

# **Mastering Mounting: Understanding Mounting Basics**

**Chris A. Paschke, CPF GCF**

**West Coast Art & Frame Expo, Las Vegas 2025**

*"In 1972 mounting was simple...  
paper, photos and fabrics. Heated vacuum presses  
did not yet exist in framing, and spray adhesive,  
corrugated cardboard and masking tape  
were state-of-the-art.*

*Today we have paper and coated paper; photos  
and digital photos; fabrics and dye-sub canvas;  
and that's just tip of the iceberg.*

*Welcome to mounting in the 21st century!"*

*- Chris A. Paschke, CPF GCF*

# Mounting Review

## Noninvasive Methods

Natural Starch

Hinges

Kozo Backing

Cold Alternatives

Edge Strips, Pockets

Mylar/Encapsulation

Sink Mount

Static Mount

Velcro Mount

Lacing

HA Reversible Board

## Invasive Methods

HA Dry Mounting

HA Roller Laminators

Cold Mount

Cold RLs

Vacuum Frame

Commercial Wet Glue

Commercial Paste

Spray Adhesive

Pressure-sensitive

Manual Applications

Wet, PSA, Spray

# Invasive Mounting Longevity

HA Dry Mounting

HA Roller Laminator

Cold Mount with Machine

Cold RLs

Vacuum Frame

Commercial Wet Glue

Commercial Paste

Spray Adhesive

Manual Applications

Commercial Wet Glue

Pressure-Sensitive

Spray Adhesive



# Adhesive Methods/Choices

Used to be based on cost, now is based more on art.

## **80/20 Rule**

80% Preservation vs. 20% Invasive

80% HA Boards vs. 20% Tissues

It will depend upon your individual market,  
but could be 70% - 20% - 10%

# Condition Reports

- Paper
- Photography
- Digitals
- Textiles
- Paintings

**CONDITION REPORT** (from The Mounting And laminating Handbook, 3rd Edition)

**Digital Print on Paper, Textile or Rigid Media**

Photo, Poster Print, Giclée, LE Canvas

Liquid or Dry toner: Electrophotographic / Electrostatic

Thermal transfer: Dye sublimation / Dye transfer / Dye diffusion

Aqueous Inkjet: Thermal / Piezo / Phase change (solid wax) / Continuous flow

Solvent Inkjet: Thermal / Piezo

Client \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Artist \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Declared Value \_\_\_\_\_

Size Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Printer \_\_\_\_\_ Medium / Technology \_\_\_\_\_

Substrate \_\_\_\_\_ Micro porous \_\_\_\_\_ Swellable \_\_\_\_\_

Inkset (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Surface Coat \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition** (see damage recorded on attached grid sheet)

<input type="checkbox"/> Abrasion	<input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprints	<input type="checkbox"/> Perimeter Damage
<input type="checkbox"/> Bulge	<input type="checkbox"/> Foxing	<input type="checkbox"/> Previous Hinges
<input type="checkbox"/> Cockling	<input type="checkbox"/> Indentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Previous Repairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Crease/Fold	<input type="checkbox"/> Ink Smears	<input type="checkbox"/> Puncture
<input type="checkbox"/> Fading/Color Shift	<input type="checkbox"/> Moisture Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> Stains
		<input type="checkbox"/> Tears

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Conservator consultation will be required.  Yes  No

Conservator Report Notes \_\_\_\_\_

The client has been informed of--and agrees with--conditions on this form.  Yes  No

The client has been informed of the need for specific framing requirements and agrees to the methods recommended.  Yes  No

Client Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Frame Designer \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Condition Reports\*

- 1. Art on Paper or Document**
- 2. Photography on Paper or Plastic Media**
- 3. Digital Print on Paper, Textile or Rigid Media**
- 4. Needleart and Textile**
- 5. Paintings on Stretched Support**

Always fill the report with your customer.

\*Appendix: The Mounting And Laminating Handbook, 3rd Edition

# Work Station

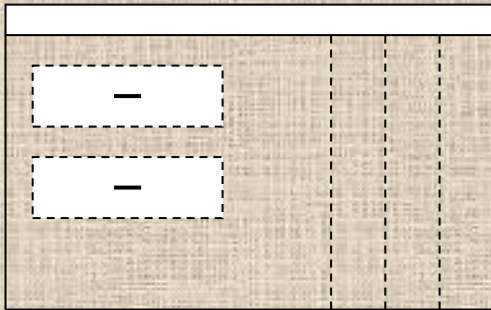
- Equipment Placement
- Ergonomics
- Keep away from cutters and saws
- Lighting – need to see the dirt

*Clean area...clean process*



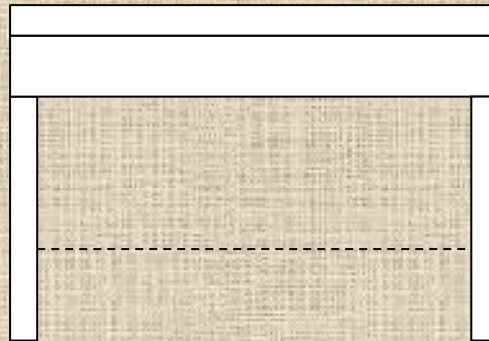
# Work Room Layout

PREPARATION TABLE



Optional vertical storage  
and drawers.

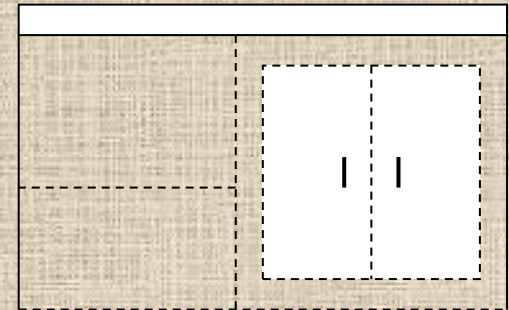
HOT VACUUM PRESS



Opening is level  
with tabletops, with  
optional storage shelf.

COOLING TABLE

Glass Weight



Optional cabinet and  
shelf storage.

# The Elements of Mounting - TTPM

TTPM is required procedure

TTPM applies to ALL mounting methods

TTPM is there to help

TTPM will help locate the problem

How much **time** was allowed?

What **temperature** was used?

Was it weighted (**pressure**) a full 24 hours?

Was **moisture** properly controlled?

# TTPM

**Time** - Correct time is always required

Tack time, Open time, Draw time, Dwell time





# TTPM

**Temperature - Storage, equipment and glue**

Even Wet and Spray are 60F - 90F degrees

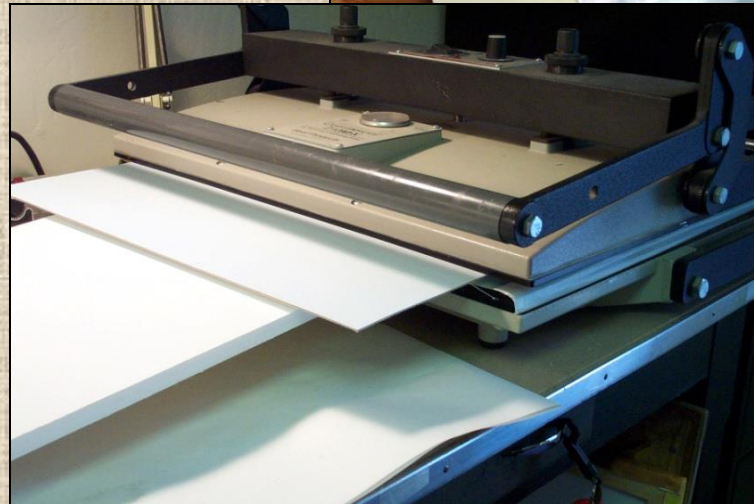
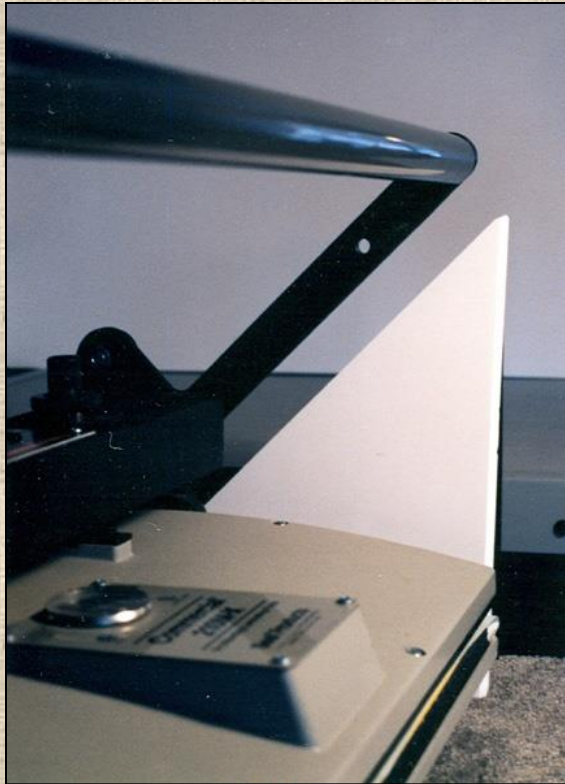




# TTPM

**Pressure** - Good technique and adjustments

Weighted to Dry, Cure and/or Cool



# TTPM

**Moisture** - Required control in all methods



# Wet Mounting



## **TIME**

*Drying time* is the time required for total cure, 3-24 hrs.

