

Multiple Job Mountings

Part II

Gold Accent Strips and Certificate Mounting

by Chris A. Paschke, CPF



In part one of "Mounting Multiple Jobs" (July PFM) we covered mounting, cutting, and the general preparation of a tiered panel mat design using a mat cutter fitted with stops. Remember, this prevents the need for pencil lines or taping the fallout back into the mat window, thus expediting design execution. This month we'll complete the project by concentrating on application of the gold accent strips and mounting of the certificates for final fitting.

Addition Of The Accent Strip

In honor of this month's Gilding Issue we will be using gold accent strips behind the panel. The addition of accent strips is another quick 'n easy design tip that uses end cuts and scraps of paper used for surface tiering, wrapped mats or surface panel designs such as leftover Essential Accents or marbled papers (photo 1).

Cut four strips on the mat cutter at least 1" wide. Apply ATG tape to the back of each strip (photo 2) and lightly position onto the liner mat approximately 1/4" from the window opening, overlapping strips at the corner (photo 3).

Lay the panel piece on top of the bottom mat properly centered and put a small pencil mark or indentation with blade tip at each corner (photo 4). Remove the panel, line up the dot to the inner mat window corner with a metal straightedge, and cut through both strips simultaneously using a sharp blade (photo 5).

Remove the small endcuts (photo 6) and burnish the strips solidly in place with your fingers or the heel of your hand (photo 7). Because of the dot placement in relation to the panel piece, the mitered gold strips will line up perfectly from the window through the panel to the outer window corner.

Aligning The Panel

There is an assortment of methods for attaching the panel to the mat once the accent strips are placed. ATG tape is easily applied to the back of the panel piece to hold it in position. Make certain no excess tape is protruding beyond the panel edge bevel (photo 8).

Position the panel piece first, then the outer mat border for easiest alignment (photo 9). Once aligned, press firmly to adhere tape. The panel may also be adhered with white glue or a double-sided pressure sensitive adhesive such as 3-M's PVA or Crescent's Perfect Mount Film. Apply the film, with the liner left intact, to the original mat blank and then cut the mat as desired. Remove the release liner from the back of the panel to expose the pressure sensitive adhesive when final placement is necessary.

Though the gold strips were selected for this project to reflect and tie-in the gold embossed seal on the certificate, many other materials may have been used. Marbled papers, Essential Accents, textured specialty papers, even fabrics are very plausible design options (photo 1).

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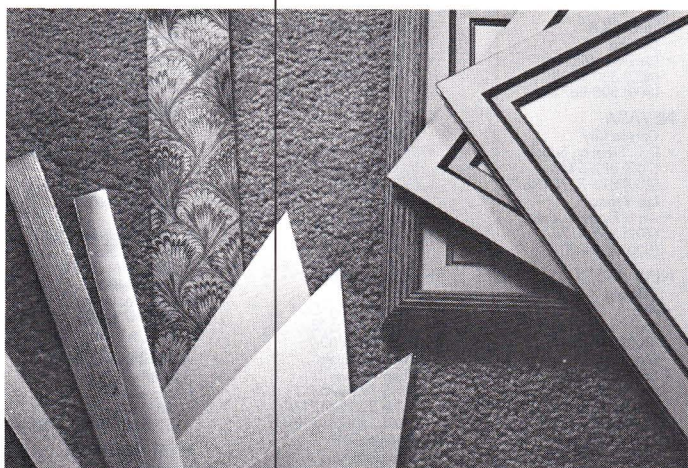
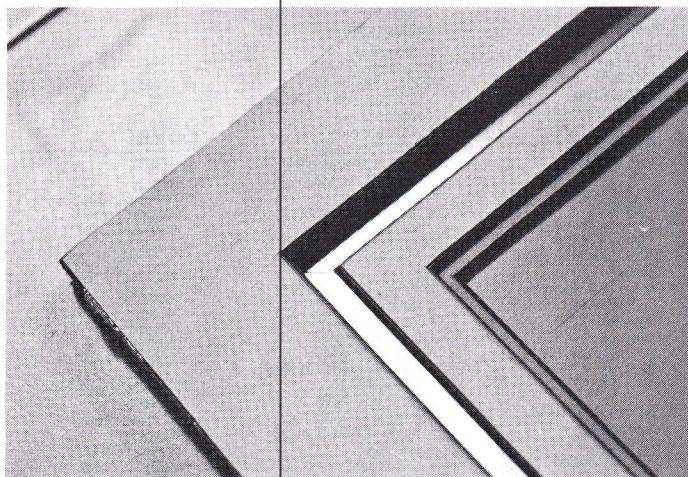


Photo 1

Essential Accent scraps, marbled papers, 1 ply mat boards, etc. may be used to contrast the wide groove showcasing the recessed panel in this (or any) design. See the close-up photo.



