

**HOW TO MOUNT AND MAT  
AN 8X10 PHOTO  
FOR AN ARS ROSE SHOW**

**COST EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY**

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## Introduction

This brief how-to guide is intended for people who enjoy roses and who have an interest in the rapidly growing area of exhibiting photographs in rose shows. This is not about how to photograph roses. This short how-to guide is about how to economically and efficiently prepare photographs for display in rose shows in a manner that meets the new Guidelines for Judging Rose Photography of the American Rose Society.

The purpose of mounting and matting of any image is to separate it from its surroundings and give it more visual weight. The mount and mat form part of the visual expression of a displayed photo. To this rosarian, an unmounted photograph in a rose show is like an ungroomed rose in a rose show.

This guide for mounting and matting an image applies only to photographs for exhibition in rose shows. These typically last only one or two days, and the photographs are then taken home by the exhibitor. They generally are not for sale. The photographs at a rose show are for short-term display, and the suggestions here reflect that. The suggestions here are not suggestions for how to mount and mat photographs in general, or for any purpose other than display in rose shows, and then only those whose schedules call for the photograph to be mounted and matted with outside dimensions of 11x14 inches.

A myth persists in many parts of the rose world that the mounting and matting of photographs for display in rose shows is so expensive that many would-be exhibitors cannot afford to participate in this rapidly growing area. It is just that – a myth, one that I hope to dispel with this how-to guide. This guide shows how to mount and mat an 8x10 inch photograph with an 11x14 mat, with a total cost of less than \$3.00 USD for the

photograph, backing board, and mat (as of April, 2016).

I use a simple T attachment of the 8x10 image to the 11x14 mount board with artists tape. Artists tape looks a lot like masking tape, but there are differences. Artists tape has lower tack, and can be removed without tearing paper and without leaving a stain. I also use artists tape to hinge the mat to the mount board, as I demonstrate in the next section.

The Pacific Southwest District of the American Rose Society has used 11x14 mats and backing for 5x7 inch to 8x10 inch photographs since at least 2009. The last time I judged photographs lying unmatted on a table was in 2008. Once the beauty of a rose photograph display in which all photographs were matted with a standardized size was seen, even local shows within the PSWD quickly adopted mounting and matting as standard.

The interest in photography in rose shows has grown to the point that the American Rose Society in September 2015 adopted the first set of Guidelines for Judging Rose Photography, under National Photography Chairman Curtis Aumiller.

I sense that new exhibitors in photography are concerned about the costs associated with display of their images in the rose shows. While it is true that anyone who wants to have a photograph dry mounted and double matted can spend a lot of money on one image, it is not necessary for a well presented photograph in a rose show.

## How to Mount and Mat an 8x10 Photo for Less Than \$3.00

You will need:

1. Backing board and mat sized 11x14 inches on outside dimensions, with an opening for an 8x10 inch photograph
2. Artist tape
3. An 8x10 inch photograph

Mats with backing boards can be purchased at many places, but the most economical ones I have found to date that look fine are by Sax and sold at Amazon. [Sax Premium Pre-Cut Mats with Backer Board, Pack of 10](#) in white is an excellent, economical choice, one that I have used many times. I have not found a better price, although you may. For me, it is very convenient that the mats and backing boards come together as a set, ready to use.

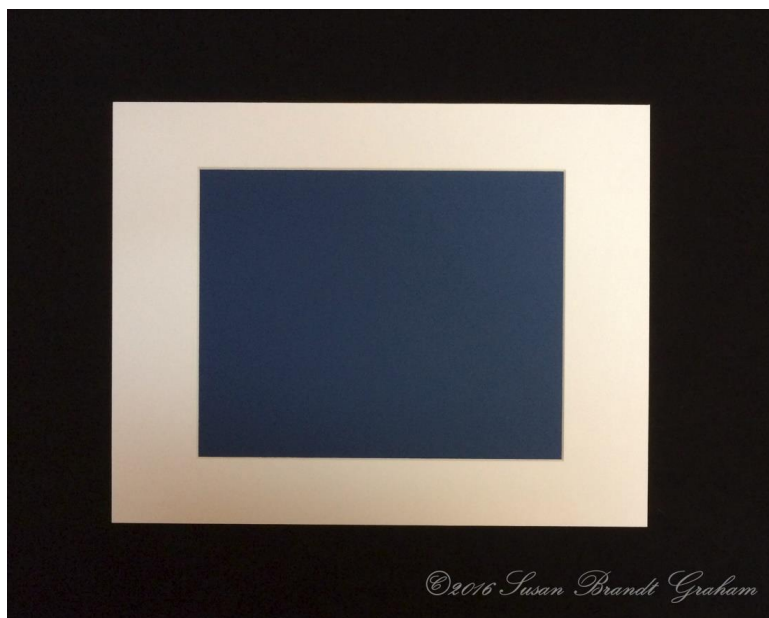
You will also need artists tape. This looks like masking tape, but the two are a little different. Artists tape has less tack than masking tape. It can be removed from paper without tearing the paper and without leaving a stain. It is more expensive than masking tape, but worth it to me, in that it does not damage the photograph. A roll of artists tape lasts a very long time unless someone is entering a lot of shows, or using it for many other projects as well. You can find it at Amazon, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, craft stores, and art stores. This is an item for which a store coupon can sometimes come in handy.

