Mastering Mounting

by Chris A Paschke, CPF GCF, *Picture Framing Magazine*, May 2017

"Goodbye to Ghosting"

The most commonly framed source of ghosting comes from newspaper clippings or magazine articles. Ghosting is the undesired bleeding through of text or pictures from the verso side of a mounting. Newsprint paper is inexpensive, porous and thin enough to easily see the printing from the back side through to the front. In addition, many magazines and commercial fliers today are digitally printed as laser copies which are also heat sensitive. There is an easy way to prevent ghosting while also picking up a few more dollars on the project if you know what to use.

Mounting two-sided printed pages to white board allows for text and image to become visible from the back to the front. (**photo 1**) The high contrast created against a light background allows whatever is printed on the back to become visible when viewed, distracting from the displayed article. By bonding the printed page to the same color substrate as the dominant printing on the b
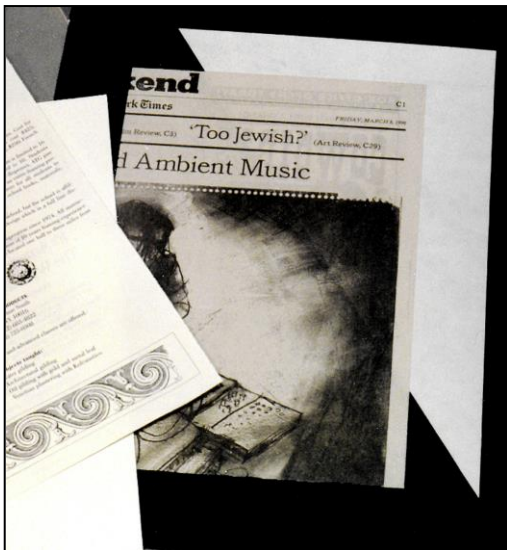

photo 1
The white corner behind the newspaper clearly shows
ghosting while the newspaper on black has no sign of it.

But like many solutions there is a compromise and in this case is that when mounting white paper to black will gray—or tone down--the original white stock, slightly darkening the paper. It is highly recommended to create a mounted sample as in photo 1 to share with the customer during the design and sale of the project to better explain the darkening.

As long as the article or clipping is not the only irreplaceable original, a framed display piece may not be restricted to full preservation requirements and invasive mounting may be applied. There are numerous solutions including any clear adhesive and black substrate of choice; black P-S boards—pressure-activated, self-adhesive applied to foam or paper board; and an array of HA boards—foam with heat activated adhesive applied to one side.

Substrate of Choice
The advantage of selecting the board + adhesive method is any board may be used to fit the need. Black is black, but the rest of what makes up a black substrate allows for a multitude of options when selecting your board of choice. EnCore® Black-On-Black® AF Foam Board is a basic black, 3/16" thick.

Bainbridge All Black, Smooth Mount Black, AF (acid free) Black, or Artcare Black are all black 3/16" foam center boards with various special attributes. Smooth Mount Black is 1/4" thick making it more rigid with an ultra smooth surface and harder feel and was designed for mounting digital images. Hartman's Total Black™ is a 3/16" thick, acid free, environmentally friendly, buffered board and Total Black Harty™ Ultra Rigid was developed for long-range durability as a 1/4" thick heavier fiber board.

Gilman Brothers has both their InSite® Reveal® black standard paper faced foamboard, 1/8"-2" thick and Ryno Board black, a high density, fine-celled, heavy duty, paper faced foam also 1/4"-2" thick. 3A composites maker of Fome-Cor® Board offers all black foamboard 1/8", 3/16", 3/8" and Fome-Cor JetMount® a 1/4" thick, denser extruded polystyrene foam with increased rigidity and warp resistance.

Adhesives
If selecting a black substrate then only clear adhesives may be used to allow the black board to dominate. Magazines and fliers today are digitally produced using a wide assortment of technologies from heat sensitive laser printers to solvent based inkjet or dye sublimation. Pure film rolled adhesives bond at 180°F-200°F and are too hot for laser printed images creating a visible mottling effect during mounting. Spray adhesive is solvent based and could react with solvent based digital inks and should not be used.

Pressure-sensitive films—PMA, Prefect Mount and gudy 870—are all viable options for use with a black substrate. 3M 568 Positionable Mounting Adhesive (PMA) is pure film with no carrier, on a roll 11" wide. Crescent Perfect Mount® Film is adhesive applied to both sides of a clear polyester carrier with two release liners, designed mostly for use with craft projects. Whichever P-S film is selected make certain it is an acid and solvent-free acrylic which will not dry out of become yellow with age.

Another option includes heat activated foamboards, but temperature needs to be considered. First, not all HA boards are available in black and second, they fall into two basic temperature zones. Bainbridge SpeedMount® Black comes 3/16" and bonds at 150°F, Kool Tack Black on Black® is 3/16" thick foamboard that activates at 150°F-160°F, and Gilman Brothers InSite® HA Black foamboard bonds at 160°F.

Gilman Brothers MountCor® is the only board with the low bonding temperature of 130°F, in 15 seconds in a mechanical press. A heat sensitive laser print will generally bond without surface damage at 150°F in 15 seconds, but will damage if left in the press 1 minute, disallowing a vacuum press from being used to mount. At 130°F MountCor will bond the same laser print in any press for any length of time without damage. So the choice is a narrow 15 second dwell time at 150°F without damage, or the chance of no damage regardless of dwell time at 130°F.

