THE ULTIMATE BUILD-YOUR-OWN PICTURE FRAME EBOOK

FRAMING 4 YOURSELF



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At Framing 4 Yourself, we want to give you the materials, tools, and instructional guides to help you create beautiful, customizable picture frames.

We place a special emphasis on those who want to start home-based businesses and build their enterprise gradually, and remain mindful of the needs of photographers and artists who want to frame their own work.

Unlike other framing shops, our one of a kind offerings allow you to frame the memories you cherish most the way you want. Everything you need to build a beautiful wood or metal picture frame is right at your fingertips.

This Build-Your-Own Picture Frame Ebook takes you through the process of picture framing from choosing the right frame to some of our favorite hanging hacks. With this ebook, the framing experts at Framing 4 Yourself are your trusted guides standing alongside you the entire way.

If you still have questions about tools, materials, or anything else framing related, don't hesitate to send us an email at info@framing4yourself.com.



HOW TO CHOOSE A PICTURE FRAME

There's more style and creativity when it comes to picture framing than just walking over to your nearest big box craft store and picking out something that might fit your artwork.

To best serve your home, it's especially important to look at all of your picture frame options and choose which one works best for your home aesthetic, framing abilities, and art style.

HOW TO CHOOSE A PICTURE FRAME

The first step is determining what will be framed – canvas and prints will require different considerations when choosing the frame. Your picture frame should optimize the look and feel of your art.



There are a couple big choices you need to make before purchasing a frame. The first is to decide whether or not you want a wood, imitation wood or metal picture frame.

Next, consider how much work you'd like to put into constructing the frame. Framing 4 Yourself features cut-to-size frames as well as mouldings in lengths. Depending on your skill level and tools, both offer a lot of options.

After that, the final decisions include frame color and style.

HOW TO CHOOSE A PICTURE FRAME

WOOD OR METAL?

Wood or metal is your first choice when deciding what kind of picture frame you want to purchase. There are noticeable stylistic differences between the two types but also construction differences.

WOOD FRAMES

Wood frames have been around since the 12th century and are the premier material for museum-quality framing.

What makes wood frames all the more appealing is the variety available ranging from classical to modern – there is a style to suit your unique preferences.

Framing 4 Yourself offers four main categories of wood frames – all are available in custom cut or length moulding options:

- Unfinished wood frames
- Traditional wood frames
- Floater frames
- Shadowbox and canvas frames



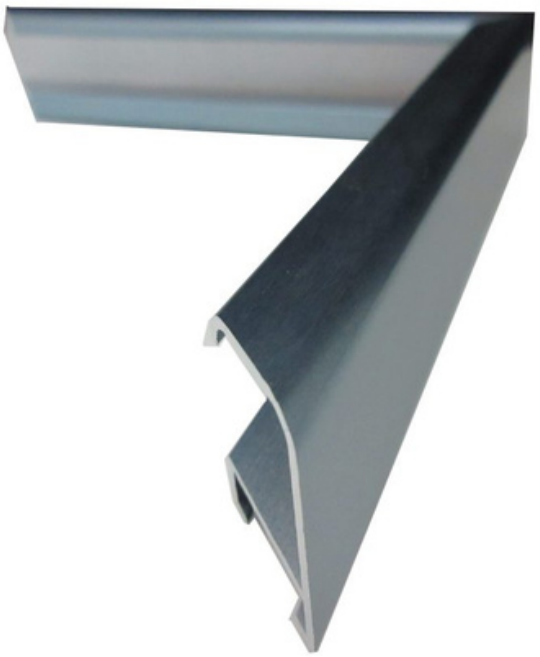
No matter your framing skill level, there is a wood picture frame type for you.

Wood picture frames also differ from metal in that they offer a richer texture and grain, even the imitation wood products. The rabbet depth is critical when framing artwork that has a depth to it such as wood mediums, canvas, float mounts, and shadow boxes.

Wood frames are also versatile - both modern art and classical art can be enhanced by a wood frame.

HOW TO CHOOSE A PICTURE FRAME

METAL FRAMES



The ability to customize your picture frame is somewhat limited with metal frames as there are not a wide variety of textures or depths. Like wood, metal frames are available as custom cut frames or as moulding in lengths.

