

# Using Spacers

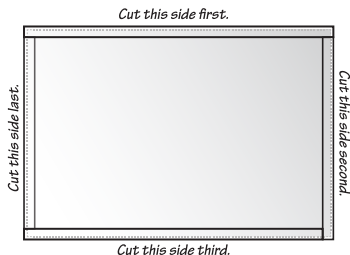
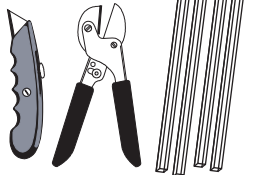
Spacers help to protect photographs, original art, or anything with a glossy surface from direct contact with glass. They can be used when art is centered on backing. They can also be used on top of artwork.

## Step 1: Cut to size

Frames are built with "allowance" (extra room), so your glass and backing may not fit snugly. It's important that the spacer be as close to the inside of the frame as possible, so that it is not visible from the front of the frame. This means that it may hang slightly over the edge of the glass.

Score the spacer with the knife on one side only, and the spacer will easily snap apart.

You can also clip the spacer with pruners.



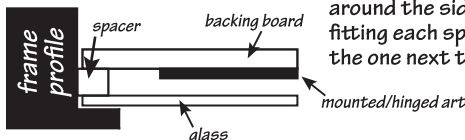
It can be difficult to cut the spacers to the exact length. It's not too important that they fit exactly until you get to the final spacer--try to make that one as snug as possible, so that no gaps are visible from the front of the frame.

## Step 2: Adhere to glass

adhesive edge is placed against glass

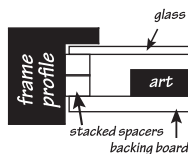


Lay frame face down with glass inside. The adhesive edge of the spacers should be against the glass for the best bond. Start with one edge and work your way around the sides of the frame, fitting each spacer snug against the one next to it.



## Step 3 (Optional): Stack spacer

If you find that you need more space for thicker artwork or you just like the look of more depth, you can stack spacers.



(For other depth options, refer to other side -- "Making a Shadowbox".)

## Helpful Hints...

With artwork that has not been mounted, pressure on edges of the artwork can cause it to buckle. The art will expand and contract with changes in humidity and it must be allowed to move freely in the frame to prevent buckling.

- in metal frames, instead of using spring clips, attach strips of foam board or matboard to backing to fill space.
- in wood frames, don't apply any pressure when installing diamond points (or whatever fitting hardware you choose). Leave the package a little loose to prevent buckling.

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