



# Pre-Mounted Adhesives For Pre-Mounting Multiple Photos

by Chris A. Paschke, CPF

**T**he creation of multiple opening mats has long been established as a source of interesting design and additional profits. It often isn't until the project has been designed, written up and the deposit taken, that the technical aspects of framing execution are actually considered. As a mounting educator and specialist, I am often asked for tips on how to

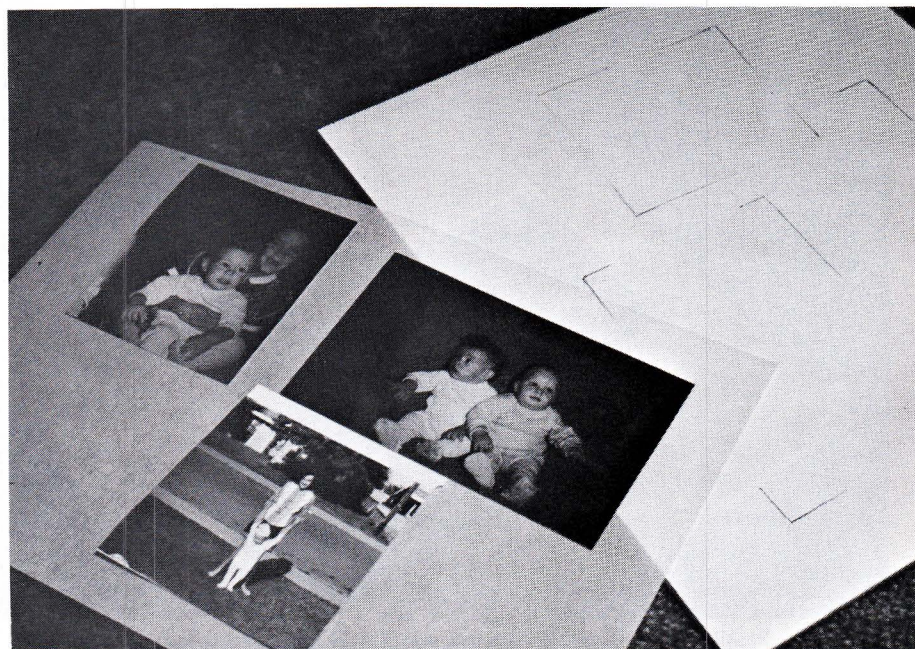
trim adhesives so photos and free floated graphics may be tacked and dry mounted without excess adhesive showing. I also get questioned on how to pre-mount adhesives to create that perfectly aligned mount.

First it should be noted that even when you begin with perfectly

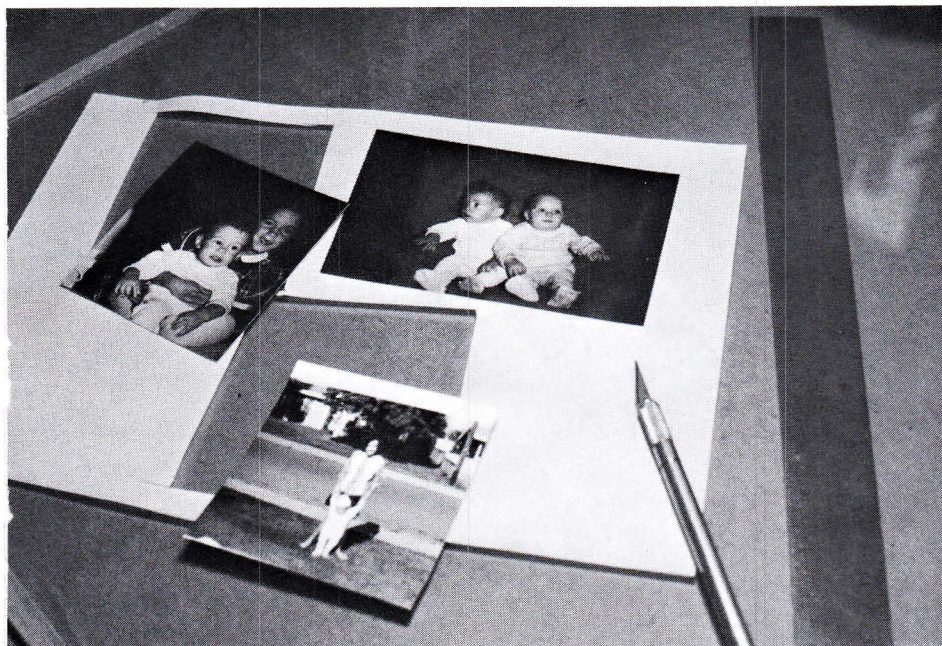
matched, sized, tacked adhesive and artwork, the end product will generally expose a narrow (1/32" to 1/16") strip of adhesive, once mounted. Humidity and temperature alter the physical nature of paper, and since dry mount tissues have a paper core, they will expand once they are put into the press; this accounts for the hairline of exposed tissue once mounted. So the question is, how can the expansion be controlled so a clean floated mount can be achieved? By explaining the solution to the above question, the secondary issue of perfect placement for mountings in multiple opening mats can also be addressed.