The main item, of course, is the 8x10 inch photograph. I print my own images here at home, and the cost including paper

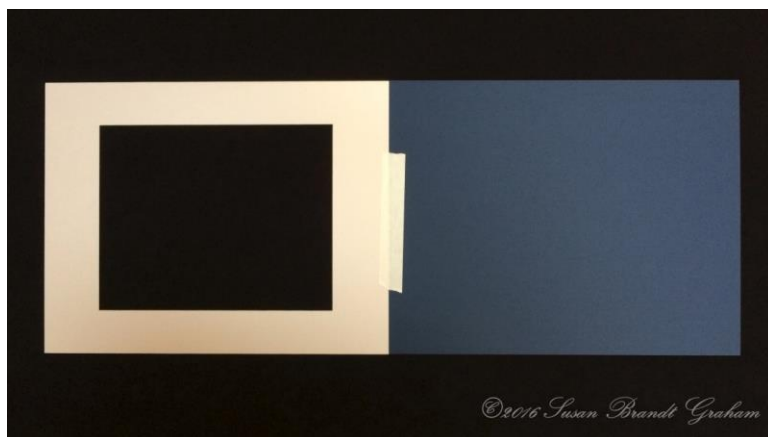
and ink is less than \$1.00. If you do not print your own images, the cost will be a bit more.

I have found that Costco does a very good job of economical printing, should you choose not to do your own printing. For those of you who calibrate your monitors and use ICC profiles, each Costco store that does printing has ICC profiles for its printers and papers that you can download to soft proof your images before uploading files there for printing. In my experience, Costco does not charge more than other discount chains that do not offer this color management option to customers.

This first image shows the set containing the backing board and the mat.



With a Piece of Artists Tape, Attach the Back Side of the Mat to the Front Side of the Back Board:





## Get the Image You Plan to Use



Place the Image Approximately Where You Think It  
Should Go



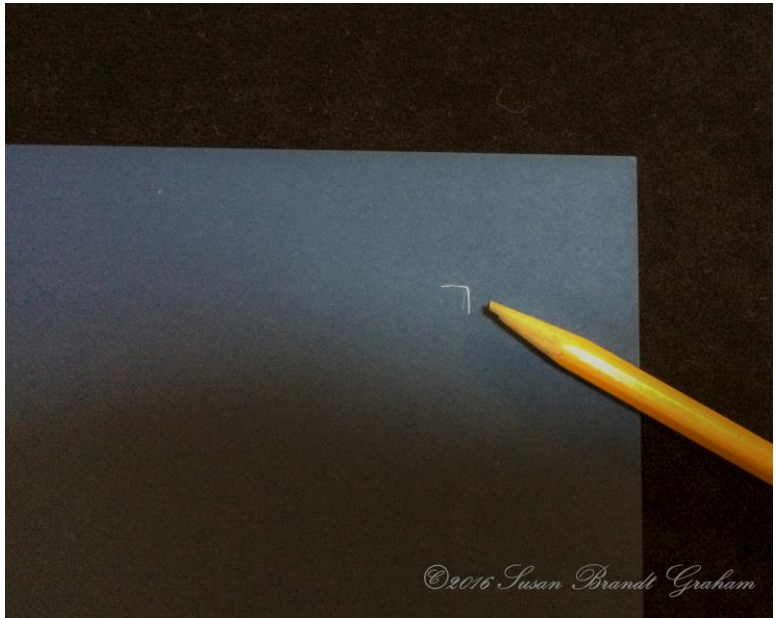
Close the Hinged Mat and Check for Placement



