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CLASS: **M2054** Lecture/PPT (2 hour)
Tuesday, February 6th, 9:00-11:00am

TITLE: **Mastering Mounting: Float Frames Trends**

OBJECTIVES: Float frames have recently reemerged in the framing industry with ever-increasing popularity. This is largely due to the wide assortment of gallery wraps and wide format digitals on the market. In this class, you'll learn the benefits of using the numerous floater styles available. Chris will delve into the differences in working with each type of float frame, as certain types of floaters are not suitable for each item. You'll also discover proper techniques for mounting oils, acrylics, digital canvases and encaustic art on assorted wood surfaces. This class will provide you with the necessary knowledge to make working with float frames an integral part of your business.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Designed for knowledgeable MCPFs, but all levels will benefit.

INSTRUCTOR BIO: Chris is a lettering and encaustic artist and framing designer who has been an independent demonstrator, lecturer and instructor in the industry since 1985, having written a monthly column since 1990, and a number of trade books including: *The Mounting And Laminating Handbook, First, Second and Third Editions*; and *Creative Mounting, Wrapping and Laminating*.

SUGGESTED READING:

www.designsinkart.com, DIP Online: Designs Ink, 2009
The Mounting And Laminating Handbook, Third Edition, 2008, Designs Ink Publishing*
The Mounting And Laminating Handbook, Second Edition, 2002, Designs Ink Publishing
Designs Ink Article Archive and Reference Library, <https://designsinkart.com/articles-subject.shtml>
"Float Spaces, Face Depth", <https://designsinkart.com/library/IEA-FloatSpacesFaceDepth201010.htm>
"Float Frames for Encaustic Panels", <https://designsinkart.com/library/EncausticPanels200802.pdf>
"Float Frame Variations", <https://designsinkart.com/library/M-FloatFrameEncausticVariations200906.htm>
"Float Frame Trends", <https://designsinkart.com/library/M-FloatFrameTrends201401.pdf>

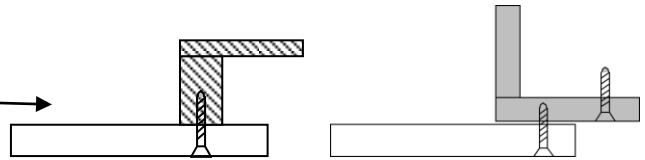
MASTERING MOUNTING: Float Frame Trends

I. Preservation Issues

Traditional Canvas use rag, rabbit liners, sealers, brackets
Contemporary giclee...mount them
Encaustics painted on wood...glued and screwed to frames

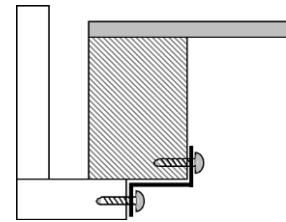
II. Basic Styles

Baguette
Standard L-Float
Stepped Float
Faux Float
Flat Float with Cradle
Stacked Combinations
Dptych, Multiple Image, Contemporary Layouts



III. Hardware & Fitting

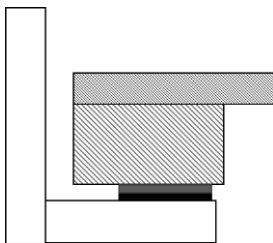
Float Space - Width from inside edge of frame
Traditional canvas = 1/32" to 1"
Encaustic = 1/8" to 1/2"
Recesses - Depth from top face of frame
Traditional canvas is very narrow = 1/32" to 1/16"
Encaustic requires space to protect wax = 1/8", 1/4", to 1/2"
Lifters, Spacers and Platforms
Hardware Options
Silicone is NEVER and option
Reusable Mounts
Substrates and Mounts
Hardboards - for long base floats
Cradled Box Mounts
Step Float Mounts



IV. Encaustic Substrates and Application

Cradled Boxes - Unframed
Commercial Hardboards
Masonite, Baltic Birch, Maple, MDF
Canvas Boards, 8-ply Rag
Boxes - Commercial, custom and home
Cradled Panels and Raised Panels
Tycore and Hexamount
Surface and Edging
Uneven Pour, Level, Square Edge, Deckle Drip
Recesses

