

# Mounting Matters

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

## GLAC Newsletter – LA Framer, August 2013 "Flat Stacked Float Frames"

In November 2012 I taught a class for GLAC on float frames. In the next few columns I will add to that introduction by expanding the concept of stacking through flat stacks, cap stacks, width expansion and use of color. Stacked frames are the joining of two or more custom frames to create a new wider, deeper or decorative frame. Since floats are traditionally straight and simple, stacking allows for more decorative applications.

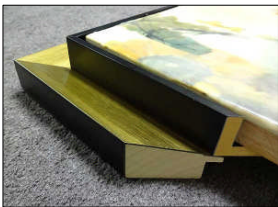
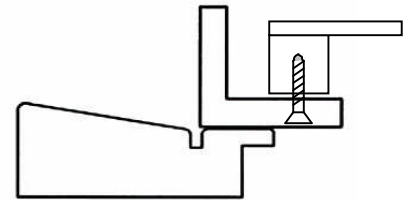


photo 1  
Frames can be attached using glue or metal hardware.

Float is glued to rabbet frame.  
Cradle or panel is screwed to attached float.



### Flat Stack

A flat mouldings often used stacked as liners but may be easily paired with float frames to create a wider decorative effect for a basic contemporary float edging (**photo 2**). 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 using glue to fuse them.

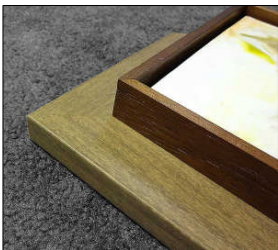
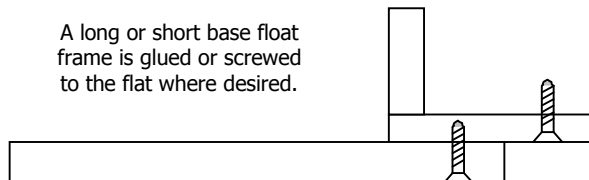


photo 2  
Light walnut float frame  
flat stacked with 3" pecan

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



### Flat Float

High grade oak, red oak, cherry, poplar, redwood and many other fine hardwoods--available through woodworking companies and cabinet supply sources--also make fabulous flat float frames. These may be painted or stained and placed behind an existing float frame to create a much wider and/or colorful presentation or alone as an option for economy minded clients. A flat float adapts very well for use with 1/4" Birch panels (**photo 3**), commercial Ampersand cradled boards, 1/2" or 3/4" plywood, MDF or other alternative painting surfaces. The painting needs to overlap onto the flat frame and attached with screws, offset clips, Velcro or wood glue.

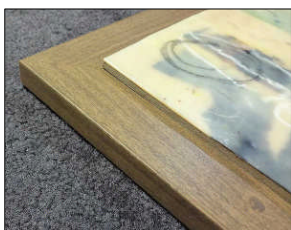
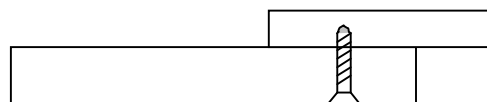


photo 3  
1/4" Baltic Birch panel with encaustic

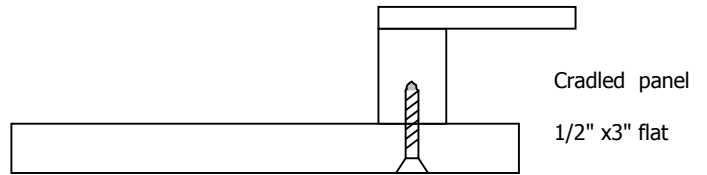


1/4" Birch panel  
1/2" x2-1/2" flat

The 1/4" panel above (photo 3) and the side nailed homemade 1" cradled panel below (photo 4) have unfinished sides that will visually detract from flat framing. These would be designed for placement in a traditional frame or float frame having the edges of the unfinished wood covered, so for a flat float to be make acceptable make certain the sides are clean, painted, or stained by the artist.



photo 4  
1" deep cradled panel  
with unfinished sides



As a cheaper alternative to "doing it right" it is being shown in the retail world with gallery wraps to add the artificial look of a real frame. The real down side of this method for original encaustic and painted panels is that there is no surface protection for the painting that a regular float frame would provide. As always education is one of the most important aspects of custom framing, so make sure you discuss the alternatives with your artist clients.

END

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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 issues of *GLAC LA Framer*.

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