

Printing Tips (Processing Labs).

- 1) Select your print size with regard to the number of pixels in your original image. Print labs usually ask for 300 dpi (same as 300 pixels per inch). Try not to ADD too many pixels to your original image.
- 2) Consider any print border. Do you want to see a white edge around the image or have it hidden behind the mount aperture? If the former, try adding a black key-line for effect. Don't place important features too close to the edges of your print.

Tips :- Mounts can be purchased with various pre-cut window apertures.

These apertures are usually slightly smaller than standard size prints.

Standardising on just a print sizes will allow you to re-use old mounts.

With the right kit, you can cut your own apertures.

(eg. I cut 390mm x 290mm apertures to take 16"x12" prints.)

50cm x 40cm is the max print size for MCPF competitions, **including mount**.

- 3) Some members find their print images need lightening a touch compared to PDIs.
- 4) You can usually sharpen a print image a bit more than a PDI too.
- 5) CONVERT (not ASSIGN) your image to the processing Lab's required colour space. If unsure, then use sRGB as the default - **never Prophoto**.
- 6) "Save as" a JPEG with minimum compression, say 11 or 12. (Do NOT send Tiff/PDF/PNG files). It's a good idea to append your file name with the print size.
- 7) Copy print images into suitable folders "Sizes to Print" so they are all together.
- 8) Printing frequently or in small batches will drastically increase your postage costs.
- 9) "Luster" is probably the most popular finish.

<https://dscourlabs.co.uk/>

https://dscourlabs.co.uk/about/Print_Prices

<https://www.simlab.co.uk/best-professional-photo-printing-uk>

Comparative mount prices, based on 50 x 40cm cream core board. (12/5/22)

(note - Cream core is cheaper than White core.)

Paper Spectrum :-

50x40cm mounts with pre-cut (390x293mm) windows = 5 for £12 (£2.4 each)

<https://www.paperspectrum.co.uk/16x12-43-ratio-snow-white-textured-pre-cut-picture-window-mount-1400mic-4472-p.asp>

50x40cm mounts, (no window) = 10 for £13 (£1.3 each)

<https://www.paperspectrum.co.uk/pinnacle-pre-cut-500x400mm-simply-white-mount-board-1400mic-8308-p.asp>

Backing board (450x320mm) = 10 for £6 (£0.6 each)

<https://www.paperspectrum.co.uk/greyboard-backing-1000mic-1mm-thick-450x320mm-8019-p.asp>

50M x 38mm mounting tape = £4

<https://www.paperspectrum.co.uk/mounting-tape---brown-kraft-self-adhesive--38mm-x-50mtr-4022-p.asp>

Cotswold Mounts :-

50x40cm mounts, (no window) = 4 for £3.70 (£0.93 each)

<https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/products/camera-club-blank-mount-boards/camera-club-cream-core-blank-mount-boards/camera-club-cream-core-mount-board-50x40cm>

Backing board (1.4mm) = £0.92 each

<https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/products/backing-boards/bb-standard/cream-core-backing-boards/cream-core-backing-board-20x16>

Lightweight backing board (1mm) = 4 for £2.70 (£0.68 each)

<https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/products/backing-boards/bb-additional/a-lightweight-backing-boards>

50M x 25mm mounting tape = £2

<https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/products/mounting-tape/self-adhesive-kraft-paper-tape--eco-15--25mm-%C3%97-50m>

50M x 50mm mounting tape = £4

<https://www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk/products/mounting-tape/Self-Adhesive-Kraft-Paper-Tape-Eco-15%20-2%22x50mt>