V. Step-by-Step Reusable Platform Float



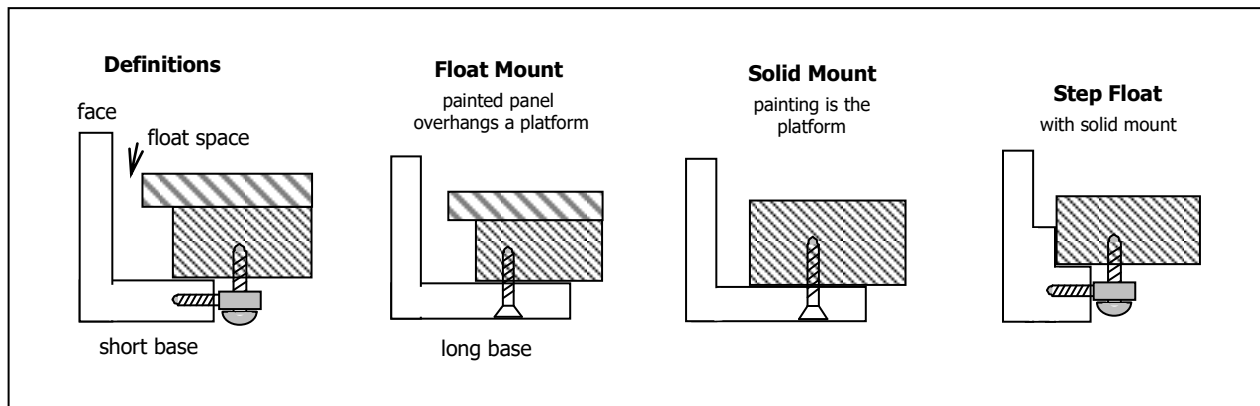
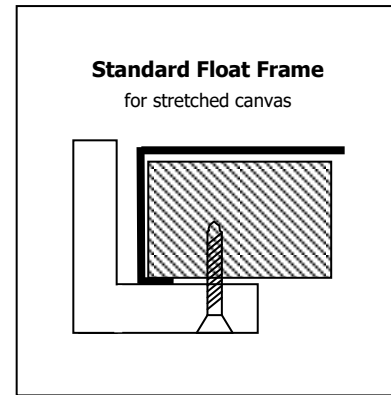
Float Frames for Canvas and Encaustic

FLOAT FRAME REVIEW

Float frames were developed for use with painted canvases on stretcher or strainer supports for all thicknesses up to 3", and thinner oil paintings on canvas covered boards or masonite have been framed in traditional frame mouldings often with decorative fabric liners. But float frame mouldings are also the perfect solution to best enhance and protect rigid original artworks that have been painted on assorted hardboards with thicknesses including 1/4", 1/2", and 3/4".

Encaustic artists often work on hardwood panels favoring Baltic birch, white maple, plywood, and masonite. Sometimes these high quality 1/4" panels are mounted atop a mitered frame support of 3/4" birch wood called a cradle. These art panel boxes (cradles) help prevent warpage and eliminate the need for a formal picture frame once the wax painting is complete.

Framing individual panels without the support cradle has been a challenge for framers and artists because of the inherent depth of float frame profiles, but a float frame with a removable platform will raise the thinner panel so it appears to float within the outer frame.



DEFINITIONS

A **float frame** has an L-shaped moulding profile.

A **step float** has a built-in stair step moulding profile.

A **lifted float** is the act of raising the art off the base.

A **float mount** is a thin art panel glued to a smaller platform, which is screwed to the frame.

A **solid mount** is a thick art board screwed directly to the frame serving as both art panel and platform.

A **platform** is the removable plywood support that lifts a floated art panel from the back of the frame.

The **profile** is the side view shape of the frame. The profile has either a long base or short base.

The **base** is the back width of the frame that the art sits on.

The frame **face** is the top edge of the frame.

The **float space** is the gap between the frame and art panel.