

How to Cut Window Mats

Why? Save a lot of money compared to purchasing pre-cut mats. Cut custom openings to fit prints with any proportions, including cropped photos, panoramics, etc. instead of being stuck with standard openings.

Materials suggested:

Mat cutter *

Backing board, such as a strip of scrap mat board

Sharp pencil

12" ruler, suggest metal

Cutting mat

Metal L shaped carpenter square, suggest 16 x 24

Heavy X-Acto knife

Procedure:

1. Attach your print to a mat board
2. Choose a mat for your window mat that is exactly the same size. If necessary, trim it to match the mounted print.
3. Insert a backing board under the rail on the mat cutter base. Scrap mat board is OK.
4. Measure the distance from the print to the edge of the mat and add about 1/8 of an inch to create a narrow overlap.
5. Slide the guide on the mat cutter base to the selected measurement.
6. Insert the mat to be cut, upside down, over the backing board into the mat cutter base against the guide.
7. Draw a pencil line along the stationary rail across the back side of the mat.
8. Repeat steps 3 through 6 for all four sides of the mat so that the lines intersect.
9. Position the mat to be cut so that one of the pencil lines is against the rail.
10. Set the mat cutter on the rail and position it so that the mark on the right edge of the cutter is on an intersecting line.
11. Push the blade into the mat with your thumb, hold it down, and push the mat cutter along the rail until the mark reaches the opposite intersecting line.
12. Release the blade.
13. Turn the mat 90 degrees and repeat for all four lines.

* Logan Compact Classic (\$132.33 at bhphotovideo.com, \$120.99 at Amazon). More elaborate options are available. See logangraphic.com