## **TEMPERATURE**

Extremes of heat, humidity, or cold lessen permanency.

## **PRESSURE**

Plate glass increase bonding, but a vacuum frame is best.

## **MOISTURE**

Too much moisture may absorb into the art.

Vacuum frames speed bonding time.



# Wet Mounting

## Pros

Starch lasts the test of time...scroll mounting  
Commercial glue for manual or cold frame  
Reactivates with heat

## Cons

Clean up  
More time intensive



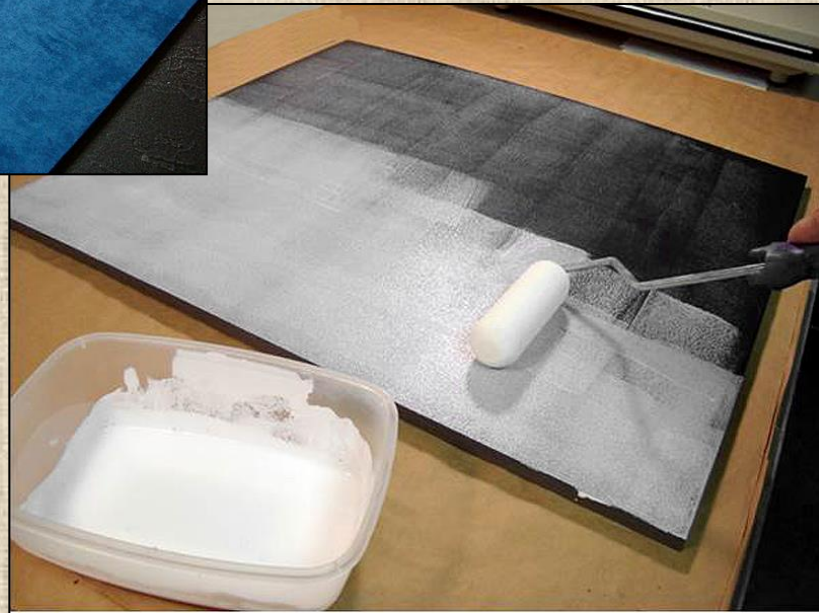




Commercial  
Adhesive



Traditional  
Starch



# Commercial Wet Glues

Polyvinyl acetate (PVA) white glues are permanent.  
Ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) is reversible.

**All Purpose** = light for paper, RC photos

Brands = Décor 610, Lineco Neutral pH

**Paste** = heavier for posters, RC photos, fabric, vinyl

Brands = Décor 980, LION 10554, YES!

**Vacuum Mount** = bonds to wood, Masonite, MDF, foam...

Brands = Décor 3649, LION 6201, Fredrix Lamin-all...

**Fabric** = bonds fabrics to matboard, liners, MDF...

Brands = Franks Fabric Glue

Raphael Miracle Muck

Décor 1340

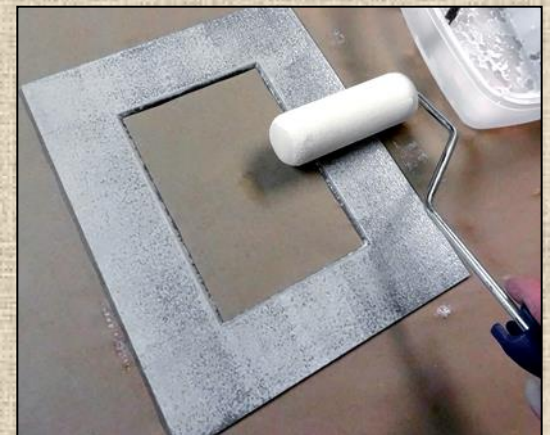




# Wet Mount Application

## Tips

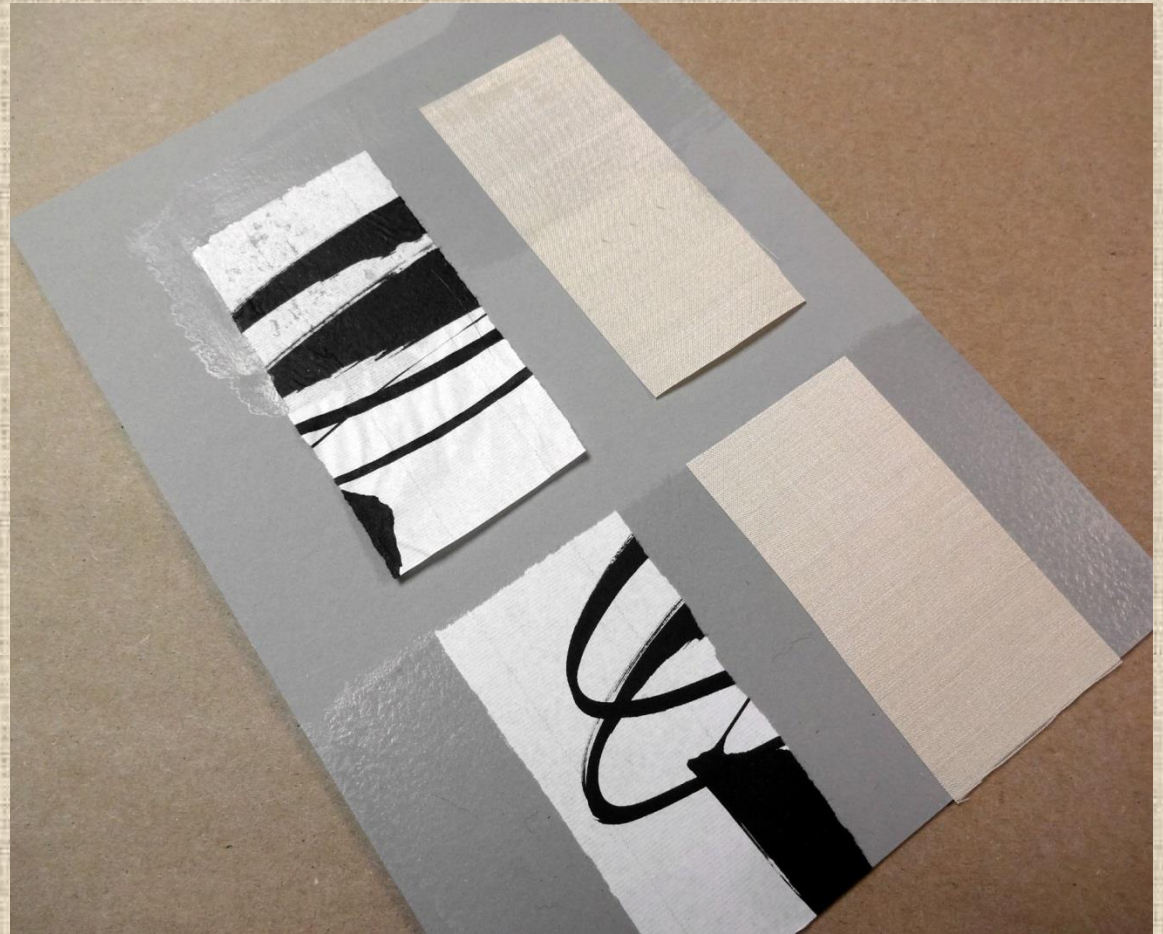
- Sponge rollers apply smoother layers.
- Apply layer, apply second layer in opposite direction.
- Mist back for print to expand fibers.
- Align print to the substrate across the top edge.
- Rub from center to outer edges.
- Dry under weight for 4-24 hours.
- Or use cold vacuum frame.



# Wet/Dry Application

Adhesive absorption is visible in wet mounted upper two.

Lower samples were wet/dry mounted preventing absorption.





# Wet/Dry Application

## Tips

- Apply two coats, let each dry.
- Set press between 180°F-190°F.
- Align the fabric and press to hold.
- If wrapping a window, refit fallout.
- Insert into heated press between release papers for 2-5 minutes depending on the substrate, size, fabric, and press.



# Spray Mounting



## **TIME**

*Open time* is the window for mounting, 3-10 min.

*Bond time* is the curing time for permanent bond.

## **TEMPERATURE**

Most manufacturers have a suggested temperature range.

## **PRESSURE**

A vacuum frame is recommended for maximum pressure.

## **MOISTURE**

Condition the art and substrate to the same environment.