Two key advantages of metal frames are:

- Often available in bolder colors than wood
- Typically more economical than wood

Metal frames pair well with more modern art pieces or modern interiors, and are great for photographs and illustrations.

FRAME COLOR

Picking the right frame color is just as important as choosing the right style.

The color options are endless if you choose an unfinished wood picture frame. You can choose to finish the frame in a traditional finish, or if you want something bolder, paint it any color you'd like.

Framing 4 Yourself sells a wide range of cut-to-size wood picture frame mouldings with many color options, including traditional wood finishes and bolder colors.

HOW TO CHOOSE A PICTURE FRAME

FRAME COLOR

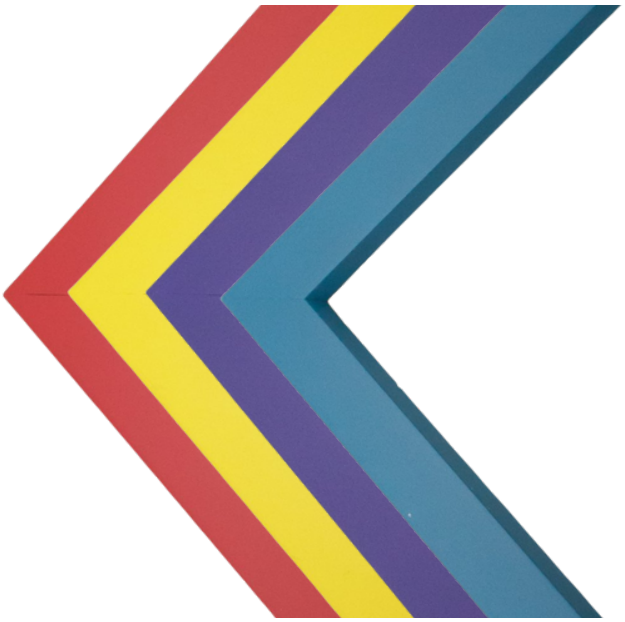
Our cut-to-size metal picture frames are also available in various color choices.

Which frame colors work best for your artwork, photographs, and prints?

The simple answer is that what color frame you choose greatly depends on the type of art, your room's aesthetic, and your framing goal.

The experts at the Eden Gallery suggest, "Lighter frame colors often work well for more casual pieces, while darker frames add a feeling of formality...To help your artwork stand out, choose a frame color different from your wall color."

As for metal picture frame options, "metallic frames in silver, gold, or rose gold are popular choices for



modern art such as prints and art photographs."

Another piece of advice from the experts at Living Etc proposes, "take the dominant colors in your artwork that stand out and consider tying those tones to your frame or mat choice. Black or white photographs look both classic and contemporary in black and white frames, while colored artwork works well when the standout colors match the frame."

5 TYPES OF CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMES TO SPICE UP YOUR HOME



Whether it's pictures, posters, or prints, or canvas, a beautiful frame is the best accessory to any piece of artwork in your living room.

If you're looking for something one of a kind, think about building a custom picture frame.

Framing 4 Yourself offers a wide selection of custom and pre-built framing options, each with a unique look. You've spent a lot of time making your house a home, now is the perfect time to add a little flair to your living space.

The trick is identifying the right kind of custom picture frame that works for the art it's holding and the room in which the frame is featured. These 5 types of custom picture frames allow you to personalize your space and match it to your artwork.

5 TYPES OF CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMES TO SPICE UP YOUR HOME

FLOATING FRAMES



Canvas floater frames offer a unique three-dimensional depth making the artwork shine and take center stage in your room.

These frames create the illusion that the art pieces are floating within the frame. This allows viewers to see the often hidden sides of the canvas obscured by a traditional picture frame.