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Outer Border And Spacer Assembly

The final step to mat completion of the panel design is to position the outer border piece (photo 10). Apply the ATG tape to the bottom of the spacer and adhere it as a reverse bevel to the back of the tiered mat. Then ATG the back of this tiered mat/spacer unit and position it onto the bottom mat. Make certain the accent strips are always cut wide enough to be completely covered by the spacer unit.

Certificate Mounting

All of the certificates are to be mounted to their substrate backing boards before they are hinged to the completed tiered panel mat unit. To expedite the process a system needs to be established.

A loose certificate is centrally positioned onto a sized mount board and a panel mat unit is lightly laid atop for placement. The mat is carefully removed and the border is measured to the edge for reference. Using a mat cutter (photo 11) the boards are all pencil lined at 2" along the top and left side for uniformity (photo 12).

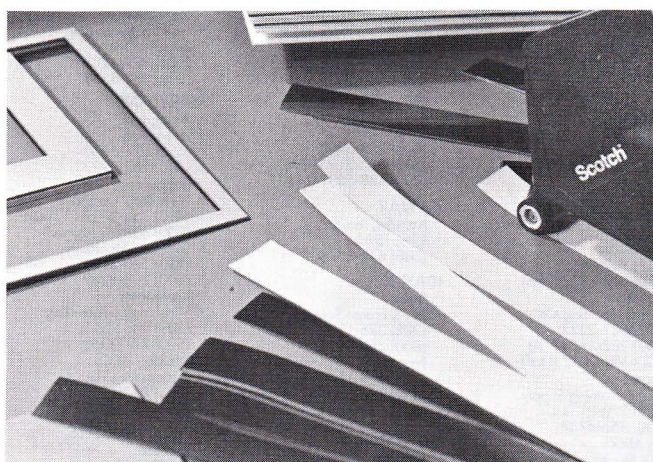


Photo 2

Cut 1" strips and apply ATG or other pressure sensitive adhesive to back of each.

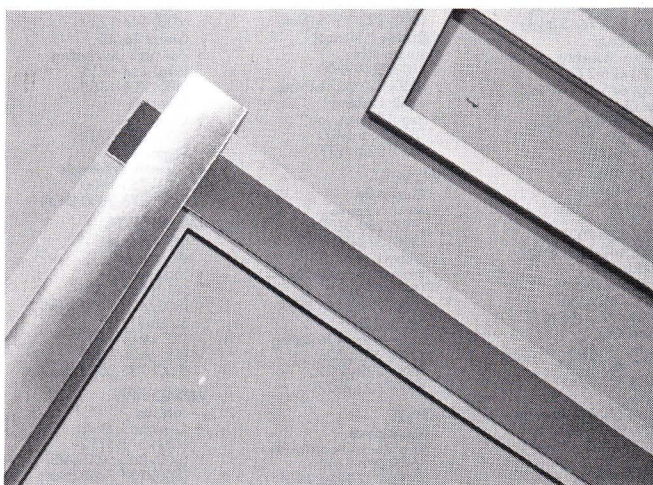


Photo 3

Overlap strips at the corner, but only tack in place in center to hold strips until cut. Align strips approximately 1/4" from window on liner mat.

The tissue adhesive is cut larger than the certificate but smaller than the mount board. Layer the certificate atop the adhesive tucked into the penciled corner of the board, then place all into a release paper envelope (diagram 1). An assembly line of mounting production may be

