

# Face Mounting Prints onto Clear Acrylic



Lion5

Mounting an image onto the back face of a clear acrylic panel is a popular way to present photography and graphic artwork.

When hung using a sub-frame the panel appears to float of the wall for an effect that is contemporary and luxurious.

Typically, the face of the print is bonded to the back of a 10mm Acrylic Panel with Optically Clear Mount Film. This gives a stylish and minimal glossy finish with the added depth of the acrylic. Acrylic Panels have a high perceived value.

Material costs for a 50 x 40cm, 10mm thick

10mm thick Acrylic Panel (excluding

photo / artwork) will be approx £30.

With experience and a well organised and clean work area, you should allow 15 mins assembly time.

Contact us to arrange a demo in Birmingham.

#### **Equipment**

- Cold roller laminator
- Stepped working board, SWB
- · Scalpel, Straight edge
- Cutting mat

#### **Materials**

- · Acrylic panel
- Optically clear mounting film, OCMF
- Sub-Frame System to hang panel

### A: Before you start

When mounting and laminating, the working area needs to be completely clean and dust free. The process and materials used can create static which attracts dust.

When opening an Acrylic Panel pack, always tear the packaging; never use a knife or scissors.



## C: Considerations before you print the image

Face mounting works best with very smooth papers. Texture in a paper can show up.

With this method, the print needs to be slightly larger than the acrylic on 3 sides, so it can be trimmed after mounting, and at least 75mm longer on the fourth, short, side.

This will be trimmed away so it is unprinted. It is the leading edge to pass though the laminator. Lining up a print that is the same size as the acrylic is almost impossible. So, normally, a special print is required.





If the print is on very thin paper, or is a pale print, it's possible that the outline of a sub-frame bonded to the back will show through. Also, the tape adhesive may bleed through the paper.

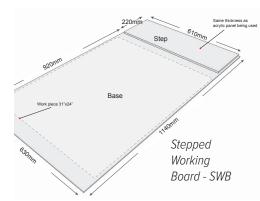
To minimise this, either laminate a piece of white self-adhesive film or or an Aluminium Composite Panel, ACP, to the back of the original print before applying the sub-frame.

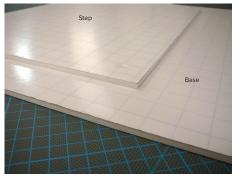
### D: Prepare a Stepped Working Board - SWB

This ensures even pressure as the print is rolled through the laminator onto the acrylic. Make your own SWB using a flat semi-rigid material such as Fomex, or Lion can supply them to order. Contact: jack@lionpic.co.uk.

During the mounting process the acrylic sits on the SWB base and butts up against the step.

The base of the board needs to be bigger than the largest acrylic panel you will use and the step needs to be the same depth as the acrylic (usually 10mm). The SWB is covered with single-sided silicone release paper. This stops the OCMF sticking to it.



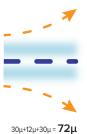


Stepped working board with faces covered with release paper.

### B: Optically Clear Mount Film - OCMF

OCMF has a core of crystal clear polyester film coated on both faces with super clear, UV resistant, pressuresensitive adhesive.

The adhesive is protected with clear silicone release films on both faces.



Clear release film

Optically clear adhesive Super clear polyester Optically clear adhesive

Clear release film

### Stage 1 - Bonding the OCMF to the face of the print

Adjust the rollers gap on your laminator so they give good even pressure on the **base** part of the SWB.

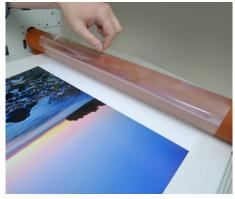
Cut a piece of OCMF slightly larger than the print.



Peel back app. 20mm of the OTMF release film and stick it to the base of the SWB. Pass this into the roller so it's held in position, making sure the release film is pulled clear of the rollers.



Hold the OCMF over the roller and position the print, image side up.