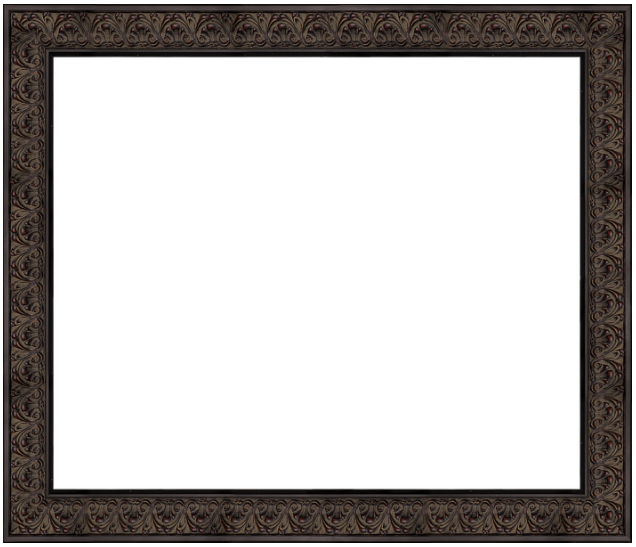
If you have a lot of contemporary canvas art prints, a floater frame might be the best choice for your home. Often recognized as a more modern approach to custom framing, canvas floater frames present the opportunity to show off the full scale of your artwork in a one-of-a-kind way.

Framing 4 Yourself recommends using a floater frame for your favorite canvas art pieces and prints. No matter the artwork style, a canvas floater frame is bound to be the centerpiece of your room.

5 TYPES OF CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMES TO SPICE UP YOUR HOME

DECORATIVE FRAMES

Who said that your frame couldn't be as impressive as the artwork inside it? Decorative frames continue to have a renaissance within the interior decorating space as homeowners have begun to realize that frames can be as artful as what's inside them.





Decorative frames add flair to any room, with bold colors bursting off the wood. Some designers are opting for unconventionally shaped frames to enhance their art pieces.

The beauty of a decorative frame is that it creates a life for your art beyond the location in your home.

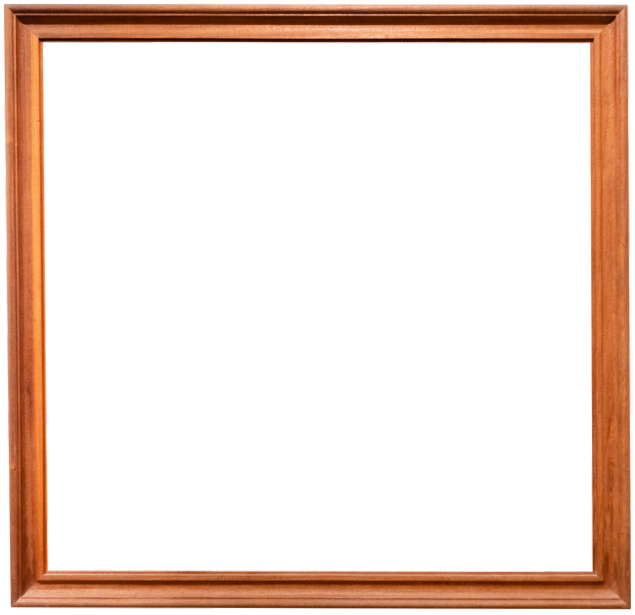
We recommend decorative frames for homes with a unique style or looking for something to make your art piece stand out.

5 TYPES OF CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMES TO SPICE UP YOUR HOME

TRADITIONAL FRAMES

Simple. Classic. The traditional picture frame.

Sometimes you want something that feels familiar, and that's where a traditional picture frame fits perfectly. There's a reason why traditional frames have stood the test of time: they are elegant, subtle, and classy.