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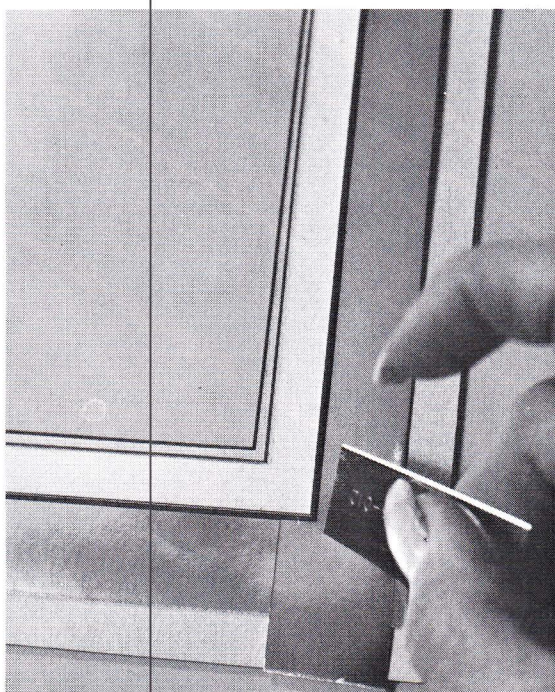


Photo 4

Lay the panel piece atop the crossed strips and mark the exact corner with a pencil or blade tip indentation.

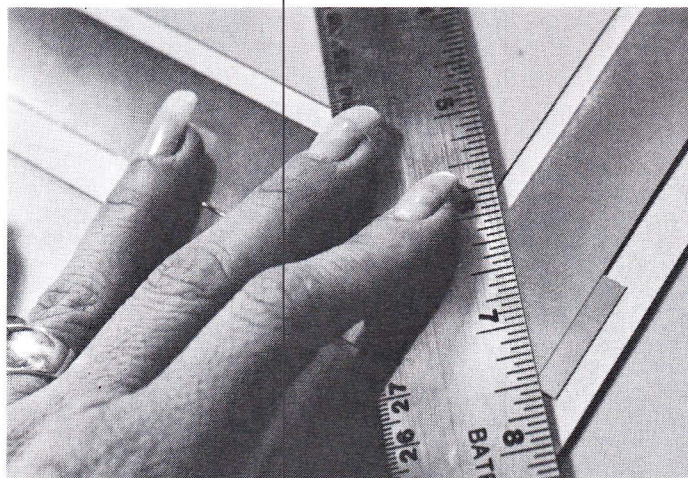


Photo 5

Remove the panel and lay straightedge across window corner and dot then cut through both layers of accent strips simultaneously.

achieved by rotating the mountings through the press, to the cooling glass, then remove them from the envelope only to place another unmounted certificate into the envelope for mounting. This is the same system used for the initial tiered mat creations.

If the certificates have embossed seals, be careful not to flatten them in the press by placing a piece of overlay foam on top prior to mount-

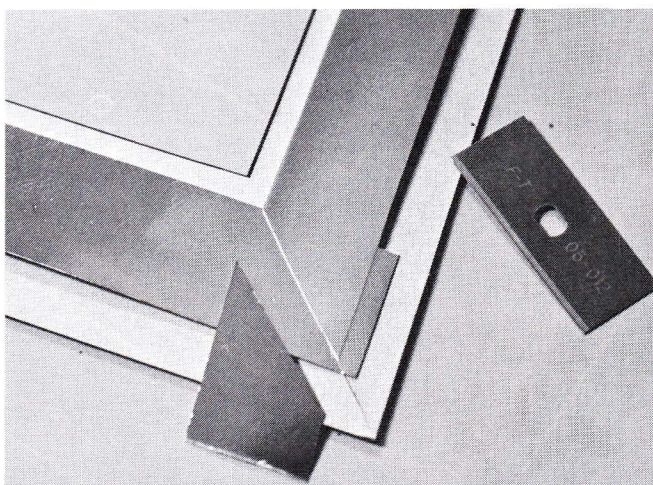


Photo 6

Remove the small overlapped endcut and realign the cut pieces into a perfect miter.