Pass the print through the rollers in one motion, making sure you pull the release film away as you go.

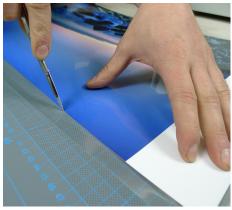
You will end up with the OCMF mounted to the surface of the print with the release film still on the top surface.



Peel the print with OCMF off the SWB base.



With a scalpel, trim the excess OCMF so it doesn't overlap the print.

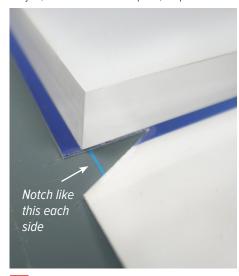


At the end of this first stage, you will have the print with the OCMF mounted to its surface and the release still on the top. The next stage is to mount this to the acrylic.

## Stage 2 - Bonding the face of the print to the back of the acrylic

Re-adjust the roller gap on your laminator so they give good even pressure on the **step** of the SWB.

First, to help position the print on the acrylic, cut notches in the print, as photo.



Peel back app. 20mm of the release paper from the leading edge of the print / OCMF.



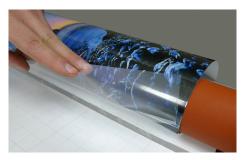
Press this down onto the step of the SWB with the positioning notches just on the step.



Pass this into the roller so it's held in position, making sure the release film is pulled clear of the rollers.



Wrap the print over the roller. You will now have the print with the release paper ready to be peeled away from underneath it.



### Stage 2 - continued

Carefully peel the protective film from one side of the acrylic. Make sure the acrylic stays clean and dust free.



Place the acrylic underneath the print and butt it against the step on the SWB.

In a single motion, feed this through the rollers, peeling the release film as it goes through.





Place the acrylic, print side down, on a cutting mat and trim with a scalpel.



Pass the acrylic through the rollers again to make sure the trimmed edges are well adhered.



If possible, pass it through in portrait and landscape.

Remove the protective film from the front of the acrylic and check carefully.



### Stage 3 - Fitting a Sub-Frame

Use either an aluminium or an MDF paper-wrapped Sub-Frame moulding.

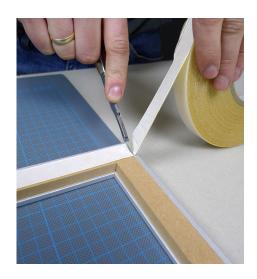
Aluminium Sub-Frame profiles can be supplied in 3 metre lengths for you to mitre cut, or as a cut-to-size 'Chop Kit'.

MDF Sub-Frame profile is only supplied in lengths and you will need suitable equipment for mitre cutting and joining it.

See the current Lion catalogues and website for full information.

Make up the Sub-Frame and apply the HD Tape all around. The HD tape is extremely high tack - do not peel off the release paper.

Measure where the Sub-Frame needs to be positioned but avoid marking the back



with a pencil as it might show though (Post-It's can be useful to mark the position).

Remove the release paper from the HD tape, line up one edge and then lower it into position. Press down firmly all around.

Be very careful to get this right first time, it is impossible to re-position the HD Tape.

See note on p.1, section C, regarding possible bleed-through of HD tape adhesive.

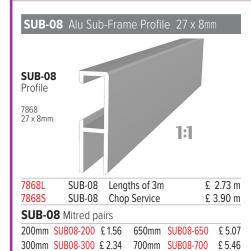


CWH hangers can be fitted to MDF and aluminium Sub-Frames so that the panel hangs flat and safe on the wall.