# Spray Mounting

## **Pros**

Inexpensive

Ease of use

## **Cons**

Health issues

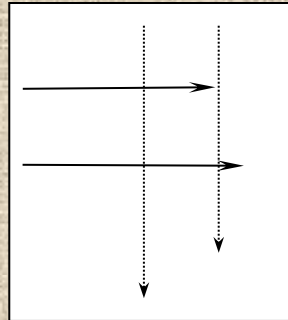
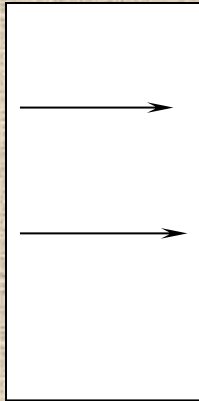
Messy

Special equipment

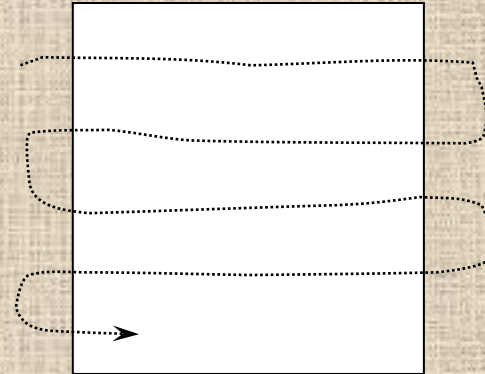




# Spray Mounting



Apply spray then rotate  
substrate 90-degrees



Begin off the left edge and continue  
past the right. This may be done in  
one continual motion or in separate  
left to right passes across the  
substrate.



# Pressure-Sensitive Mounting

## **TIME**

Maximum bond achieved after 24 hrs.

## **TEMPERATURE**

The warmer the materials, the more aggressive the bond.

Extremes of heat and cold can affect the long-term bonding.

## **PRESSURE**

A weight or vacuum frame should be used.

## **MOISTURE**

Damp materials will not bond.



# Pressure-Sensitive Mounting

## **Pros**

Low, Medium, High Tack

Repositionable

Easy to Use

Variety of Choices – film and carrier

## **Cons**

Repositionable

Could crawl or dry out over time





# Pressure-Sensitive Adhesives

## **Films**

PMA (3M Positionable Mounting Adhesive)

Gudy 870 (Gudy O - no carrier)

Crescent Perfect Mount (clear carrier)

Gudy 831 (Gudy V - long fiber sheer carrier)

## **Boards**

Crescent Perfect Mount

Bainbridge SA

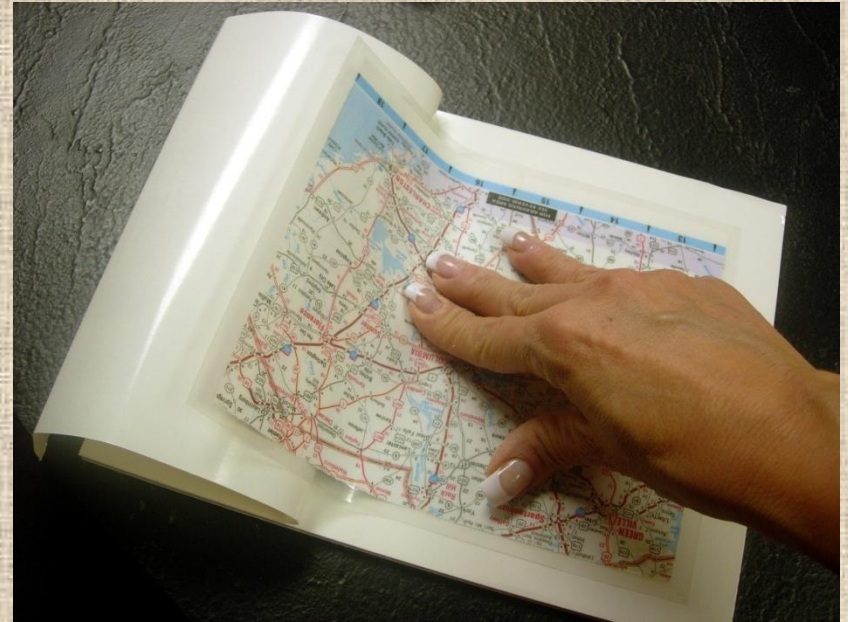
Gilman SA HT

KoolTack InstaMount

Gilman Resilient

Gilman Resilient Align (repositionable)





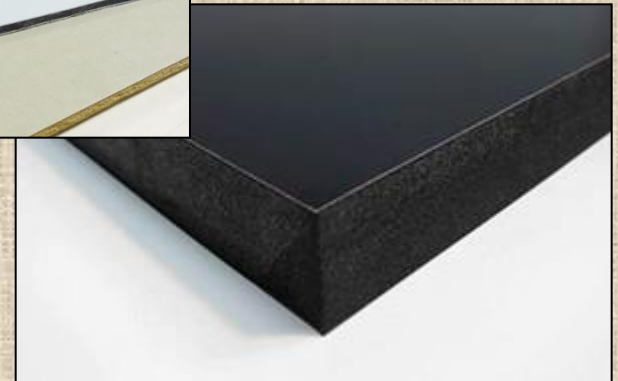
- Remove top liner
- Position on board
- Cover with liner
- Burnish from center
- Weight to cure



# PSA Mounting for RL

Commercial substrates: *(top to bottom)*

- Acrylic
- 1/4" Gatorboard
- 1/8" Gatorboard
- Dibond (ACM)
- 1/8" Hardboard
- 3/8" Coated Hardboard
- 1/2" Resilient<sup>®</sup> Soft Touch Board





# Dry Mounting

## **TIME**

*Dwell time* is that required to activate and create the bond.  
Average vacuum press 4 min, mechanical press 1-2 min

## **TEMPERATURE**

No standard temperature for all adhesives, about 130F-190F

## **PRESSURE**

The force that compresses air from between bonding layers.  
A mechanical press is manually set, a vacuum is automatic.

## **MOISTURE**

Steam is created at 225F, predrying may be required.  
A vacuum draws moisture out automatically.

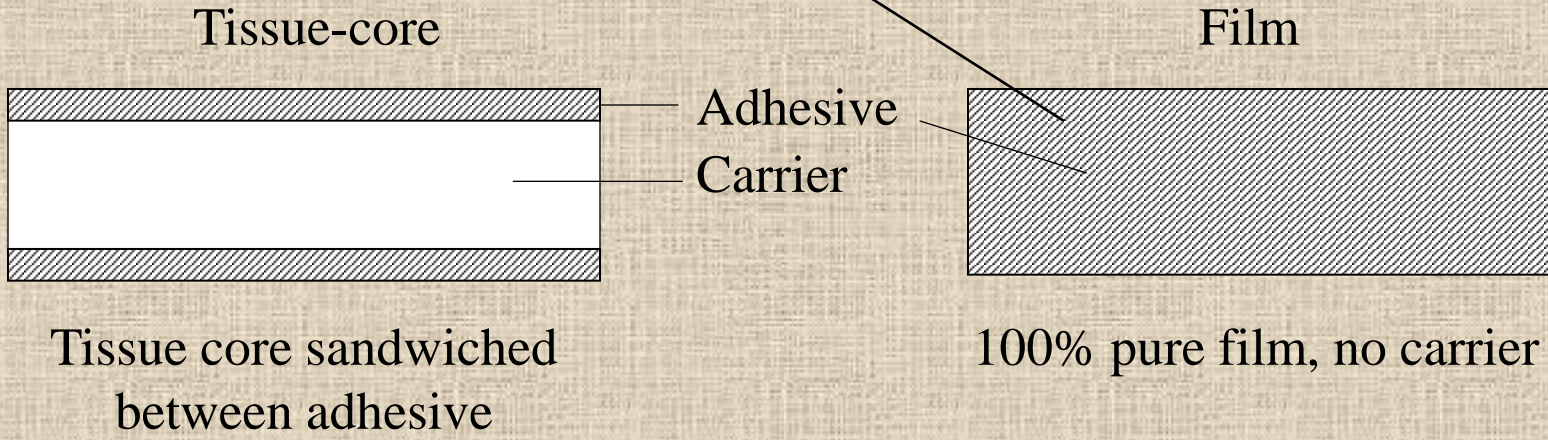
# Adhesive Characteristics

- **Composition** - Tissue-core carrier  
Film (no carrier)
- **Type of Bond** - Permanent vs. Removable
- **Porosity** - Breathable vs. Non-breathable
- **Acidity Level** - Buffered vs. Unbuffered