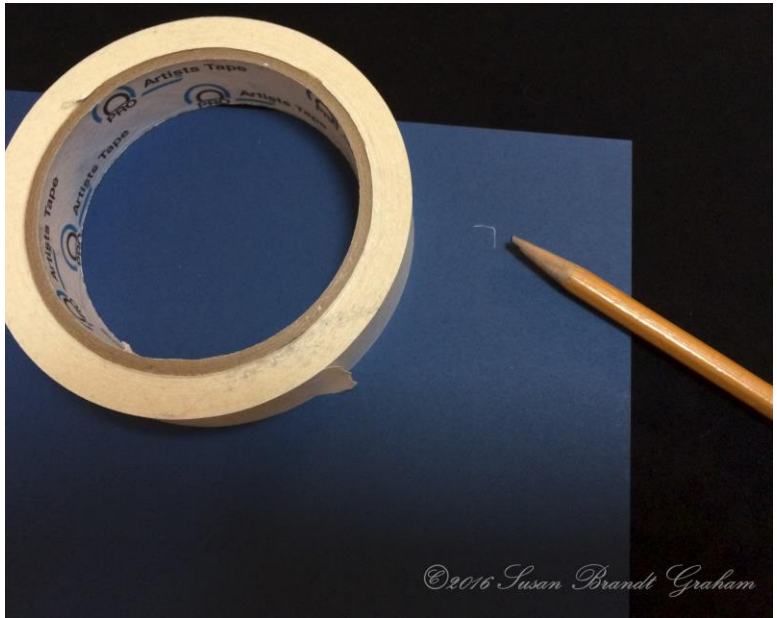
Open the Mat, and With a Pencil Mark the Edge  
of the Placement



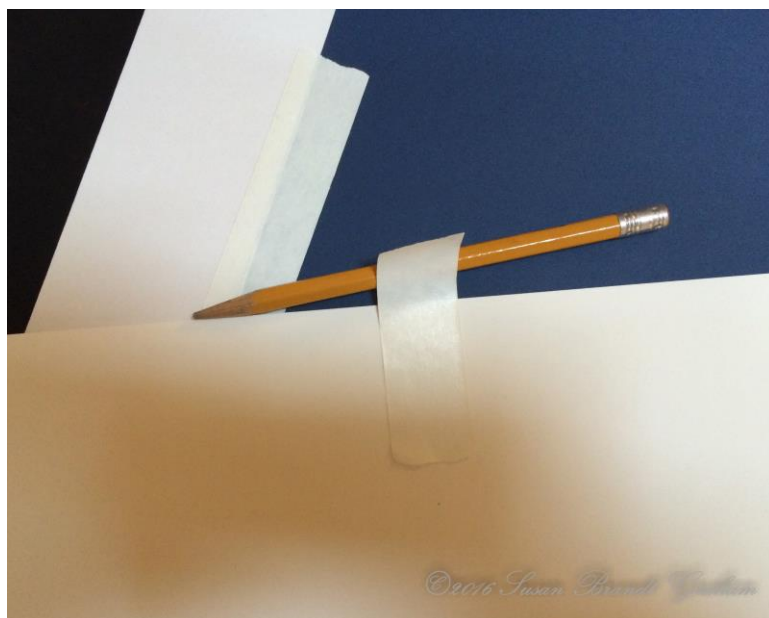
## Marked Backing Board



## Time for the Artists Tape



On the BACK Side of the Image, LOOSELY Place a Strip of Artists Tape



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Place the Image on the Backing Board, Using the Pencil  
Marking as a Guide





Close the Hinge and Test Placement



If Correct, Open the Mat and Place Another Strip of Artist Tape Over the First Strip of Tape, But Not on the Photograph



Your Image Is Now Mounted and Matted, Ready to Exhibit



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One attachment point for the photograph is important. You will see images attached at 2, sometimes 3, or even 4 points. Not only are these extra attachments not necessary, they are actually detrimental to the appearance of the image in a show. Temperature and humidity changes in a show venue cause expansion and contraction of the photograph, leading to warping. If you look around at a show, you will see images that contain a lot of “waves.” You will not see that type of unsightliness on an image attached at only one place.

## **The High Cost of Mounting and Matting a Photograph for Rose Shows is a Myth**

Mats and backing boards can be used multiple times. The initial outlay is less than \$3.00 per image prepared this way (April 2016). The cost goes down even more when the mat and backing board are used again and again.

A beautiful presentation is not expensive.

A beautiful presentation is not difficult.

A beautiful presentation enhances your photograph.

A series of beautiful presentations enhances our rose shows.

Give it a try!

Wishing you good light and beautiful roses!