As illustrated in this article, photographs are to be mounted to an unsized backing board. It should be stressed that taping images to the back of individual window openings is *not an acceptable framing practice*. No matter how small the item being mounted, humidity changes could create buckling and dried out tapes might result in an eventual release of the artwork from the window. Even when dry mounting is not being used, there are alternative methods of hinging photos (i.e. attaching mylar corners or acid-free strips) to

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1. The board on the right shows the pencil markings establishing photo placement after pre-mounting. The photos are tacked to the dry mount tissue in preparation for pre-mounting prior to sizing. All tacking should be carefully done with release paper between the iron and the photo, all on the same edge (in this case, the center top of each).



2. The photo illustrates the pre-mounted photos now being trimmed to size (using an X-Acto™ knife) in preparation for placement onto the backing board. Trim either at the edge of the photo if it will be matted, or slightly smaller than the actual photo if it is being pre-mounted for a free floated, unmatted presentation.





3. Align the oversized photos into pencil markings and tack into place for mounting. Once again, tack all photos on the center of the same side. Readjust the mechanical pressure arm if necessary (see May '92, PFM).

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hold the photos or artwork in place.

It is a bit of a challenge to align the images perfectly without attaching them to the back of each window, but if the mat openings are pre-lined onto the backing board by tracing the previously cut top mat openings (photo 1), tacking alignment is easily achieved. Photos should also be slightly larger than the window opening, as with any matted artwork. Another very successful positioning option is to securely hinge the top mat (on the long side) to the backing board; the book mat will close quite accurately for the necessary alignment.

#### Pre-Mounting Photos

Mount the desired photographs to an oversized sheet of breathable, removable dry mount tissue (i.e. ArchivalMount, TM-4, Drychival). Since non-porous photographs are being mounted, a *breathable* tissue must be used in order to prevent bubbles. Also, by using a *removable* tissue (which bonds out of the press, under weight, as it cools) it is always possible to remove the once mounted photo, should realignment be required.

Randomly tack the photos onto the oversized tissue and mount using regular TTPM (time/temperature/pressure/moisture) standards in your

desired press. Don't forget the release paper envelope or board, and make certain the press is in the proper pressure adjustment for the lack of substrate for mounting the photos only to the tissue (photo 1).

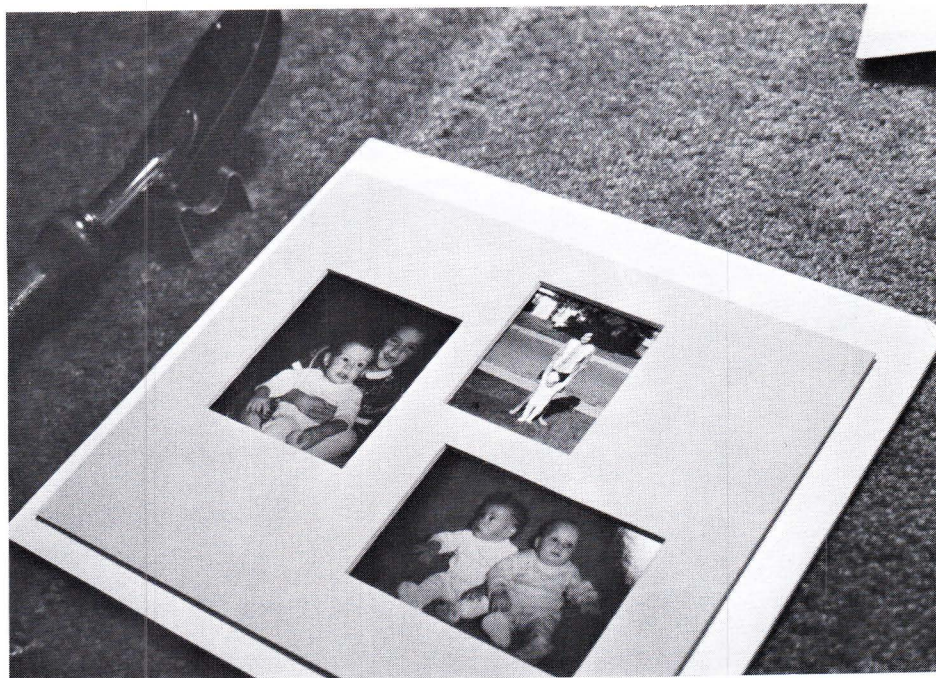
In this case, the slightly oversized photos were pre-mounted to ArchivalMount tissue for 1½ minutes