# Composition





# Type of Bond

## Permanent

Tear Strength vs. Longevity

Bonds in the press at Temperature

Solvent Removal

## Removable

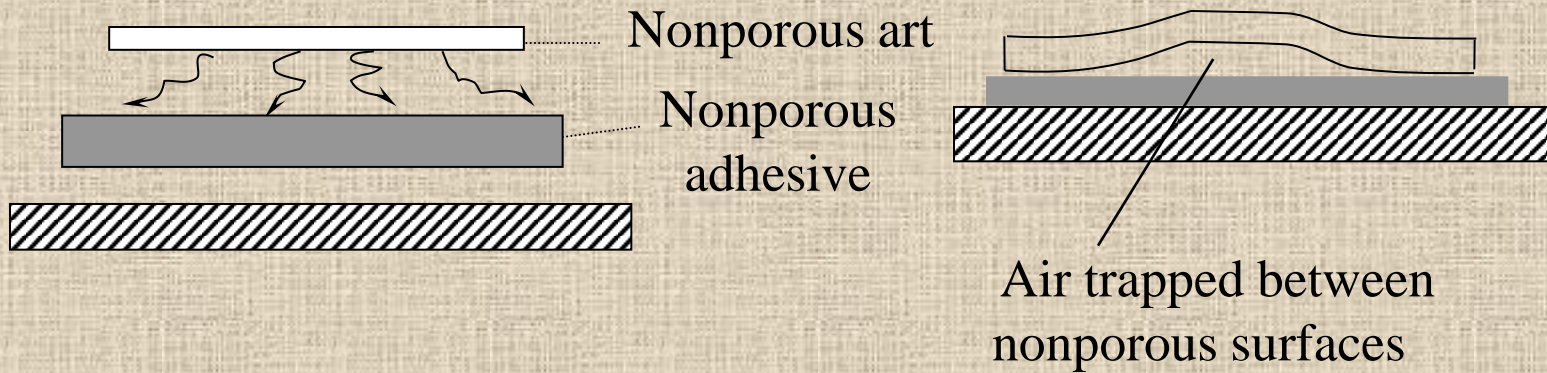
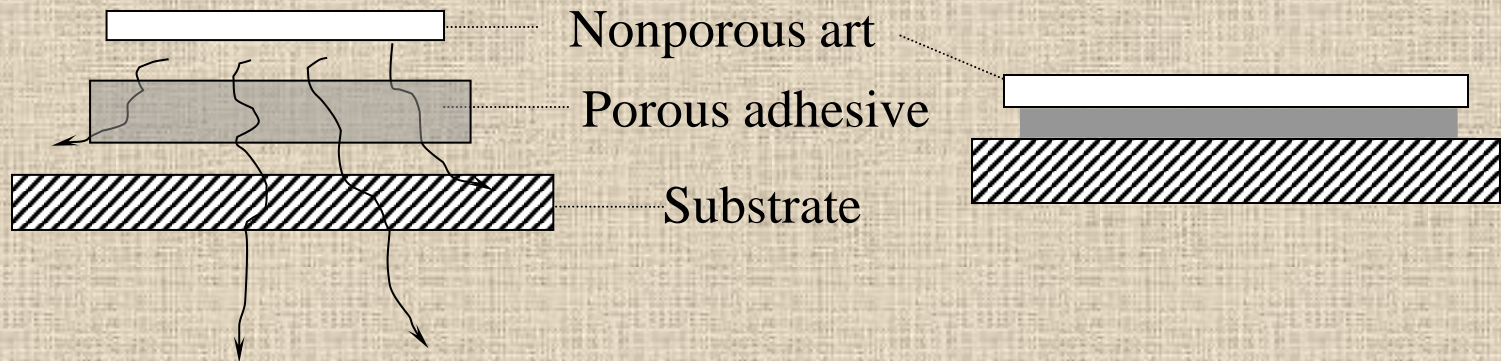
Reactivates under heat

Bonds as it Cools

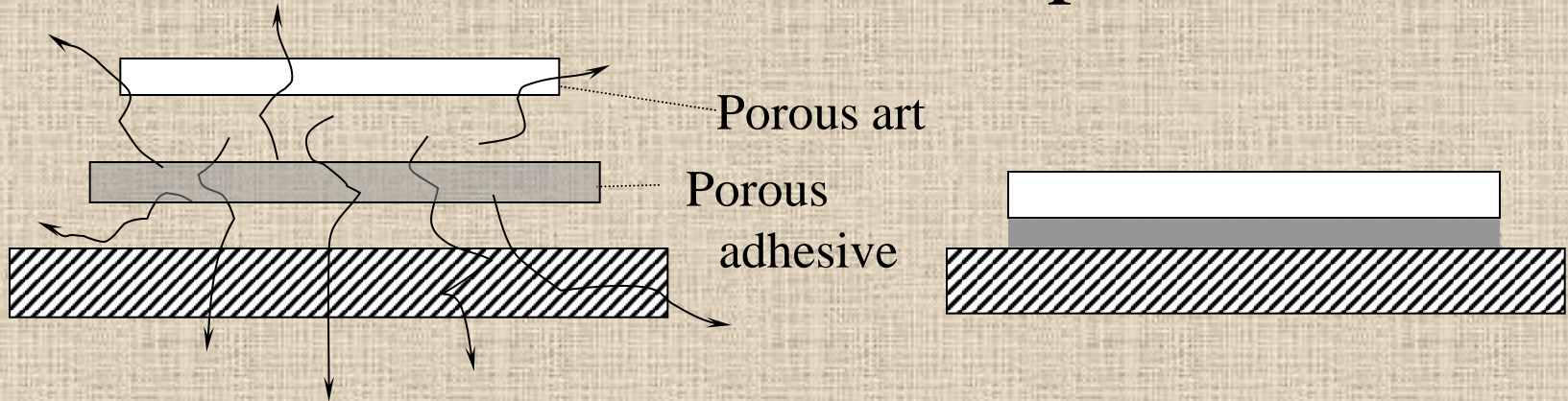
**Removable is NOT Reversible**



# Porosity



# Proper Bond



## Acidity Levels

- Adhesives are inert
- Carriers are buffered





# Temperature - HA Foam Boards

## High Temperature

Traditionally noted as **180°F-200°F**

Most are permanent – bond in press

Bond 1-3 minutes mechanical, 4 minutes vacuum after draw

- Crescent HA Fome-Cor - 165°F-170°F
- Bainbridge SpeedMount - 180°F-190°F



# Temperature - HA Foam Boards

**Medium Temperature = 150°F-160°F  $\pm$**

Many are removable - bond outside press under weight

Bond 30 seconds mechanical, 1-3 minutes vacuum after draw

- Bainbridge HAF (Heat Activated Foam) - 160°F-180°F
- KoolTack Drymount Foam -160°F
- KoolTack ACM - 160°F-165°F
- Gilman InSite HA Foam -160°F



# Temperature - HA Foam Boards

**Low Temperature = 130°F**

Permanent, stable and inert

Bonds 30 sec -1 minute mechanical press, 2 minutes vacuum

Safe for all digitals

- Gilman MountCor Acid Free -130°F
- Gilman MountCor Canvas Acid Free -130°F





# Temperature - HA Foam Boards

**Reversible Board = 150°F-170°F**

Designed to bond preservation items

Adhesive rubs off back of art after removal

- KoolTack 100% Reversible -150F-170F



# HA-PSA-Film-Wet Adhesives and Comparisons 2024-2025

Board	Types of Art													Digitals						Board Info																												
This chart is a combination of manufacturers' suggestions, claims and tested mounting results between 2006-2008. Not all new release products since 2011 have been tested.  Copyright © 2011 Chris A. Paschke, CPF GCF Updated Copyright © 2014 Chris A Paschke, CPF GCF Updated Copyright © 2024 Chris A Paschke, CPF GCF	Lightweight Porous Paper	Coated Paper-mechanical	Coated Paper-vacuum	Heavy or Textured Papers	Asian Papers	Heavy Watercolor Paper	Original Art	Polyester Encapsulate	RC Photo-mechanical	RC Photo-vacuum	RA-4 Photographs	Creative Applications	Fabrics / Textiles	Raw Canvas	Digital Canvas	Electrophotographic Copy	Electrostatic / Laser Copy	Dye Sublimation	Thermal Transfer	Thermal (dye) Inkjet	Thermal (pigment) Inkjet	Piezo Inkjet	Digital Canvas	Time - after draw (actual)	Temperature	Permanent	Removable	Reversible / Preservation	Cure or Cool under weight	Neutral pH or stable & inert	Orange peel	High Density	Oversized Mounts	Manual	Rollers - cold	Roller - hot	Mechanical	Hot Vacuum										
	<b>Heat Activated Film &amp; HA Boards</b>																																															
Bainbridge SpeedMount	X	X	X					X	X	X						N	N		N				F	1-3m	F160-180		X	X											X	X								
Heat Activated Foam (HAF)	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	1-3m	F175-190		X	X													X	X						
Crescent Heat-Activated Fome-Cor	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X		X	X		1.5-3m	F165-170	X															X	X						
Designs Ink Film 4000	X			X	x	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									1-4min	F180-200	X		X	X			X									X	X						
Gilman InSite Heat-Activated Foamboard	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X							X	X		X	X		15s-1m	F160	X			X												X	X						
MountCor	X	X	X	X	X	x		X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	30 sec	F130	X			X											X	X	X						
MountCor Canvas	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	1-3m	F130	X																X	X	X				
Kool Tack Preserve 100% Reversible	X	X	X			x	x	F	X	X	X										X			15s-30s	F150-160			X	X	X	x											X	X					
Drymount Foamboard	X	X	X	x	x	x		-	X	X	X		x	x				X	X		X	X	F	15s-45s	F150-160		X	X														X	X	X				
ACM Competition Plate	X	X	X	x	x	x		X	X	X								X	X		X	X		15s-45s	F160-165		X	X		x												X	X	X				
<b>Pressure-Sensitive (P-S) Boards</b>																																																
	NA	NA				NA	NA		NA	NA														LT	HT	R																						
Bainbridge SA Foamboard	X										X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F	X		X	X	X	X	X									X	X	X							
Crescent PerfectMount Foam	X			X							X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F	X		X	X	X	X	X									X	X	X							
Drytac PS Gatorfoam	X			X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X						
Foam Board	X			X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X						
Gilman High Tack Foam	X			X	X			X		X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X									X	X	X						
Gilman Resilient Align	X			x	X			X		X		F	F	F		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F	X		X		X		X									X	X								
Resilient Mount Soft Touch Graphics Board	X			x	A			X		X		F	F	F		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F		X		X		X		X									X	X	X						
Kool Tack InstaMount	X	x	x	X	X			X		X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F		X		X		X		X									X	X	X		x	x			
<b>PSA Films (used with substrates of choice)</b>																																																
							NA																	LT	HT	R																						
Crescent Perfect Mount Film (flat, 2 release liners)	X			X						X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F	X		X		X		X		X							X	X								
Gudy 831/Gudy V (rolled, sheer carrier)	X			X						X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x		X		X		X		X									X	X							
Gudy 870/Gudy O (rolled, no carrier)	X			X						X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	x		X		X		X		X										X	X						
PMA (rolled, no carrier)	X			X						X						X	x	x	x	x	x	x	F	X		X		X		X		X										X	X					
<b>Wet Glue</b>																																																
	NA	NA					NA		NA	NA														M	W/D	CV			NA		NA																	
Decor All Purpose Mounting Adhesive #610 (PVA)	X			X	X	X	-		X	X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											X	X				X	X		
Decor All Purpose Mounting Glue #980 (paste)	X			X	X	X	-		X		X	X	X								X	X	X			X		X		X																		
Decor Fabric Mount Adhesive #1340 (PVA)	X			X	X	X	-		X	X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																	X	X	
Decor Vacuum Mount Adhesive #3649 (veg starch)	X			X	X	X	-		X	X	X	X	X								X	X	X			X		X		X																		
Frank's Fabric Glue (PVA)	X			X	X	X	-		X	X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		X	X

