and 40mm at the top.
9. Add 2mm to each border, making the final border sizes 42mm at each side, 42mm at the top and 52mm at the bottom.

Marking out the Window to Remove

1. **Turn the mount board over and work on the back of the board for all that follows.**
2. Start with the bottom border, and mark that border to indicate it’s the bottom one. I just put a B near the edge and also a T on the top border – it can save a lot of confusion later! Move the sliding measuring bar so that its edge (furthest from the cutting groove) lines up with the measurement you want for the bottom border and tighten its 2 screws to keep it firmly in place. Lift up the cutting guide bar and push the mount board against the sliding bar edge nearest the cutting groove. Lower the cutting guide bar and use it to draw a pencil line all the way across from one end end of the mount board to the other.
3. Repeat for each of the remaining 3 borders, turning the board as needed. You now have a rectangular shape, and at this stage I usually place the picture on the mount board and check that the borders slightly overlap it. If not, correct any mistakes.
4. A quick tip - if the side and top borders are the same size, you only need to set the sliding bar once more to get the right size for the remaining 3 borders.

Cutting the Mount

1. **STOP**. Before using the bevel cutter, **place the slip mat** on the Logan Mat Cutter over the cutting groove and beneath the mount board you are going to cut. This will preserve the blade and make your cut accurate.
2. Set the sliding bar to the measurement of the first border you’re going to cut, tighten the screws and butt the mount up against it. Lower the cutting guide over the mount and place the bevel cutter on the guide rail, ensuring the guide mark on the centre of the cutter is placed 1 – 2 mm outside the intersection of the two pencil lines where your cut will start.
3. Use your free (non cutting) hand to apply some pressure on the cutter to prevent it moving forward as you prepare to start the cut.
4. Then press down firmly on the cutter’s thumb pad while at the same time preventing it from moving forward with pressure from your other hand. You should feel the blade cutting through the mount to start the cut, but the cutter’s central mark should still be aligned with the starting point of your cut. This sounds complicated but you’ll soon master the technique to stop the cutter moving. Then place your free hand on the cutter bar and apply a little downward pressure to stop the board moving while you make the cut.
5. Start the cut and keep a firm downward pressure as you move it along the cutting guide bar. As you near the end of the cut marked by the intersecting pencil line, you may want to use your free hand to help control the cutter so that its central guide mark stops precisely 1 – 2 mm beyond the crossing pencil line. Always remember to maintain downward thumb pressure on the cutter to ensure a complete cut. Note: starting and stopping your cut just beyond the crossing pencil lines will ensure your cut-out drops out and leaves perfect corners
6. Then repeat 2 – 5 above for each of the other borders, moving the sliding bar as necessary so you cut the correct size border each time.
7. If you find that one (or more) of your cuts is not exactly along the relevant pencil line, all is not lost! Simply ensure that you start and stop your next cut from a previous cut line rather than a pencil line. The important thing to get good corners is that each cut starts and ends precisely at another cut line.
8. Remove the central part of the mount board. Occasionally you may need to very carefully use a sharp blade at 45 degrees, parallel to the bevel, to free a corner or two from the central cutout.
9. The border should now fit snugly over the picture with no gaps.

**Finishing** **the Mount**

1. The next stage is to attach the picture to a backing board and then fit the mount border over this.
2. Cut a piece of board so that it is a little (10 – 20 mm) smaller all round than the mount border, but larger than the picture. Turn the mount border over so that the back is uppermost and butt its top up against the top of backing board so that it overlaps it equally along both sides. Your earlier marks of T and B on the top and bottom borders help here!
3. Tape the mount and backing board together using a good quality sticky framing tape and then fold the mount border over the taped joint so that it fits over the backing board and the top surface faces up.
4. Fold back the mount border and place the picture on the backing board. Then fold the border back over the backing board and picture. Move the picture as necessary until it sits perfectly within the mount border.
5. Place a heavy non-scratchy object on the picture so that in cannot move relative to the backing board and then again fold the mount border away from the picture.
6. Cut two pieces of conservation quality sticky tape to a length of 4 - 5 cm and slide these, sticky side up, on the top of the backing board and beneath the picture a few cm in from the side edges. Leave about half the length sticking out from the picture. Make sure you don’t move the picture relative to the backing board, and gently push the picture onto the sticky side of the tape.
7. Now cut two more 3 - 4 cm pieces of conservation sticky tape. Stick them down over the protruding sticky tape at right angles to the latter, ensuring no sticky bits are left uncovered, that no part of the picture is covered by sticky tape and that they are well stuck to the backing board so the picture is firmly held in place. By just sticking the top of the picture to the mount board you will prevent the crinkling of the picture often caused by temperature and/or humidity changes.
8. Remove the heavy object from the picture and fold the mount border back over the picture, which should now be sitting perfectly within the border. If it doesn’t, you may have to repeat steps 5 to 8 till you get it right.
9. Finally, on the back of the mount, use sticky framing tape all the way round to cover the join of the back of the mount with the backing board. This gives a tidy finish and prevents dust entering.