

HINGE MOUNT

Mounting artwork with tape has many advantages. But first, note that mounting with tape isn't called "tape mounting," as you might suspect; it's called "hinge mounting," in reference to the tabs of tape, called hinges, that hold the art in place.

Not only is this method quick, easy, and clean; it is also a good way to preserve artwork, since many quality mounting tapes are water reversible—they can be removed easily with water at the point of contact. They are also water activated; they do not become sticky until moistened.

Self-adhesive mounting tapes (those that are already sticky as they come off the roll) can be reversed with mineral spirits. Whichever you choose, be sure to use tapes made specifically for mounting artwork, as they have adhesive that can be removed.

Rather than taping along the edges of the art, hinge mounting suspends the artwork from hinges attached along the top edge of the paper. A single long strip of tape is never used, and tape is never applied to the sides or bottom of the artwork.

Hinge mounting is only effective in preserving artwork if minimal adhesive is used; two tape hinges will often suffice. Moreover, minimizing the number of hinges minimizes the restriction put on the artwork paper, allowing it to expand and contract as it absorbs and rejects moisture.

Expansion and contraction of paper is a common phenomenon with artwork, particularly with a water-based painting medium such as watercolor. To get such art to lie as flat as possible, the paper has to be allowed to "breathe."

Using as few hinges as possible promotes breathing, while taping down the artwork at each edge restricts breathing and exacerbates buckles and waves.

REINFORCED HINGE MOUNTS

The **REINFORCED T-HINGE** is made by affixing artwork to the back of a mat on its border above the window. The first tab of tape is then strengthened by placing a second tab of tape over it. The two tabs together are known as a hinge. A variation on the T-hinge is known as the **V-HINGE**. The downside to the T-hinge is that it cannot be used in any application where the edges of the paper are displayed or where the mat is spaced away from the artwork, as in an elevation presentation. For these situations the V-hinge is an alternative.

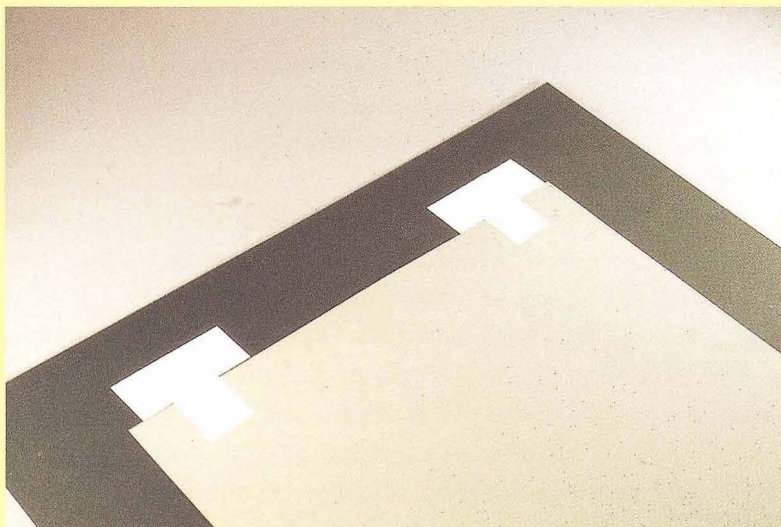
First, place your artwork on a mounting board and put the window mat over it for positioning. When you are satisfied with the alignment of the art in the window, remove the mat and set it aside. With the artwork's top edge held firmly against the mounting board, flip the artwork over so it is image side down. When you flip it over, most of it will be off the top edge of the mounting board.

When the art is flipped over, the V-hinge is concealed behind the artwork, but is near the top edge, making for a potential problem if the art is heavy and pulls out of alignment, exposing the tape. To be on the safe side, many framers who float mount prefer to use the next technique.

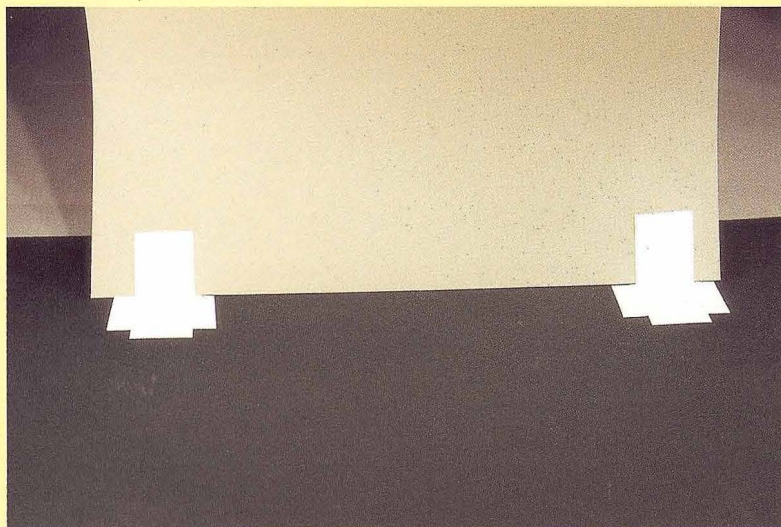
The **S-HINGE MOUNT** does the best job of concealing tape behind the artwork. Begin by cutting at least two slits in a mat mounting board. (Matboard is preferred for this mounting, because it is difficult to cut slits in foamboard.) Then cut two pieces of tape 4" long and prepare to feed them through each slit, adhesive side up, relative to the top edge of the mounting board. The technique is called the S-hinge because of the way the tape snakes through the slit.

Although hinge mounts are reversible, they still do put some small amount of adhesive in contact with the artwork. Arguably, the safest approach would be to avoid any contact with adhesive on the artwork at all. Mounting corners, mounting strips, and the technique of sink mounting accomplish this.

REINFORCED T-HINGE. Lay the window mat face down and place your artwork over the window, image side down. Come in $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top left corner of the art and attach a $\frac{3}{4}$ "-long tape tab against the top edge of the paper, so that half of the tape is on the artwork and the other half is on the mat. Do the same at the right corner. (For artwork wider than 24", place a third tab midway between the two.) To reinforce, take another tab, this one $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long, and place it horizontally over the first tab to form the T. This second tab does not touch the artwork. Repeat the procedure for the remaining hinge(s).



REINFORCED V-HINGE. With the artwork flipped to the position shown, place a $\frac{3}{4}$ " tab about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the top left corner of the art, keeping half of the tape on the back of the artwork and half on the mounting board. Repeat at the other corner, then reinforce the hold of the tabs by attaching two more tapes, so one crosses each tab. The edge of the second tabs should come right to the edge of the artwork but not contact it.



REINFORCED S-HINGE mounting is based on putting two pieces of tape about two-thirds of the way through slits cut in the matboard mounting board. Attach what remains to the back of the mounting board in the area above the slit. The rest of the tape will be hanging tonguelike down the front side of the mounting board. It can be secured with a second piece of tape applied across it. Repeat the procedure for the remaining slit(s). Place your artwork over the tape and your S-hinge is complete.