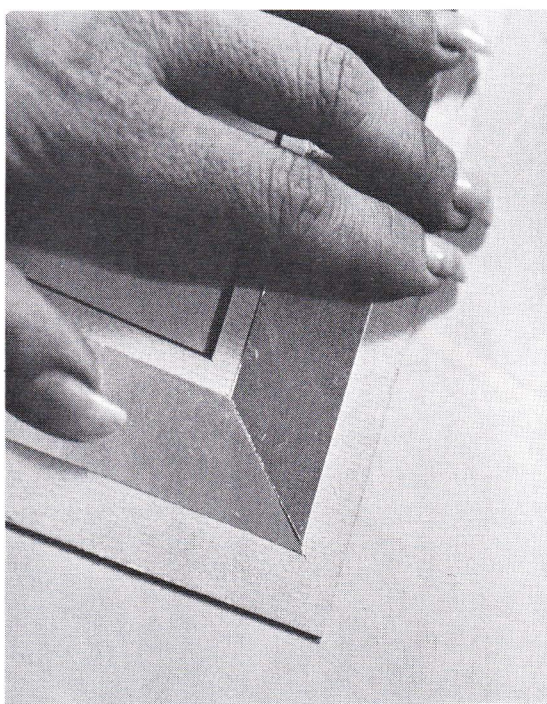


Photo 7

Burnish (or gently rub) the strips down with your fingers or the heel of your hand. Be careful not to scratch the strips if they are metallic.

ing. Once the pieces are all mounted, they may be hinged to the completed panel mats and sent to the fitting table for completion.

To Mount Or Not To Mount

But wait . . . there is still another issue I need to address. Recently I taught a class on mounting sensitive projects and interestingly enough the conversation came around to the con-

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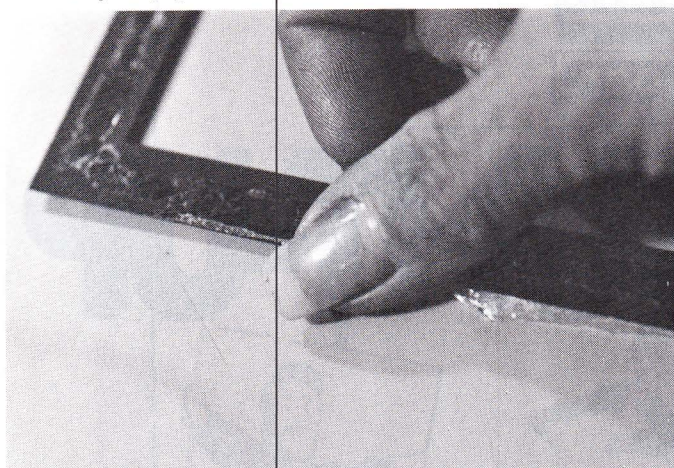


Photo 8

Prepare the floated panel by applying adhesive. ATG is used here, making certain not to leave tape protruding beyond panel edge. Rub or roll the tape from the edge with your thumb.

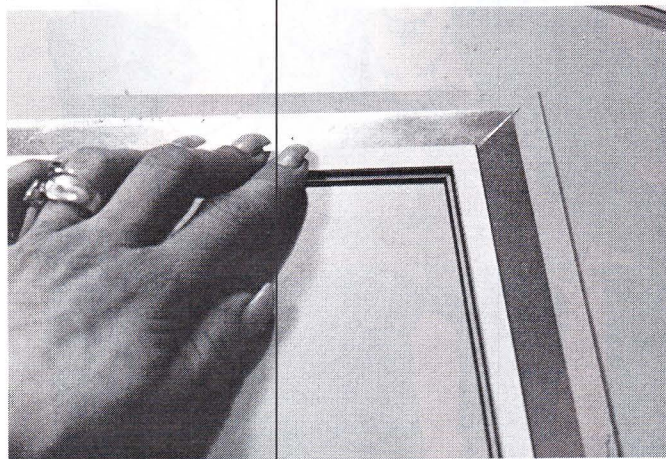


Photo 9

Position the panel before the outer mat border. Make certain the strips are beneath the panel with the edges completely covered.

cept of mounting paper certificates. In the current age of "conservation at all costs" and in light of "should certificates ever really be mounted", I wish to comment.

It is fairly agreed that vellum and parchment are better left hinged, pocketed, or otherwise conservation mounted, but there are certificates of all types. What about paper ones? There seems to be more and more discussion and even court battles over whether or not a certificate loses its value once mounted.

Generally, a certificate is only the paper announcing an accomplishment, like a graduation or membership. Doesn't it follow that

the accomplishment is what's of value and not the piece of paper? Isn't the person's education or accreditation the object of value?

Inert adhesive materials used in conjunction with many dry mount tissues will not generally deteriorate, damage or accelerate aging at all. In fact, if the certificate paper itself is not acid-free or buffered, dry mounting may even ultimately extend its lifetime.