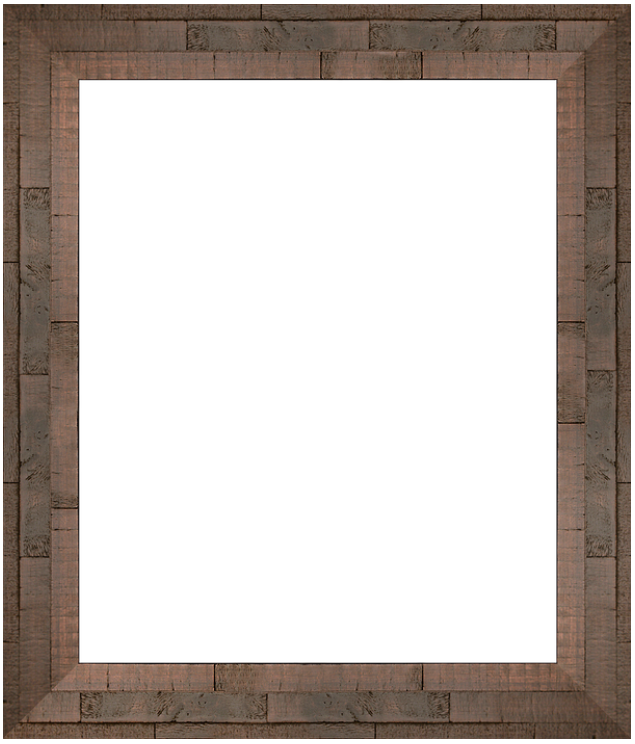


Often simple in design, a traditional frame doesn't go for bold colors or intricate designs. These frames look good in your office, bedroom, or living room. Plus, they work with nearly any art, photography, or print.

If you're going to go with something more traditional, opt for a neutral color. This gives you maximum flexibility when moving the frame around your living space.

5 TYPES OF CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMES TO SPICE UP YOUR HOME

RUSTIC PICTURE FRAMES



Evoke the feel of warm summer nights by the barn or early sunrises at the cottage with a handcrafted rustic frame. These wooden picture frames rely on simple designs and beautiful woodworking to make your favorite art pieces feel at home.

Rustic picture frames are inviting and paint a romanticized interpretation of the English countryside style. Unlike other frames, rustic picture frames exude cozy energy throughout your home.

While you can put any photo, print, or painting in these frames, Framing 4 Yourself loves mixing rustic picture frames with black and white, homey portraits. It combines the emotional invocation of home with the frame, with the actual warmth of happy memories.

5 TYPES OF CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMES TO SPICE UP YOUR HOME

MODERN FRAMES



Minimalism is back in style. Modern, sleek, and simple picture frames are once again making a statement in homes across the country. Modern picture frames maximize contemporary style to make the art in your home pop off the wall.

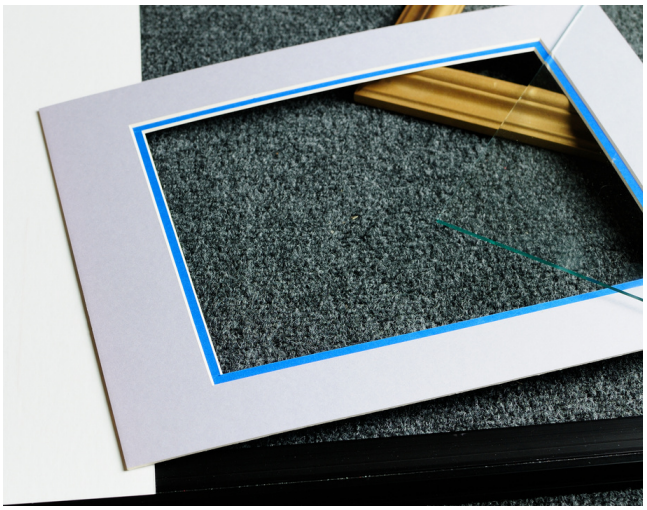


These frames are best used for the prints, photos, or art pieces that mean the most to you. Because of their simple yet elegant design, modern frames turn every piece of art into a chic addition to your room.

One way to spice up your modern frames is by choosing a unique color for your frame. Available in black, gold, silver, white, and various other colors, Framing 4 Yourself's modern frames are perfect when trying to create a museum style look in your home.

3 DIY FRAMING SUPPLIES EVERY CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME NEEDS

Finding the perfect picture frame moulding is the first step. The next step when working on a custom project is choosing the right acrylic and matting to help protect your artwork while enhancing the look of your frame. Think of them as the finishing touches, the cherry on top of all the hard work you've put into building your custom project.



There's a wide variety of options ranging from colorful mat boards to UV acrylic glass that prevent your photos, prints, and art from fading or turning yellow over time. There's minimal skill required when inserting mat board, foam board, or acrylic.

Framing 4 Yourself has a quick guide to finding the right accessories for your custom picture frame to preserve and enhance your art, prints, or photographs.

3 DIY FRAMING SUPPLIES EVERY CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME NEEDS

MAT BOARDS

You probably already have mat boards around your house without knowing what to call them. Mat boards are a paper or cotton based material that slides between your artwork and the acrylic of your frame or is used as a colorful background to float your artwork. Most commonly colored white, mat boards can take a standard picture frame and turn your artwork into a gallery piece.

