

How To Create A Frame Within A Frame

By Fred Schneider



By placing the artwork inside two smaller "frames," which are then surrounded by a single large frame, a three dimensional effect is emphasized.

As framers, we're always looking for new and interesting ways to frame our customers' artwork and items. The variety of items that arrive at your design counter motivate you to keep your eyes and ears open to framing designs to expand your repertoire.

I recently constructed four frames within a frame to highlight

the delicate beauty of a family of prints. To achieve this design, instead of cutting windows in the matboard, I made smaller individual frames and attached them to the top of the mat. I wanted three-dimensional look.

The four individual framed leaves seem to float on the mat board, each one finished with fillets, moulding, and glazing (see photo on opposite page). Each leaf print is



These four small prints make a dramatic piece when grouped together.

surrounded by a rustic pine moulding and fillets of 22 karat gold. The four frames were stapled from behind to the mat board. Since each individual print is protected by glazing, no additional glass was added.

The outside frame is a rustic pine in black with the 22 karat fillets placed on both the inside and the outside of the small frames. The contrast between the dark moulding and the light catching gold fillet adds a dramatic touch to the design.

When cutting the fillet for the outside of the four 5"x7" pictures, the moulding was reversed in a double mitre saw and then attached to the outside of each small frame. The completed piece measures 21"x46".

The treatment allows the framer to present favorite, small

prints in a large space. There are many options to this approach which allow framers to tailor the look to fit any decor. Floating the inner frames on a mirror can be a striking way to showcase antique prints, postcards, and even something as small as a postage stamp.

For the ultimate in versatility, you can also float mini frames on glass for a fresh look every time the picture is moved from one area to another. You can use any material on your mat board, such as the customer's wallpaper or curtain or sofa fabric, for a custom look.

Mouldings from FrameMica Co. were used for the designs in this article. ■

Fred Schneider has over 30 years of experience in picture framing.