Of course if the customer is always right, what do you do when they demand it flat? In this grey area, you have to make a judgement call. I personally feel a time will come when framers and consumers will be best advised *never* to mount another

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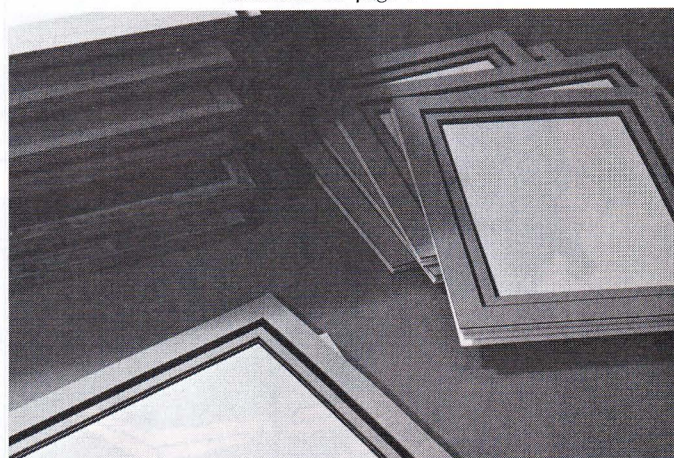


Photo 10

The final step to this panel mat completion is positioning the prepared tiered mat/spacer unit onto the liner mat. The gold strip edges must be entirely covered by the panel and the bottom of the foam spacer.

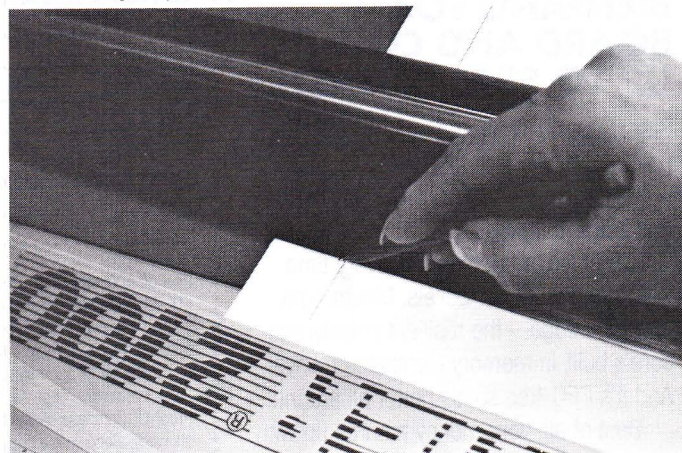



Photo 11

Draw two pencil lines across the top and left side of the mount board for certificate alignment for in preparation for mounting.

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certificate. Sometimes instructions even come with certificates when they are presented advising against mounting when framed. And there will always be legal documents such as birth certificates and marriage licenses which must always be recognized and presentable as legal papers.

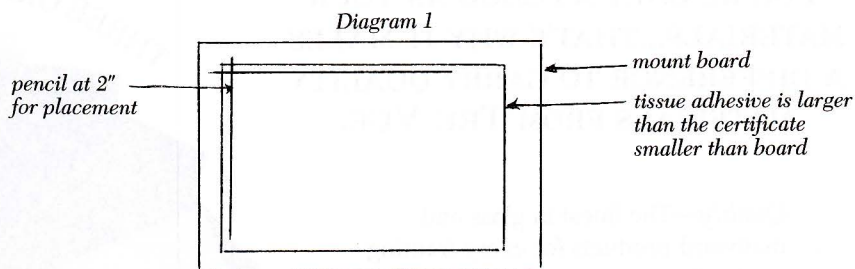
So what's the point? This month's column presents the second half of the multiple mounting of a participation certificate. It hasn't lost its value, nor will it yellow and age as a result of it being dry mounted. What will be achieved is a great looking presentation showcasing the benefits of both mounting *and* mounting creativity using a heat press! 

Chris A. Paschke, CPF, owns Designs Ink, Oxford, Connecticut, featuring commercial and custom framing, product consultation and design. She specializes in mounting, matting and design creativity and works with numerous industry leaders including Bienfang, Crescent Cardboard, Dahle, Fletcher-Terry, Larson-Juhl, PFM, PPFA, and Seal Products.



Photo 12

Lines readied at 2" for adhesive and certificate.



Position upper left corner of the certificate into the penciled corner of each board for mounting placement. Pencil is visible through mounting tissue.

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