Legend: NA=Not applicable; F=Fail; x=Moderate bond; X=Good bond; X=Excellent bond and tear strength; N=Do not apply heat over 130°F  
 LT=Low tack; HT=High tack; R=Repositionable; M=Manual application; W/D=Wet/dry application (200°F/2-5 min); CV=Cold vacuum application

# Substrate Selection

## **Controls Orange Peel**

### **Standard Thicknesses**

Up to 8x10"	4-ply Mat Board, X board
8x10"- 16x20"	1/8" Foam, 2X board
16x20"- 32x40"	3/16" -1/2" Foam, 3X board Honeycomb Falconboard
32x40" - 40x60"	1/2" Foam or Gatorboard Hardboard, MDF
40x60"- 48x96"	3/4 " Honeycomb Panels Tycore, Hexamount...



# Counter mounting

Allows for use of thinner substrate



RC Photo on 2 ply

Counter mounted

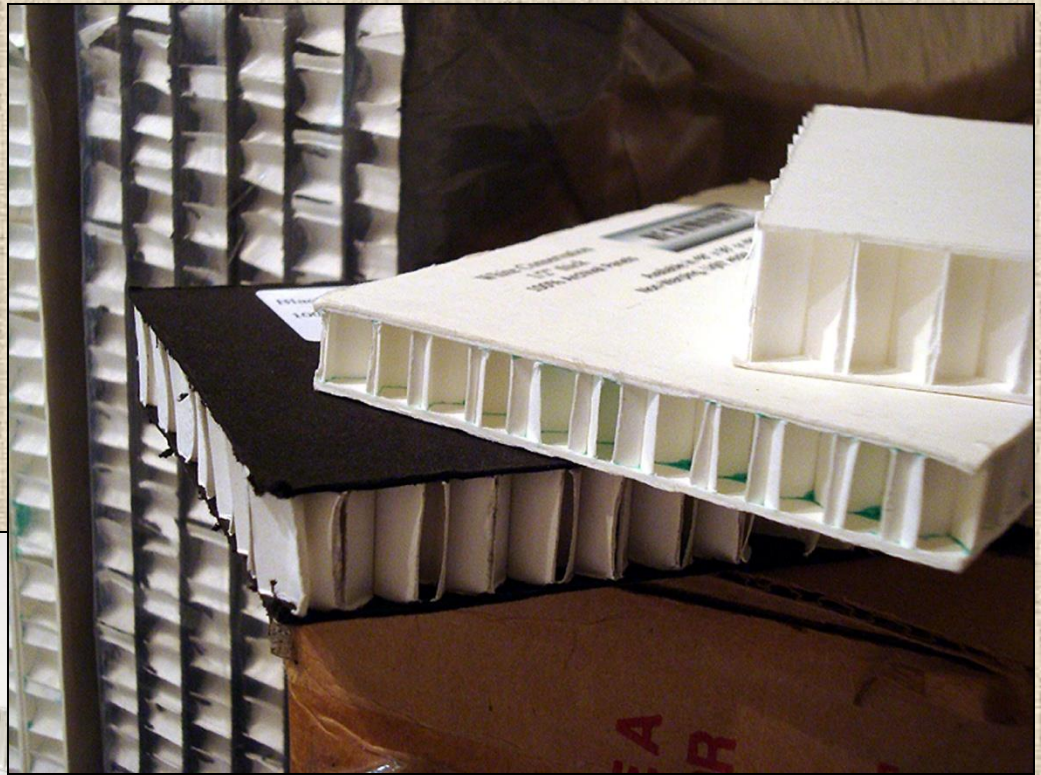


Print on 2 ply and 4 ply rag boards

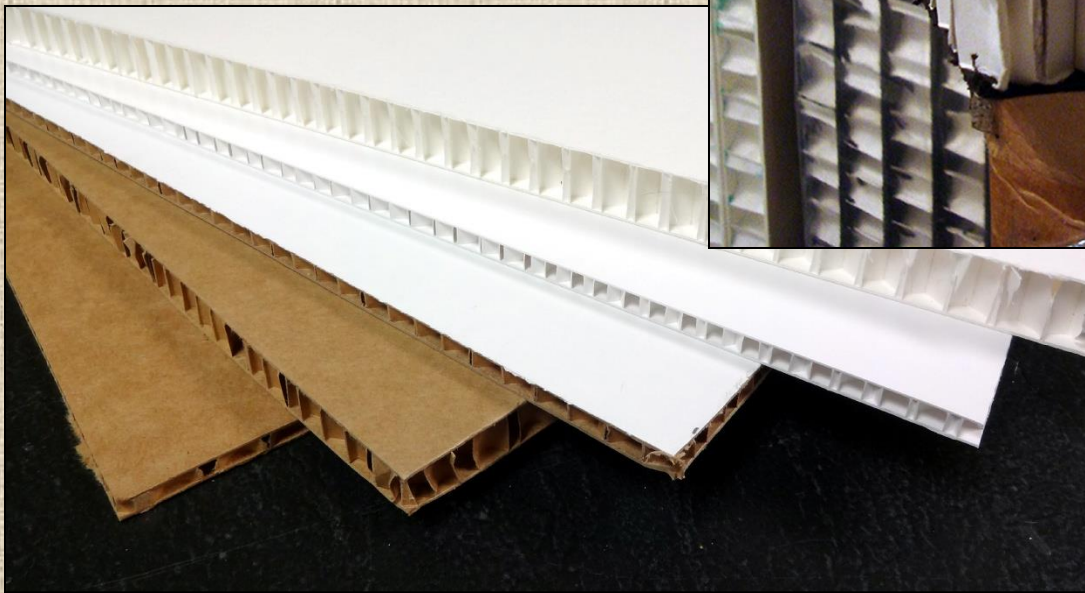




# Honeycomb Panels

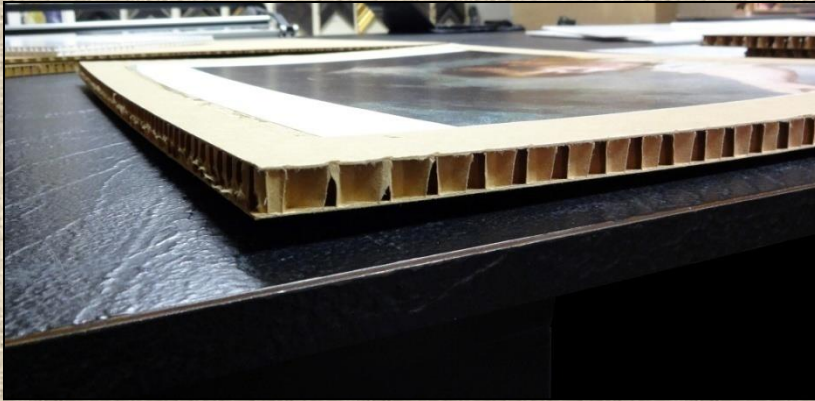


Tycore, Hexamount

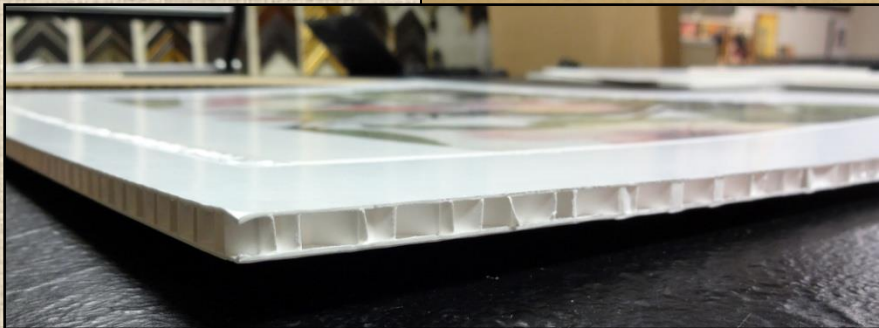
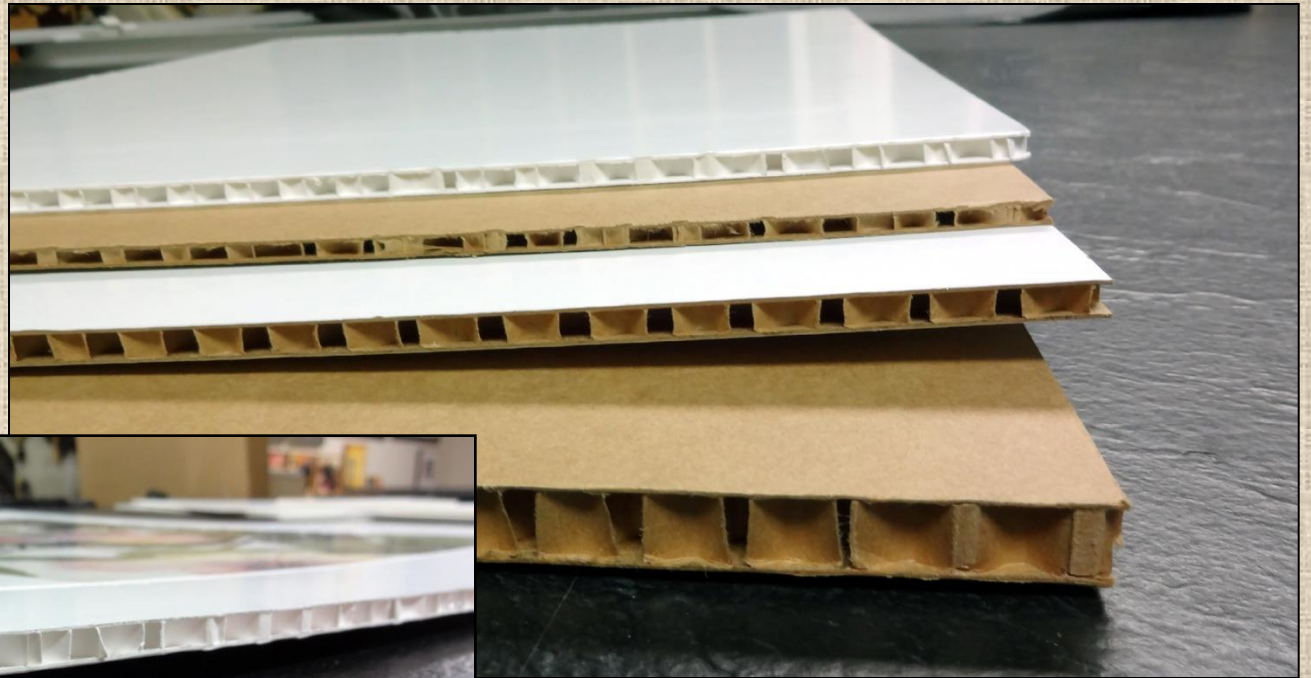


Falconboard Hexacomb, Gilman Eaglecell





