

Wedding Memorabilia

by Ira Freinle, CPF

Ertrude Stein never said, “a shadow box is a shadow box”, and it’s a good thing she didn’t, since most framers define a shadowbox as a deep frame. In this case, we gave the piece a very nice recessed treatment using a frame with a depth of only 5/8”. This rabbit depth would normally be considered a standard depth for only two or three mats, glass, and backing. My point, very simply, is that a shadow box is not determined by the depth of the frame, but in how the pieces to be framed are treated.

The photo and head-piece that we framed in this example belonged to our customer’s French grandmother. Obviously, the pieces were very old, and although it does not look it from the photo, the head piece was very delicate. The photo was a studio piece and therefore mounted on heavy embossed cardboard with the photographer’s logo in full display.

The customer did not want us to cut the photograph’s mounting, and we did not want to attempt to remove



The bride’s piece was delicate enough to require special mounting considerations.

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the photo from it. We recommended the oval opening. The thickness of the photo mounting made it necessary to use a sink mat to fill in the space between the mat itself and the backing. Otherwise, the backing would have buckled when it was fitted into the frame.

The sink mat was fitted closely to the photo so it could not shift around. The top mat, sink mat, and backer were all secured together with ATG so that the photo was securely retained in a pocket.

The headpiece was originally styled in a ring to fit on the brides head. This gave a very stilted look in the frame, so we cut the connection between the two ends and used an asymmetrical arrangement.

It was made from wire, wax, and paper. Because of its age, it would not sustain too much handling. We had to exercise great care. After arranging it the way we wanted, we applied silicone glue to the wire with a small spatula. Enough glue was built up to hold the wire backing without showing from the front. This was one case where we could not use ATG until the silicone dried. We left the piece undisturbed for twenty-four hours since the assembly would have to be inverted to insert it into the frame for fitting.

The next day, the backer was fitted into the remaining space in the frame and secured, and the backing paper and the hanging hardware were installed. □