WHAT ARE MAT BOARDS USED FOR?

Mat boards serve two purposes:

1. When placed on mat boards, your artwork, photos, and sketches are protected from shifting or warping.
2. With mat boards, your art will look museum-quality, enhancing the beauty of any project.

Including a mat board increases the air circulation between the artwork and your frame, preventing moisture from being trapped inside. Moisture turns to mildew or mold, eventually destroying your art, prints, or photographs. Some mat boards are fade resistant and acid free for preservation quality protection.

The barrier created by mat board also prevents shifting or warping, partly because of the increased air circulation and partly because your artwork will be protected from sticking to the acrylic in your frame.

The key aesthetic purpose of the mat board is to add a museum-quality look to any custom picture frame. By providing a clean border around your photos, art, or prints, you accentuate the pieces and add necessary texture.

3 DIY FRAMING SUPPLIES EVERY CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME NEEDS

MAT BOARDS

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MAT BOARDS?

There are three types of mat boards: decorative, conservation, and museum quality.

For beginners, **decorative mat boards** are your best option as they are simple, easy to use, and practical.

Decorative mat boards are perfect for posters, decorative art, promotions, events, art prints, and other everyday projects. These are typically paper mat boards that are relatively inexpensive to add to your project.

Conservation mat boards are a mid-tier board to help preserve your pieces. These boards are acid-free; thereby making them the



perfect solution for preserving original work, fine art prints, diplomas, certificates and other valuable artwork in your home. Conservation mat boards are made of a white core and backing and are fade and bleed resistant.

The highest protective level is the **museum-quality mat board**. Unlike the other types, museum-quality boards are made from 4 ply cotton-based rag and are acid free and lignin free; they are also fade and bleed resistant offering years of protection for your artwork.

Museum-quality mat boards are typically used with valuable, archived, displayed-indefinitely, or irreplaceable art pieces.

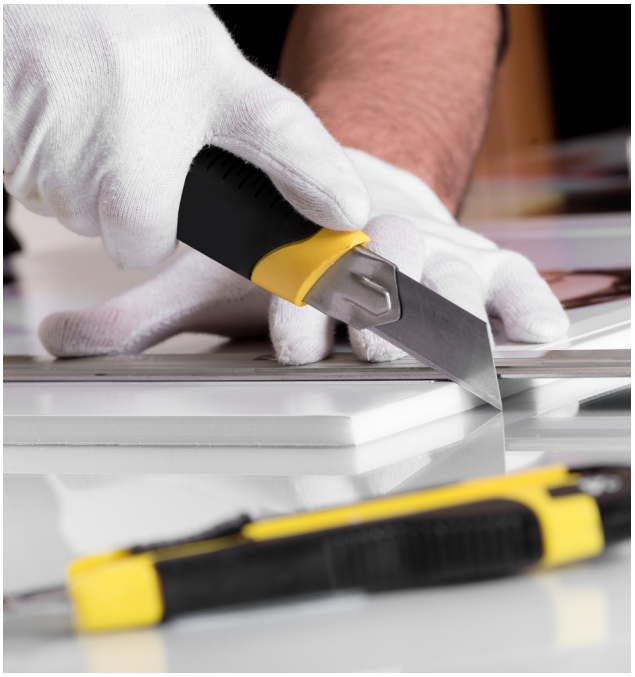
3 DIY FRAMING SUPPLIES EVERY CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME NEEDS

FOAM BOARDS

Framers prefer lightweight, custom foam board sheets for mounting and backing artwork.

WHAT ARE FOAM BOARDS USED FOR?

Professional artists and framers use foam boards to protect their artwork, photos, and prints from warping. These thicker boards provide support and protection for your most precious memories.



In addition to mounting photographs and pictures, foam boards can be used for models by architects and home designers.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOAM BOARDS?

There are four types of foam boards: standard, acid-free, self-adhesive, and black on black foam boards.

