

Mounting Matters

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

LA Framer – GLAC Newsletter May 2013

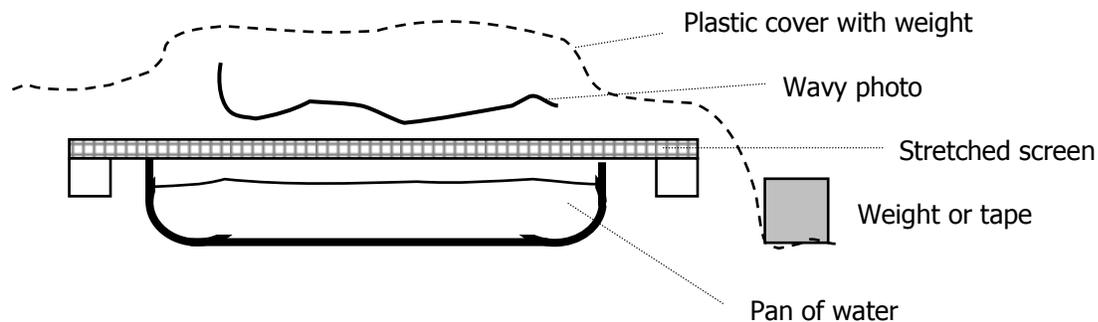
"Temporary Humidifiers"

There are times when art or photos are brought in to frame which are very tightly rolled or badly cockled. Unfortunately heavily cockled pieces are probably not really candidates for flattening, as the paper fibers have been compromised by spot absorption of moisture, such as an original watercolor that was painted without being edge taped prior to painting or an improperly dried fiber base photo that will never lie flat. Unfortunately simply pressing a rippled image in your cold dry mount press rarely flattens the problem and sometimes even the addition of heat doesn't work. And a warning needs to be offered here that heavily cockled pieces will generally be damaged by permanent creases if placed in a heated clamped press. However, there are situations when gentle waves in a photo or painting might be flattened by the addition of light humidity--to relax the base paper--followed by pressed drying between dry layers and even weight.

There are two simple, temporary humidifiers that may easily be assembled when needed and dismantled when done that every framer should have in their bag of tricks for that occasional piece needing humidifying.

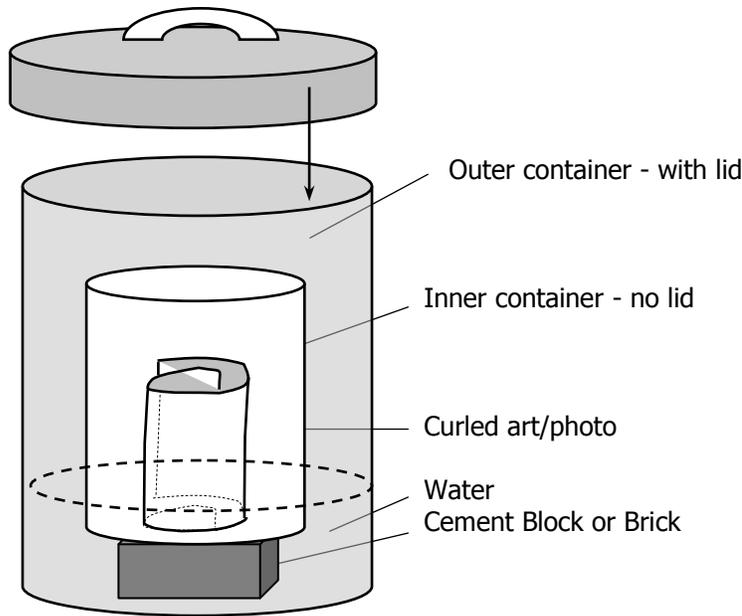
Horizontal Set-up for Flat Art

A developing tray or roaster pan much larger than the art to be flattened should be filled with warm water and covered with a sheet of clean fiberglass screening across the top. Since screen is soft it should be stretched to a strainer for stability and ease of handling. Lay the print on the screen, cover with a sheet of plastic, and fully weight of tape all edges to seal in the moisture. After the moisture has been allowed to penetrate the image—a day--place art between dry spun polyester—Pelon—then blotters and weight to dry for 24 hours.



Vertical Set-up for Rolled Art

Tightly rolled prints require more time to absorb and relax the paper base. Place a small, clean open-top plastic container or wastebasket into the bottom of a large plastic container with a lid, then add a warm water moat around the bottom. The inner container may be set on a cement block or brick to raise up and prevent it from floating. Place the rolled art into the smaller dry container, close the outer lid and let the paper absorb moisture, possible a few days. When soft and limp enough, unroll, flatten, and dry between Pelon, blotters and board under an even flat weight. Art must be fully dry prior to framing.



Once dry and flat then frame as usual. If the image remains rippled or cockled it might be a good idea to frame using a sink mount rather than a flat non-spaced window mat.

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 GLAC Mounting Matters articles from *LA Framer*.

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