

Framing Matters

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<http://www.DesignsInkArt.com/library.htm>

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"Flat Stack Float Frames"

Two months ago I covered the basics of stacking float frame mouldings with a decorative slant frame. Custom framers also have many flat style mouldings in assorted colors and wood stains available to partner with your existing float frame if the added width would better enhance your painting (photo 1). Flat moulding widths vary from 2" to 5" wide and all will have the traditional rabbet lip as diagramed in the June article so you generally need a wider moulding to accommodate the weakness of the lip unless your framer is using glue to fuse them (photo 2).

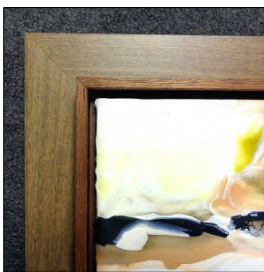


photo 1
Light walnut float frame flat stacked with 3" pecan

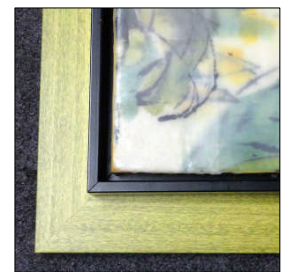


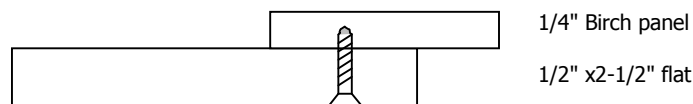
photo 2
Shallow black float flat stacked with green stained poplar

Flat Float

A flat float is a flat custom or DIY length that has been cut and mitered into a square or rectangle for use with a flat 1/4" Birch panel, commercial Ampersand board, 1/2" or 3/4" plywood, MDF or other alternative surface. The painting will need to be overlapped onto the flat frame and attached with screws, offset clips, Velcro or wood glue. The advantage to using hardware over glue is the ability to reuse the flat float frame with other same sized paintings.



photo 3



Though both the 1/4" panel above (photo 3) and the homemade 1" cradled panel below (photo 4) have unfinished sides that will visually detract from the finished flat framing. If you intend to flat float—regardless of with a custom framer or DIY—make sure to clean, paint, or stain your sides.

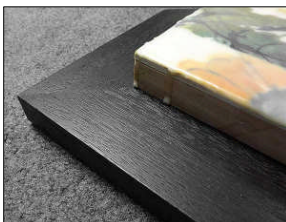
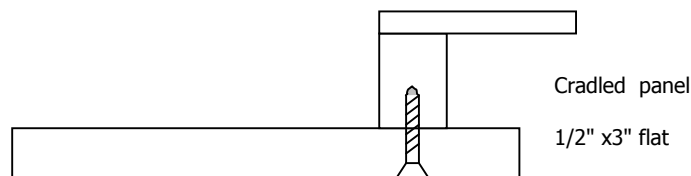


photo 4



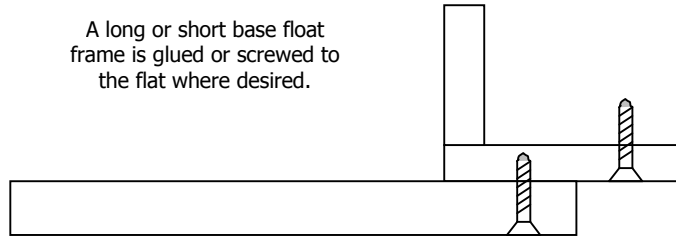
DIY Flat Stacks

For artists you prefer DIY framing, slats of solid high grade oak, red oak, cherry, poplar, redwood and many other fine hardwoods are available through woodworking companies and cabinet supply sources. These may be painted or stained and placed behind an existing float frame to create a much wider and/or colorful presentation (photo 5). You may begin with a painting already float framed or an unframed panel.



photo 5

A long or short base float frame is glued or screwed to the flat where desired.



A flat 1/2" thick board will be available in various lengths from 8' to 20' in length. Since all corners should be mitered at a 45 degree angle you must calculate the loss of material at the corners by adding 8" for every 1" wide the wood moulding is. So a 3" flat panel for a 12x12" painting would require a 72" length of wood for behind your float. A 2" flat panel for a 12x12" painting would only require 64" length. Then you also need to calculate the location of your float or painting on top of the flat board.

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For additional information on framing basics visit <http://www.DesignsInkArt.com/library.htm>
There is a special section in the library for all past IEA *Framing Matters* articles from Wax-On!

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