3 DIY FRAMING SUPPLIES EVERY CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME NEEDS

FOAM BOARDS

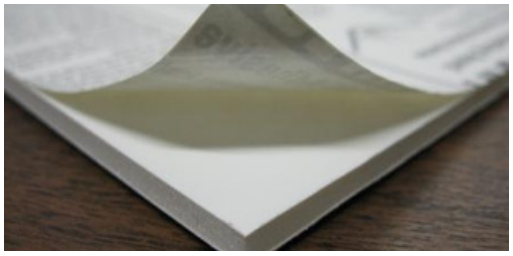
WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOAM BOARDS?

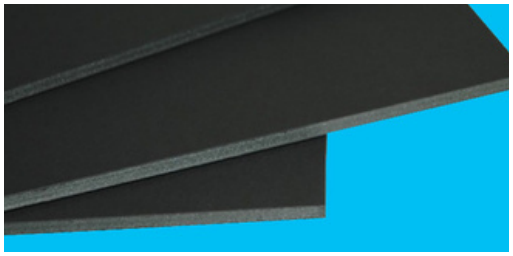
Regular foam boards are the most economical solution of foam boards. This type of board is ideal for protecting easily reproducible art such as posters, digital prints, or open-ended editions.





Acid-free foam boards conserve and protect any art or photography for which the maintenance of long-term value is a goal.





Self-adhesive foam boards are permanent, making them the right choice for easily reproducible artwork (posters, digital prints, open-ended editions, etc.).

Black-on-black foam boards are best used when framing quickly reproducible art such as posters, digital prints, or open-ended additions. Black-on-black foam boards are also good for mounting newspapers and magazine articles so you don't see the words on the opposite side.

3 DIY FRAMING SUPPLIES EVERY CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME NEEDS

ACRYLIC

Acrylic is a lightweight, shatter-resistant substitute for glass. For this reason, acrylic glass is the first choice of many framers.

The type of acrylic you choose for your custom picture frame directly impacts the longevity and protection of your art pieces. Different options protect your art, photos, and prints from temperature changes and moisture, while others protect against UV radiation.

Before purchasing acrylic, consider where you are hanging your artwork, as that affects how much sunlight or moisture your pieces experience.

WHAT IS ACRYLIC USED FOR?

Acrylic provides the same visual clarity as glass but with additional protections to keep your precious art pieces looking great for a long time.

Favored for its lightweight and shatter resistance, acrylic is safer to work with and less prone to breakage.

The primary purpose of acrylic is to protect artwork, photography, and prints from various environmental factors, including temperature changes, moisture, pollutants, and touching.

Another benefit of acrylic is its less susceptible to breakage during shipping or handling due to its shatter resistance.

3 DIY FRAMING SUPPLIES EVERY CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME NEEDS

ACRYLIC

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACRYLIC?

There are three types of acrylic : clear acrylic, non-glare acrylic, and UV-protective acrylic.

Clear acrylic looks just like regular glass but is lighter and shatter-resistant. Simple, clear acrylic is a great option for framing art, that can easily be re-produced, prints, or digital photographs. Clear acrylic is the most economical way to contain your art within a frame as it does not protect against UV rays.

Non-glare acrylic offers all of the benefits of clear acrylic but eliminates glare by dispersing the light with a special coating. If you have artwork that will be hung in a place where light will hit the



artwork, non-glare acrylic will help to soften the glare. Please note that non-glare acrylic is not as protective against sunlight as UV protective acrylic and can have a foggy appearance to it.

UV protective acrylic provides extra protection for your artwork. Don't worry about fading or yellowing, as the UV protection keeps your original art, limited prints, or signed prints safe from sunlight damage. The UV protective acrylic carried by Framing 4 Yourself is 99% effective at preventing sun damage, but is not non-glare. Optium Museum Acrylic, which protects against UV damage and is non-glare, is available, but is costly. If you need this type of acrylic, please don't hesitate to contact us.

WHAT TOOLS DO I NEED TO PUT TOGETHER A PICTURE FRAME?

Our hobby is unique because you don't need to be an expert - or even handy - to create a one-of-a-kind art installation. All you need are a few simple instructions and the right tools (you may even have a couple of them lying around the house).



But if you want to advance your skills, Framing 4 Yourself has all the tools you need: from saws to sanders, joiners to mat cutters. Before supplies arrive, please look at our list of the best tools for picture framing to ensure you can complete your project.

THE BASICS

If you're building a wood picture frame, you're going to need wood glue and a hammer.