Warping occurs  
when boards are too  
thin for image size.



# Orange Peel



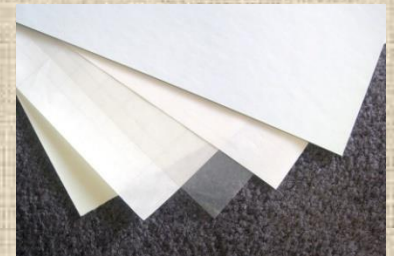
Patterns may occur  
when press or  
RL is too tight



# Release Materials

## **Silicone Coated**

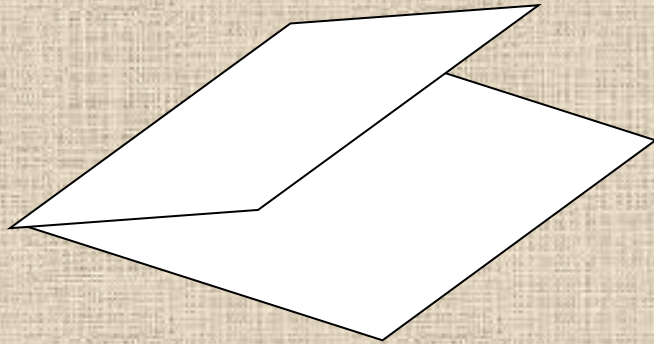
- Clear Release Film - Mylar
- Double-Sided Paper - Lightweight
- Single-Sided Lightweight - Liner paper
- Single-Sided Paper - Heavyweight
- Release Boards - Commercial
- In-house Release Boards





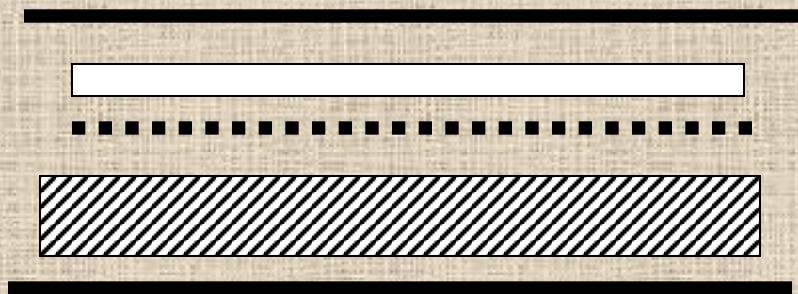
# Release Materials





Release envelope

Folded release paper allows for easy handling of small projects and those with loose items.



Release material

Artwork

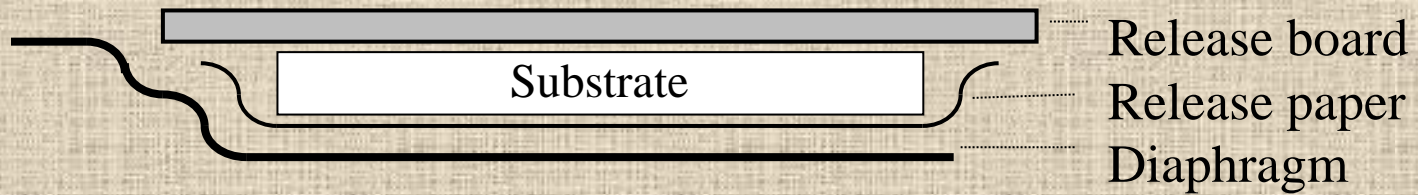
Adhesive

Substrate

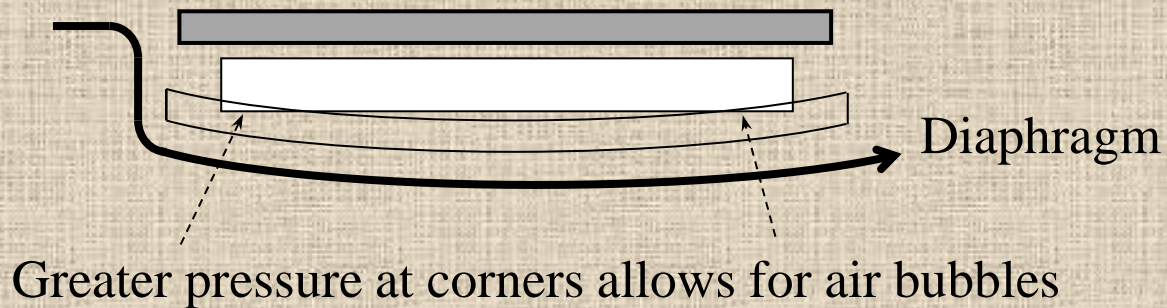
Release material

# Release Boards in Vacuum Press

Release Board Top Only



Release Boards Top and Bottom





# Daily Maintenance

Vacuum Presses (control TT, PM automatic)

Morning - run once empty and closed

Evening - run once open

Mechanical Presses (all TTPM manual)

