

getting started

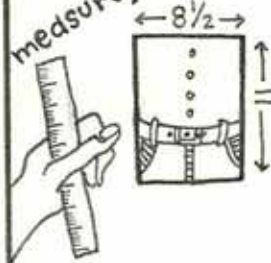
MAT CUTTING

THE TOOLS

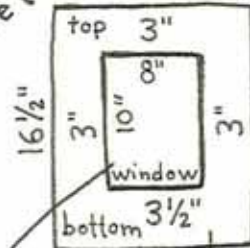
- a **sturdy** ruler long enough to accommodate your board
- pencil
- matboard
- utility knife
- hand held mat cutter like the Logan or Dexter
- Scrap mat board (for cutting surface)
- tape archival linen tape
- spare blades

example of a mat cut for an 8 1/2 x 11 image with a 3 inch border:

1 measure your picture



2 figure the math



when you add the border dimension to the window size you get 14 x 16 1/2

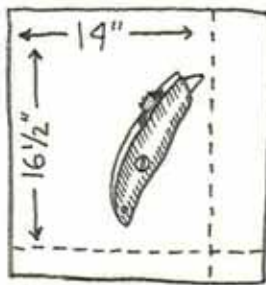
10" - ART
 + 3" - TOP
 + 3 1/2" - BOTTOM
 16 1/2" LENGTH

you want the window to be a bit smaller than the piece so it doesn't fall through the front

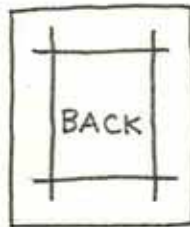
8" ART
 + 3" LEFT
 + 3" RIGHT
 14" WIDTH

the extra 1/2" creates visual gravity at the bottom

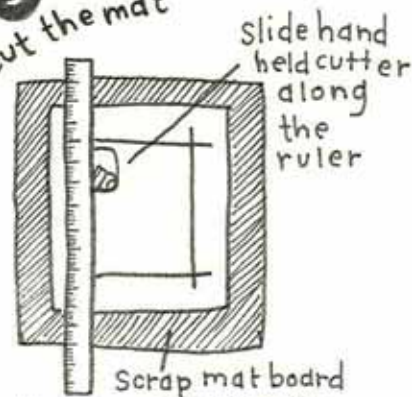
3 cut your board to the appropriate outside dimensions using a utility knife & ruler



4 measure & pencil your guidelines on the BACK of your mat board



5 cut the mat

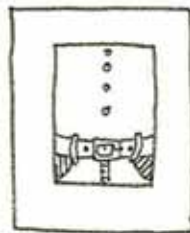


underneath gives the cutter something to cut into & keeps the blade steady

6 tape



hinge your piece to the back using strips of the linen tape



VIOLA

change blades often for cleaner cuts

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