at 160°F in a Seal 210M-X Mechanical press, using a one-sided release paper envelope. Using a sharp knife and cork backed straightedge, trim out the photos to the exact edge size (*do not trim the photo itself*), leaving no excess adhesive showing (photo 2). If these photos were to be free floated onto colored mat board rather than matted and framed, you might elect to shave an additional 1/16" off the actual photo edges to ensure a clean adhesive-free look. Align the slightly oversized photos onto the backing board, fitting them into the reference pencil notations made from the top mat openings, and tack them in place (photo 3).

*NOTE: All tacking irons are not created equal, and if a temperature control exists on your model (i.e. Top Fight Monokote Iron, Sealector II) keep it set at a mid-range temperature. A temperature that is too high may create shiny spots on your poster or photo. Remember to always use a piece of release paper when tacking. Also realize that the desirable "Z-method" of tacking cannot be integrated into this type of pre-mounting procedure.*

Mount the tacked photos all at the same time onto the mat backing

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4. Position the previously readied top mat and adjust placement, as needed, to accommodate the mounted photos. Hold the mat firmly in place and pencil line around the perimeter for exact trimming. Size the mounted backing board and hinge to the top mat and complete framed project.





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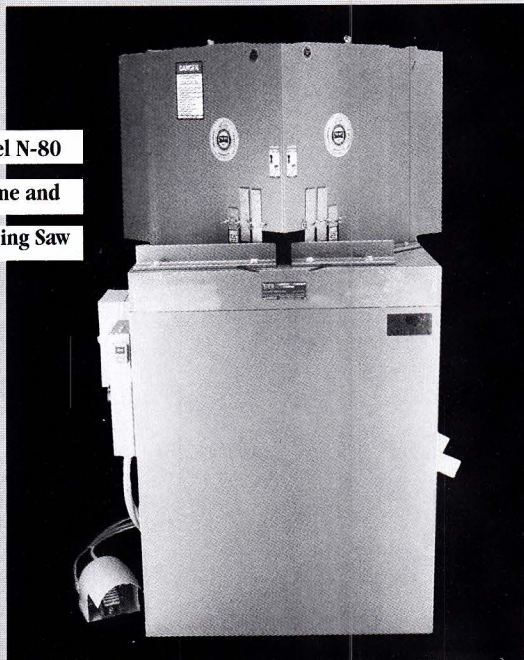
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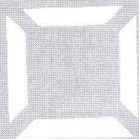
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### **MOUNTING**



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using the previous TTPM standards. Note the readjustment of the pressure and make accommodations for the substrate if using a mechanical press. Remember, vacuum presses are self-adjusting.

#### **Mat Alignment**

Once the photos are mounted, the completion process is quick and easy. Place the completed multi-opening top mat on the unsized photo mounted backing board for ideal placement (photo 4). Hold the top mat in place and pencil line around the outer edges on the backing to establish outer perimeter lines for trimming. This method allows you the flexibility of slightly shifting the top mat fractional inches in all directions, to aid in the final correct window placement.

Using your mat cutter or metal cork backed straightedge, trim the backing to size, and hinge the completed top mat to the photo mounted backing board by hinging front to back, using 1" linen tape on the long side of the window mat.

Consider the possibilities, also, for other projects using the pre-mounted adhesive procedures. There are times free floated images are required—a quick photo display on colored mat board for a real estate office showcasing available properties; a temporary show board of the family history in pictures at a 50th wedding celebration; photos and wine labels presented in a combination matted/mounted keepsake from a client's vacation to the wine country in California.

Showcase your skills and talents in order to make additional sales. Whether mounting the free-floated promo for the afternoon fashion show at the country club, or creating the memory shadow box for a new bride, if they don't see it they probably won't know to ask for it, so pre-mount your way into new design projects and mounting potential. *PFM*

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