Project Parameters
A three page article was written by a client which was published in **Flying** magazine and he wished to frame it for his office. **(photo 2)** Since he had numerous copies of the issue he didn't mind the display copy being permanently mounted to the substrate. He also had an original illustration that was published in the article. The illustration was already mounted and matted as a 16x20" using a 3" white rag, single window mat, and he wished to display them hanging side by side.

photo 2
A three page article published in Flying magazine and original illustration were framed in two frames. The client had the three page article mounted and the original drawing preservation treated.

Since the two were to match in height, mat selection and frame, most of the design was already done. There were to be two frames, the illustration as 16x20" and the article a triple window, single mat as 16x30-1/2". Selected frames were Nielsen 24-421 black brushed satin because of the airplane subject matter and black text.
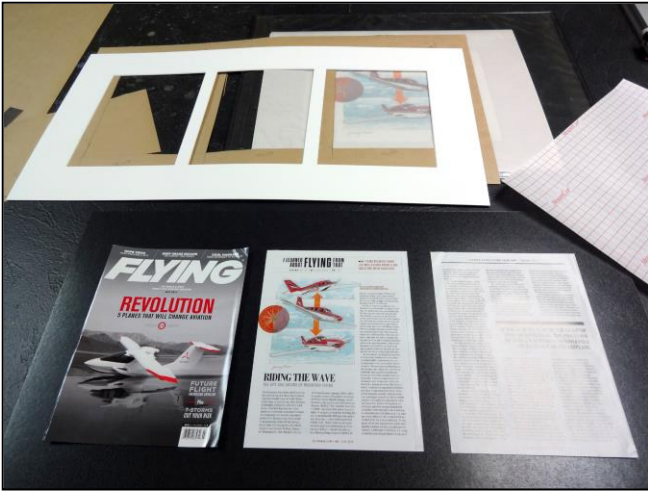
photo 3
A template was cut from Kraft paper to help with alignment of the three pages on low temperature HA MountCor Black.

Step-by-Step
The magazine was disassembled and the pages were carefully cut apart. The mat was sized and manually cut--rather than using a CMC--with 3" borders and 1" between the three pages, and a replica template was cut from Kraft paper to help with the alignment of the three pages on MountCor Black. **(photo 3)** After preliminary alignment the pages were temporarily held in place top and bottom with a small piece of low tack 3M 811 removable tape. **(photo 4)**

photo 4
After preliminary alignment the pages were temporarily held in place top and bottom with a small piece of low tack 3M 811 removable tape.

Each page was tacked with an iron to ensure placement to final mounting. Tacking should be done only be in one spot, along the top or side of any mount, not touching any of the printing, and no larger than the size of a dime. Since MountCor activates in 15 seconds at such a low 130°F temperature, tacking is very quick so take care not to linger. Also since unmounted MountCor has a slight tack the pages easily stay where needed. Remove the 811 tape prior to final mounting because it will otherwise bond to the adhesive in the board. **(photo 5)**

photo 5
After tacking the pages remove the 811 tape prior to final mounting.

MountCor comes with a translucent gridded release liner attached to every board, so final verification of page alignment is easy. **(photo 6)** After bonding and cooling under an even weight. Ready for finishing the mounted article appears a little grayer, as expected, than the unmounted because of the black, but all signs of ghosting are gone. The finished 16x30-1/2" article dimension height matches the 16x20" original illustration height as requested. **(photo 7)** Both were framed with UV glass using Nielsen 24-421 Brushed Satin Black metal frames.
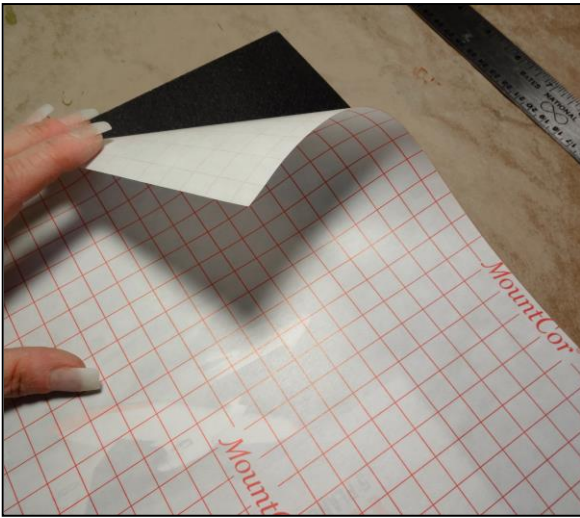

photo 6
MountCor comes with an attached gridded
release liner which also help verify page alignment
prior to placing in the press.

photo 7
The finished dimensions were 16x30-1/2" for
the article and 16x20" for the original illustration in
Nielsen 24-421 Brushed Satin Black metal frames (not shown).

END

(These resources are not necessarily meant to be printed in the article, but more for potential advertisers)

Resources	**Items**
www.graphicdisplayusa.com	3M composites Fome-Cor, JetMount, Garorboard
www.gilmanbrothers.com	InSite, MountCor Black
www.kooltack.com	Black on Black,
www.hartboard.com	Total Black, Total Black Harty
www.larsonjuhl.com	MountCor Black, Bainbridge, Bienfang, KoolTack
www.neschenamericas.com	Gudy 870, Gudy 831
www.nielsenbainbridgegroup.com	Artcare Black, AF Black, All Black, SmoothMount Black, SA Black
www.omegamoulding.com	Single Step, KoolTack Black, Speed Mount Black; Hart Black, InSite Black
www.unitedmfrscatalog.com	Bienfang Black, SA, Single Step