

# Fabric Mats



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Artwork: Square Column II, Wild Apple Graphics  
Mats: Crescent Cardboard 7183; 1721; 2253*

**F**abric mats are a sure way to add elegance—and value—to a custom frame design. Their texture adds dimension to the frame design and helps to set the tone for the artwork it surrounds.

For ease of use, it's hard to beat the many fabric-covered mats available from matboard suppliers. Silks, suedes, and other fabrics can be found in a vast array of colors on a range of matboard types.

### **Customizing Pre-covered Fabric Matboards**

Pre-covered fabric matboards are usually cut with a bevel, reverse bevel, or straight cut. If you'd like a more custom look, there is a way to hand wrap the bevel of the board.

First, cut your mat to the desired outside dimension. Next, cut the window opening, with the blade set for a regular bevel, but cut it one inch smaller on all sides. Then adjust your mat cutter blade depth so that you can cut into most of the matboard, but will not cut all the way through to the fabric. Now cut the mat opening to the desired size. A 1" band, all around the window, should stay intact instead of falling out like the first, smaller, opening did.

Carefully peel the matboard away from the fabric on this band until all that is left is the mat border with 1" of exposed fabric around the opening. Then miter cut the exposed fabric from the corner of the mat. Finally, wrap the excess fabric behind the bevel. You may choose to

use ATG tape, glue or some other mounting option. You may also want to finish off the back of the mat by taping the surface of these fabric flaps securely against the matboard.

Instructions on how to create the mat design shown here follow:

#### **Step 1**

Determine your opening of matboard widths and cut your blank out of #2253.

#### **Step 2**

Cut a blank of #7183, 1" large in each dimension, giving you a ½" margin mat on all four sides.

#### **Step 3**

Separate the suede in one corner of the board.

#### **Step 4**

Take a small shipping tube and the separated corner and roll the rest of the suede from the board.

#### **Step 5**

Cut window opening in #2253. Mark a matching side of dropout with a matching side of mat and save dropout.

#### **Step 6**

Cut a piece of PMA just slightly larger than dimension of #7183.

#### **Step 7**

Lay suede piece peeled from board face down.

#### **Step 8**

Remove one of the two release papers from the adhesive and lay the PMA on the suede piece.

#### **Step 9**

With a roller or scrap piece of matboard, smooth out PMA on suede and peel off release paper. Save release paper. You now have a piece of suede with PMA on it.

#### **Step 10**

Put your mat (#2253) with window opening face up on top of release paper.

#### **Step 11**

Place suede on top and roll out any air pockets to get a good bond. Be careful not to mar suede surface.

#### **Step 12**

Force dropout back into opening, forcing suede onto bevel.

#### **Step 13**

Flip mat once and cut a smaller opening than the original opening in the suede.

#### **Step 14**

Now cut suede at a 45° angle from the corner. Repeat on other three corners.

#### **Step 15**

Wrap suede around bevel using a scrap piece of matboard. Finish by wrapping excess suede on back and trimming excess off the outside of the matboard. ■