### **Sub-Frame Profiles - Aluminium**

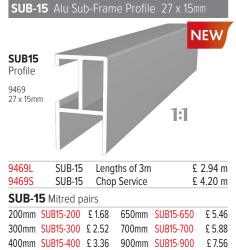


400mm SUB08-400 £ 3.12

500mm SUB08-500 £ 3.90

600mm SUB08-600 £ 4.68

**Acrylic Panels** 

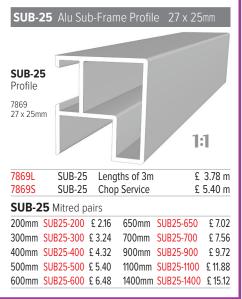


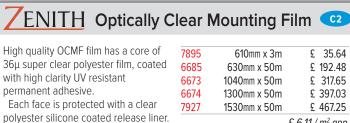
1100mm SUB15-1100 £ 9.24

1400mm SUB15-1400 £ 11.76

500mm SUB15-500 £ 4.20

600mm SUB15-600 £ 5.04





**Cold Roller Laminators** See our website

Our Acrylic Panels are premium quality cast clear acrylic.

They are precision cut using a highly sophisticated laser CMC machine. This gives the best consistency of sizes and cutting the holes

for the Posts. It gives a neat semi-polished edge - an integral part of

900mm SUB08-900 £ 7.02

1100mm SUB08-1100 £ 8.58

1400mm SUB08-1400 £ 10.92

## website £ $6.11/m^2$ app.







6918	HD Bonding Tape	19mm x 10m	£ 5.18
6919		19mm x 25m	£ 11.25
6196	Foam Tape 1mm	12mm x 2m	£ 1.89
5124		10mm x 50m	£ 6.32
197	Assembly h/ware, CWH3	1 bag	£ 1.33
197B		20 bags	£ 23.78
7969	Screwed & Flat Plates	100 prs	£ 9.65
6927A	CWH3 Hangers	pk 50	£ 9.15
2424	Euro hangers	pk 100	£ 6.68

the style.								,			
All acrylic panels have a protective film on both sides. Removing this creates static so make sure your work area is kept clean and dust free.						6918 6919	HD Bonding Tape	19mm x 10m 19mm x 25m	£ 5.18 £ 11.25		
creates static so make sure your work area is kept clean and dust free.								5 T 4			
Metric sizes are ± 1mm,			10mm Aprilio Donol 10mm Aprilio		mulia Damal	6196	Foam Tape 1mm	12mm x 2m	£ 1.89		
*				Omm Acrylic Panel 10mm Acrylic Panel		5124		10mm x 50m	£ 6.32		
Imperial sizes are approximate.			Clear - v	ear - with holes Clear		197 Assembly h/ware, CWH3	1 bag	£ 1.33			
A4	210 x 297mm	8.2" x 11.7"	6627	£ 8.49	7373	£ 8.67	197B		20 bags	£ 23.78	
A3	297 x 420mm	11.7 x 16.5"	6628	£ 16.38	7374	£ 16.37	7969	Screwed & Flat Plates	100 prs	£ 9.65	
	300 x 250mm	12" x 10"	6629	£ 9.82	7375	£ 9.64	6927A	CWH3 Hangers	pk 50	£ 9.15	
							2424	Euro hangers	pk 100	£ 6.68	
	300 x 300mm	12" x 12"	6640	£ 13.41	7376	£ 13.14	= 1= 1		pi. 100	0.00	_
	200 v 400	12" v 16"	6620	C 16 0E	7277	C 16 04					



**Sub-Frame Profiles - MDF** Specially designed profile machined from MDF and paper wrapped in White or Brushed 10 Silver. Mitre cut it and underpin it on normal framing equipment. 25 L1860 Sub-Frame MDF White 3.05m lengths £ 1.25 m **Brushed Silver** I 1861 3.05m lengths £ 1.25 m Supplied in wraps of 12 lengths / 36.6m.

**LION Picture Framing Supplies Ltd** 148 Garrison Street, Birmingham B9 4BN Tel: **0121 773 1230** Fax: **0121 771 2540** Open 08.45 - 17.00 Monday to Friday

Check the Lion website for best prices

lionpic.co.uk

info@lionpic.co.uk