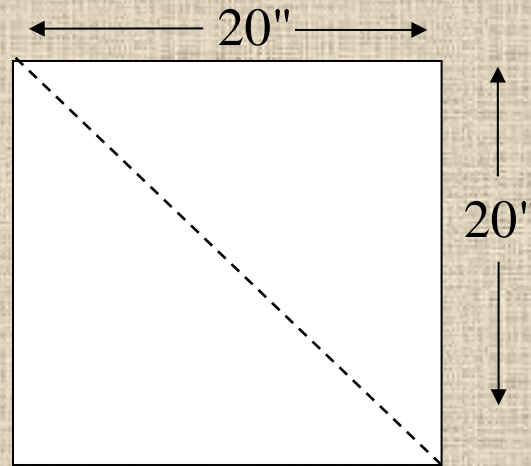
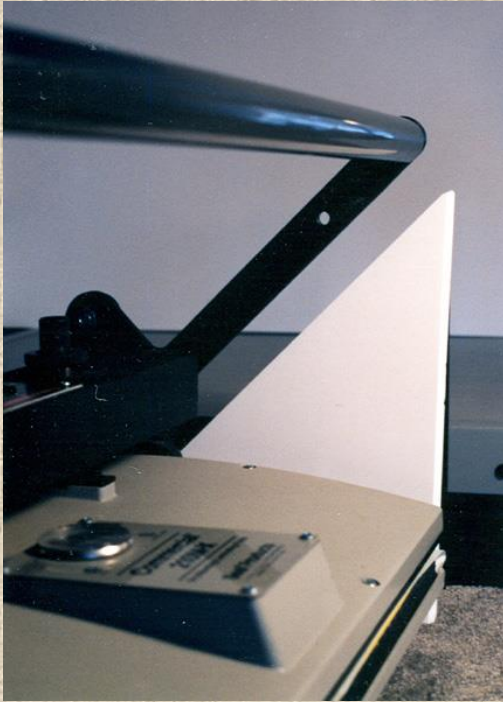
Check pressure, temperature

All Equipment

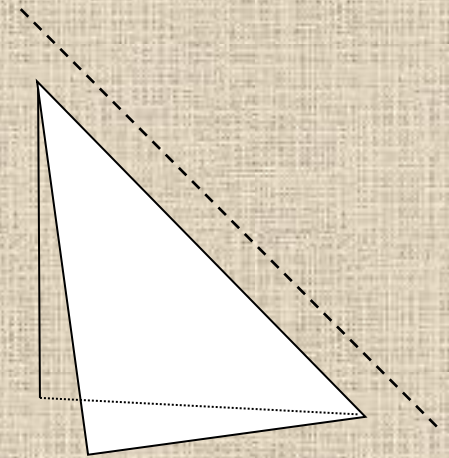
Clean platens

Change release materials every 50 hours

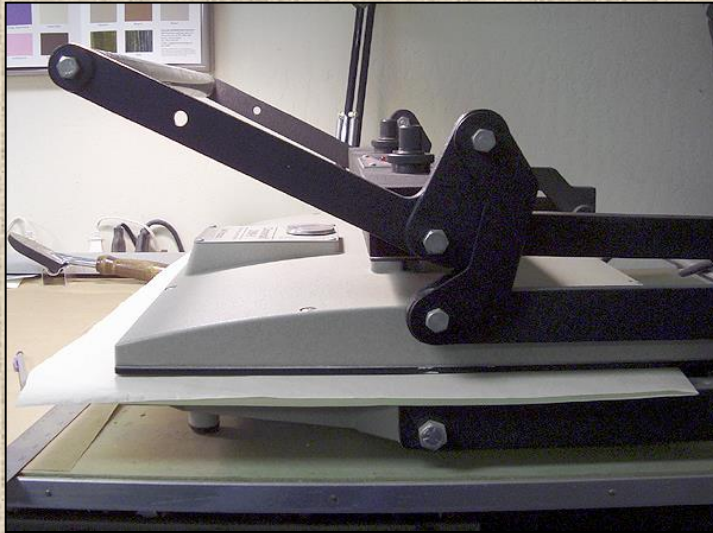
# Pressure - 45 Degree Pattern



Score 20x20"  
rectangle  
diagonally



Fold into 45-  
degree  
self-standing  
angle



Arm too low,  
too loose

Always adjust press  
with all layers inside to  
insure proper pressure

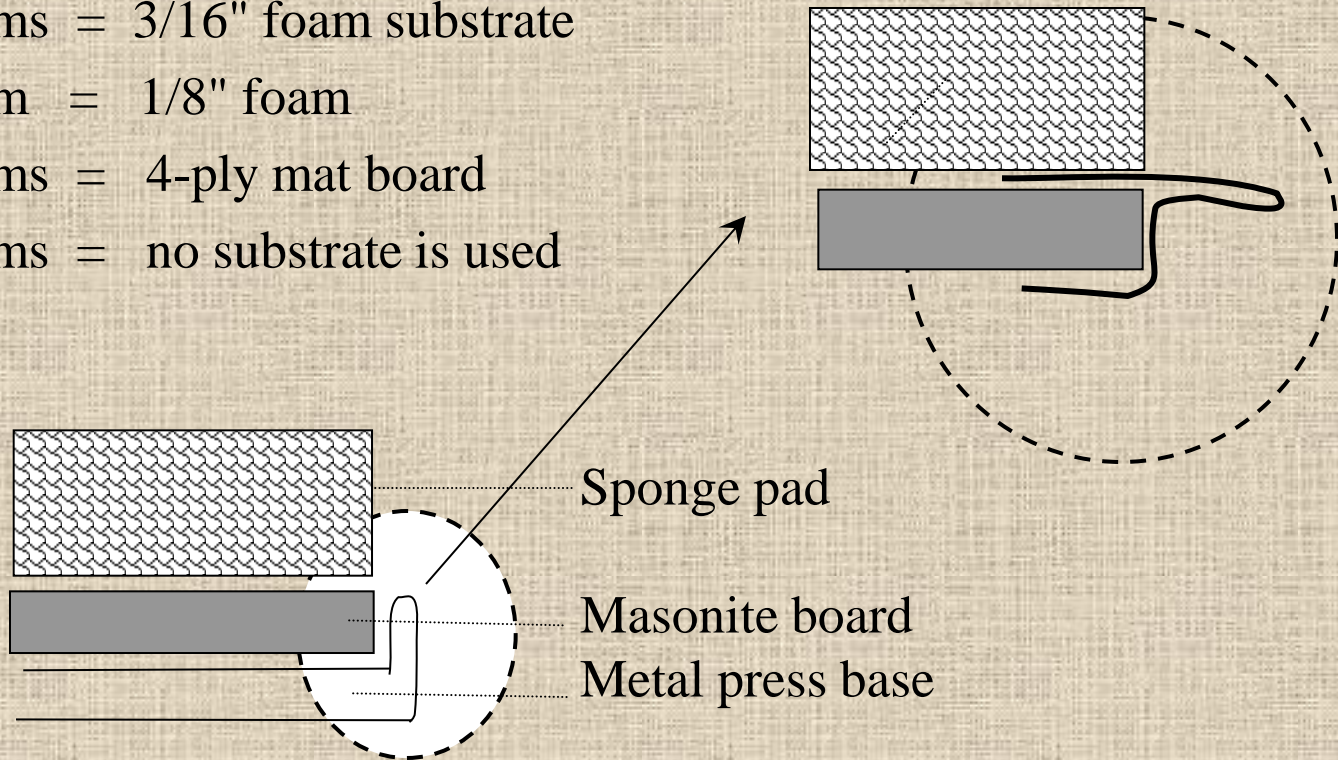


Arm too high,  
too tight



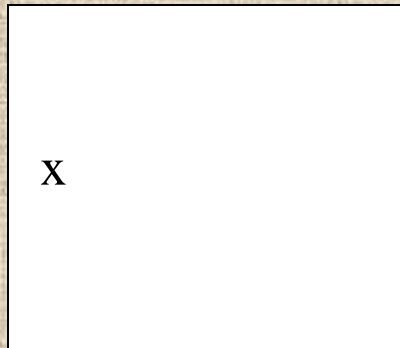
# Mechanical Press Spacers

- 0 shims = 3/16" foam substrate
- 1 shim = 1/8" foam
- 2 shims = 4-ply mat board
- 3 shims = no substrate is used