We recommend using Titebond wood glue, specifically designed for hard and soft woods. It's fast to set, and incredibly strong. The last thing you want is your frame to fall apart at the corners.

A screwdriver is necessary if you're putting together a metal picture frame. You push the two corners together and insert L brackets with screws.

Once that's completed, use the screwdriver to tighten everything, and your beautiful custom picture frame is complete.

WHAT TOOLS DO I NEED TO PUT TOGETHER A PICTURE FRAME?

MITER SAW

If you're buying wood picture frame mouldings in lengths, you'll need a miter saw.

We recommend the Ryobi power miter saw, specifically designed to cut picture frame mouldings. Miter saws are known for making quick, accurate, angular cuts. With an attached LED cutline indicator, the Ryobi power miter saw makes cutting precise angle cut mouldings simple and painless.

We do not recommend this saw for metal. Unless you have a professional saw, we recommend ordering custom cut metal frames.



SANDER

After purchasing a miter saw, a precision sander is the next piece of equipment to look into. Sanders help smooth out corners and even out your cuts.

WHAT TOOLS DO I NEED TO PUT TOGETHER A PICTURE FRAME?

JOINER



After gluing the two wood corners together, you will need something a little bit stronger to hold your picture frame together. That's why professionals use joiners that connect corner pieces with V-nails to ensure everything is kept together and won't fall apart.

V-Nailing is the driving of a" V" shaped nail into the back of the wood. Once the v-nail is inserted, the two corners of the picture frame are joined.

Framing 4 Yourself recommends the Logan Studio Joiner as an economical solution that is perfect for beginners and hobbyists.

Not to worry if you don’t have a joiner or are not ready to add one to your framing tools, most of Framing 4 Yourself’s custom cut wood frames come with routes in the back. This allows plastic pegs to be inserted into the frame for a secure hold at each corner.

WHAT TOOLS DO I NEED TO PUT TOGETHER A PICTURE FRAME?

MAT CUTTER

Of course, cutting a mat with a razor or box cutter is possible, but you're risking inaccurate angles and the precision takes a lot of time and strength. That's why Framing 4 Yourself recommends purchasing a Logan Mat Cutter, as it saves you time while providing a more accurate, smoother cut.

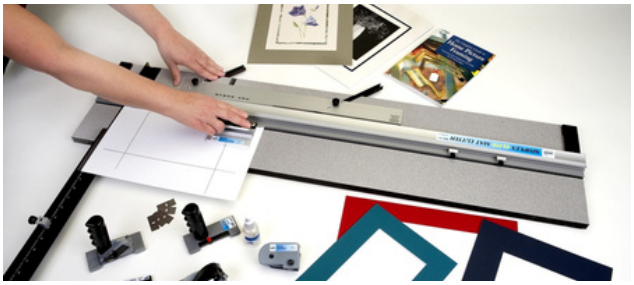
There are two handheld mat cutters for beginners: the Series 2000 and the Series 4000 handheld mat cutter. The Series 2000 is a push-style cutter, while the Series 4000 is a pull-style cutter.

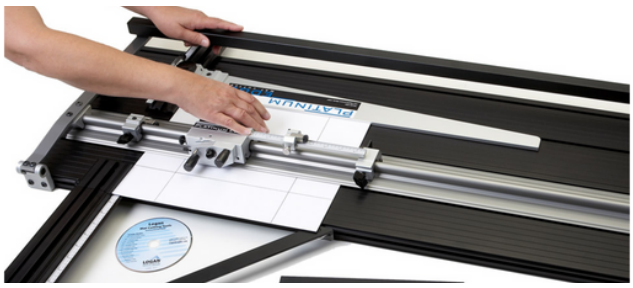
More advanced framers should look at the Logan Simplex Classic Mat Cutter, Logan Simplex Elite Mat Cutter, and the Logan Platinum Edge Mat Cutter.











For more information, check out our mat cutters comparison article.

5 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HANGING PICTURE FRAMES



Correctly hanging and arranging framed art is more challenging than most people realize.

You need to ask yourself: what is the proper position on the wall? Where do you hang your frame relative to furniture? How do you avoid putting holes in the wall until you know the right spot?

These are just some of the questions you'll confront as you grapple with the issue (literally) of hanging your custom picture frames.

