

Further information regarding mounts:

Mounts of various sizes, colours and surface texture can be purchased online from commercial suppliers.

Some suppliers also offer samples (small bits of mountboard) so that you get a good idea what the boards look like. Some samples are free of charge, and others have to be purchased. In my opinion it's well worth the money (usually a few pounds).

Some links:

Paper spectrum: <http://www.paperspectrum.co.uk/mounting-products-20-c.asp>

Cotswold Mounts: <http://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk>

eFrame: <http://www.eframe.co.uk/mounts/>

The Range: <http://www.therange.co.uk>

Further information regarding printing:

Commercial printing labs:

Commercial printing labs offer printing on standard paper, e.g. Lustre and Glossy, for very reasonable (and sometimes even cheap) prices, or on fine art paper (usually expensive). Although costly, fine art papers take printing to the next level, as they have unique characteristics like a certain texture or a warmer or whiter base. They usually also have very good archival properties.

Sample packs are available from the printing labs (usually paid-for), but again it's well worth the money as you get a feel for the paper, its texture etc.

Some links:

DS Colour Labs: <http://dscolourlabs.co.uk>

The Print Space: <https://www.theprintspace.co.uk>

Redcliffe: <http://www.redcliffe-print.co.uk>

ProAm Imaging: <http://www.proamimaging.com/home.php>

I myself use DS Colour Labs for printing, and I am very satisfied with their quality and customer service.

A few months ago I had the same black&white picture printed on different fine art papers in small size by DSCL and Redcliffe. The latter is less expensive, and also gives a

discount if you're an RPS member. However, the quality of the fine art prints by DSCL was far superior.

The prints by Redcliffe had some colour casts (reddish or greenish, depending on the particular paper type). So, even if more expensive, I'd go with DSCL.

I haven't tried the print space, so can't advise there.

Margaret and Frank Barber have used the ProAm Imaging lab to print on Lustre paper and were happy with the quality of the prints.

On a sidenote: Redcliffe do really good *cards* with your own pictures, if you use Invercote smooth paper. Very recommended.

How to prepare your files for printing:

Always check out the technical help page with image specs (like resolution, pixel dimensions etc.) required by your chosen printing lab.

Colour space / colour profile:

Don't forget to embed the appropriate colour profile (and check the calibration of your monitor). DSCL offers a calibration check by doing testprints with a test chart (procedure described on their website).

If you print black&white images with DSCL on Lustre paper, then convert your file to the Lustre colour profile (downloadable from the DSCL website). As this colour profile makes the image slightly lighter and reduces the contrast a bit, I then add a brightness/contrast adjustment layer, decrease the brightness to ca. -10, and increase the contrast to ca. +10 or +15.

Print size:

For obvious reasons the print should be bigger than the window cut in the mount.

For example: for a mount window of 40cm x 28cm, you need to print on A3 paper size (42cm x 29.7cm).

It may help if you have the mounts before you submit images for printing, as you can measure exactly how big the cut window is (if it's a bevel cut, the actual window size might differ a bit from the size in the mount description).

Once you know how big the printed image would be so that it fits into the window, you can adjust its size in Photoshop choosing Image → Image size.

It is then important to add 'empty' space around your image to fill the remaining paper up to the paper size you want to print on. If you don't do that, the image might get resized during the printing to the exact paper size, and will then no longer fit into the window of the mount.

You can add space around your image using the Image → Canvas size command.

Example: if your actual image is 40cm x 28cm, and you're printing on A3, then add canvas by typing in 42cm for width, and 29.7cm for height (if landscape format). Make sure the little box 'Relative' is unchecked. By doing so, the values you typed in are regarded as

the overall size of the file/print. If you tick the 'Relative' box, this adds the typed-in values to either side of the file... This feature is useful for adding keylines and borders to the image. Further down you can choose the colour of the added canvas, either from the drop down menu, or by clicking on the little square to the right, which takes you to the colour palette. After you've done all that, check the image size again, to make sure it corresponds exactly to the paper size.

I hope this information is useful. If you have questions or need further advice, just contact me (r.kraehenbuehl@bangor.ac.uk) and I'm happy to help.

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