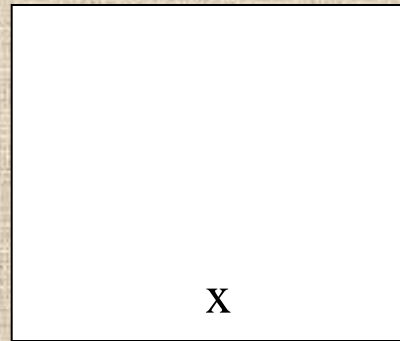


# Tacking

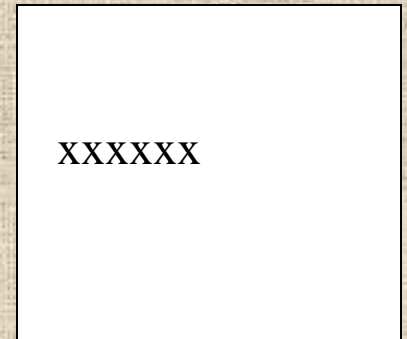
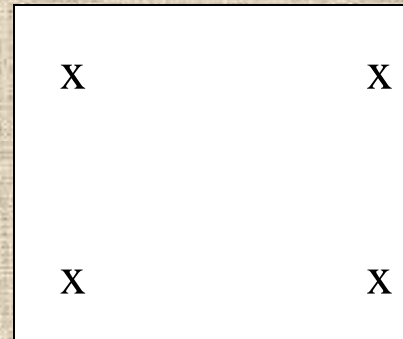
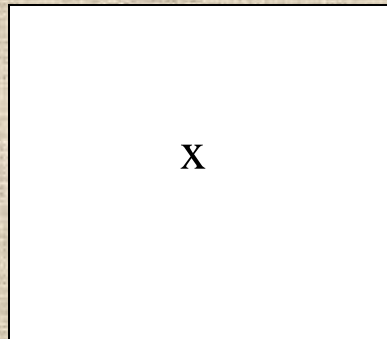
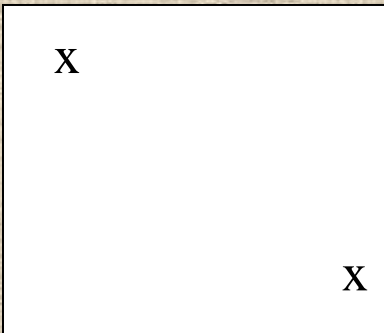
End



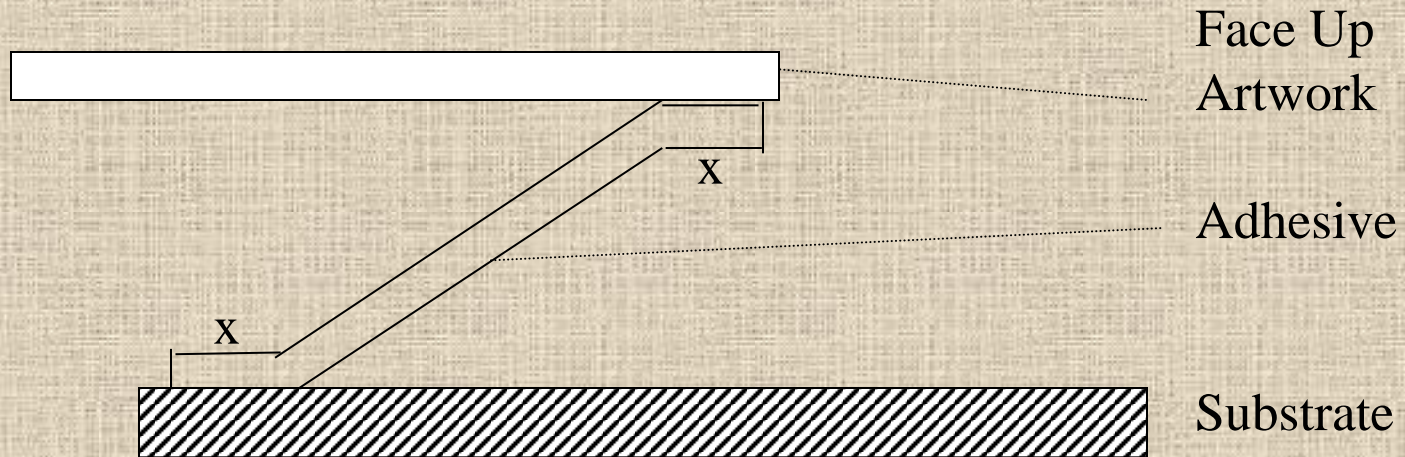
or



Center Side



# Z-Method Mounting







## Solvents



Overwhelmed yet?

Some problems still not covered?

Other Paschke mounting classes at WCAF 2025

**Mastering Mounting: Sensitive Items**

Saturday, 9:00-11:00pm

**Mastering Mounting:**

**Creative Mounting & Laminating**

Sunday, 8:30-11:00pm

**Mastering Mounting: Handling Digitals**

Sunday, 12:30-2:30pm



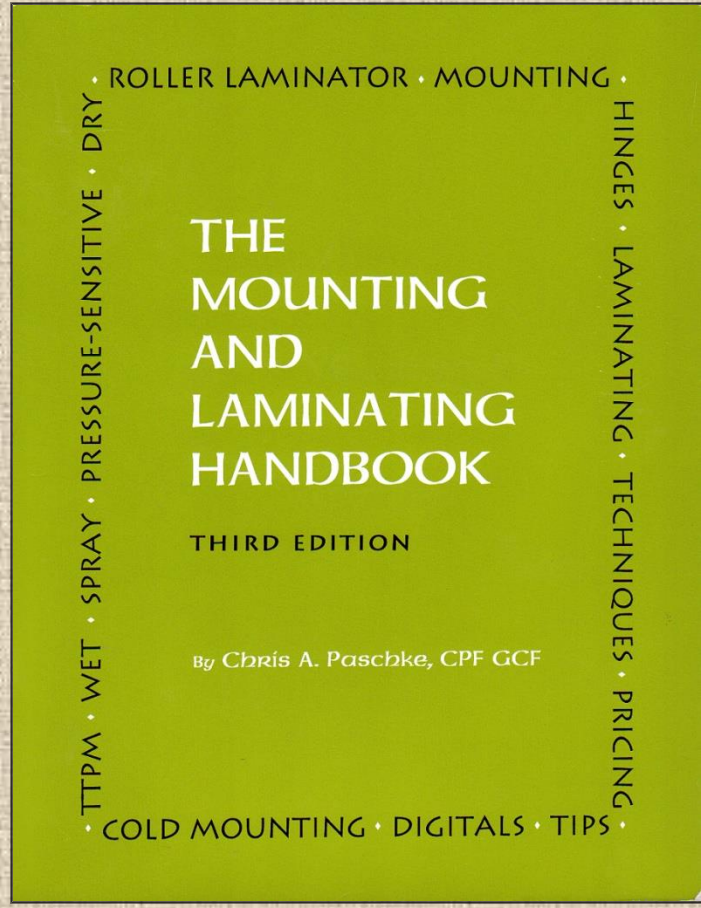
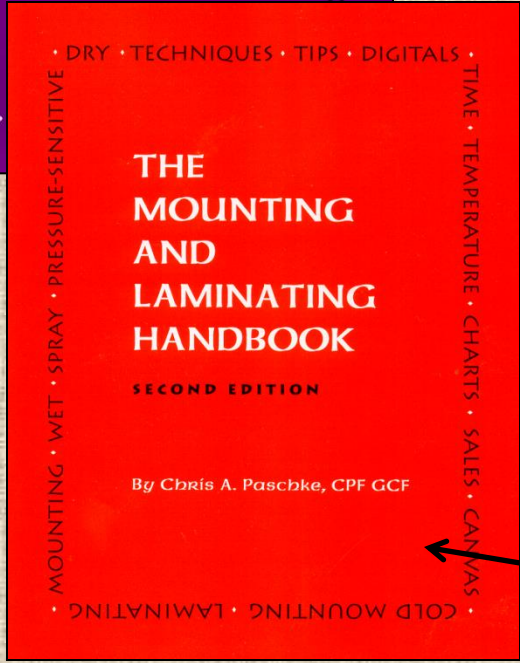
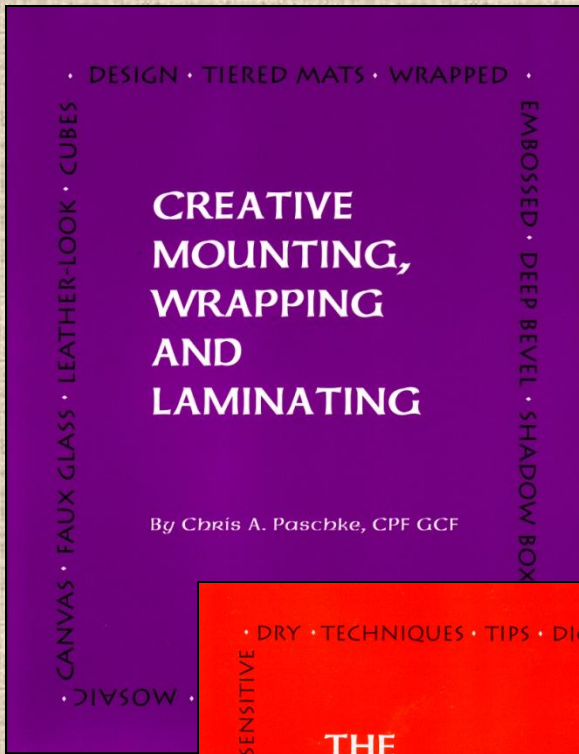
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Available at PFM Bookstore



FREE w/other two (in class only)