Thankfully, the professionals at Framing 4 Yourself have answers to the most common questions about hanging picture frames.

5 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HANGING PICTURE FRAMES

HOW HIGH SHOULD I HANG MY PICTURE FRAME ON THE WALL?



Framed art should be hung at eye level.

But of course, eye level varies from person to person. And just exactly what part of the picture is supposed to be at eye level? Is it the focal point of the art, the middle of the picture, or the top edge of the frame?

Based on the average height of people in the US, the average eye level is about 5 feet. When hanging up your custom-built picture frame, the focal point of the art, the part that the viewer's eye will discover first, should be about 5 feet above the floor.



WHAT IF I'M HANGING MY FRAME NEAR FURNITURE?

The optimal place to hang your frame is different if you place it near furniture or a fireplace.

Generally, you want to have the bottom edge of the framed art 8-10 inches above a couch, regardless of ceiling height. The same is true with a fireplace mantle.

5 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HANGING PICTURE FRAMES

HOW DO I HANG A PICTURE FRAME NEAR ANOTHER PIECE OF ART?

If you want to hang the picture in an open space between two existing pictures or between other wall elements, you have a few options.

Either measure the space between elements and divide it in half or set the frame on the floor against the wall below where you're considering hanging it and step back to get a feel for the positioning. Then measure up from the floor at that point to 5 feet and make a vertical mark in pencil on the wall.

Remember, the mark represents the focal point of the art, not where the hangers will go.



To find where the hangers will go, have someone else hold the framed art against the wall with the focal point at eye level.

While they are doing this, make a small, light pencil line on the wall at the bottom of the frame.

Then set the framed art down and measure the distance from the bottom of the frame to the hanging wire.

5 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HANGING PICTURE FRAMES

WHAT IS THE BEST METHOD TO HANG MY ARTWORK?

There are several ways to secure your frame to a wall: sawtooth hangers and strap hangers (pictured here) are the most popular.

At Framing 4 Yourself, we prefer to use strap hangers, also commonly known as D-rings, and coated metal wire as they hold more weight than a sawtooth hanger which has a weight maximum of five pounds. We prefer this method as most of the work is done away from the wall, thereby leaving less room for wall damage.



Our Frame Room experts recommend putting the strap hangers on the vertical sides of the frame to facilitate hanging. The tools needed for this are a yardstick and a drill.

5 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HANGING PICTURE FRAMES

WHAT IS THE BEST METHOD TO HANG MY ARTWORK?

To determine the appropriate placement of the strap hangers, measure the height (top to bottom) of the frame and divide by 3 to get the number of inches the hangers should be placed from the top of the frame. You'll want these to be placed approximately 1/3 of the way from the top. It does not need to be exactly 1/3 from the top, but you will need to measure both sides to ensure the hangers are an equal distance from the top of the frame.

As an example, if I have a 20" x 30" frame with 30 being the height, the strap hangers would be drilled at 10" from the top of the frame. Once the strap hangers have been secured to the frame, you will secure coated wire to each hanger.

We recommend the wire be tight to allow minimal movement once the artwork is on the wall.

Once the wire is wrapped tightly around the strap hangers, your next step is to determine how far from the top of the frame the wire will stretch. This is an important measurement for ensuring your art is hung at the right level. You are now ready to hang your artwork.

Important to note, if the frame weighs more than 30 pounds or has dimensions exceeding 40" x 60", you should not use wire for hanging. Rather, you should secure the paintings only with the strap hangers.

5 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HANGING PICTURE FRAMES

WHAT IF I'M WORKING ALONE?



Lay a sheet of kraft paper on a table and place the frame on top. Trace around the frame and cut the kraft paper, so it conforms in size to the frame.

Next, measure the distance from the wire to the top of the frame.

Then measure down the same distance from the top edge of the kraft paper and make a mark on the kraft paper.

NEED MORE HELP WITH YOUR PICTURE FRAME?

Depending on the type of picture frame you're putting together, the tutorials section on our website has got you covered. With tons more information about shadow boxes, picture frame assembly, and much more, the team at Framing 4 Yourself wants to help.

If you still have questions or would like to speak with one of our framing experts, visit Framing4Yourself.com or contact us at info@framing4yourself.com.

