

The Offset Corner Mat

The corner embellishments of this mat give it an architectural look that enhances the subject matter of the artwork. The monochromatic matting, accented only with a simple gold rule, further adds an air of classicism.

The design is, when reduced to its most basic elements, a variation on both the rounded corner mat and the offset corner mat. To create a rounded corner mat, four small circles are cut into the mat where the corners of the window mat would be. The rectangular window opening is then cut to connect each of the circles (see Diagram 1).

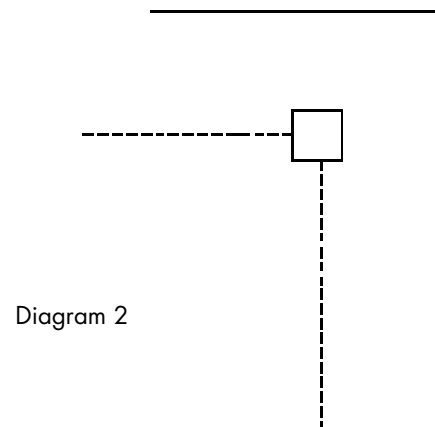
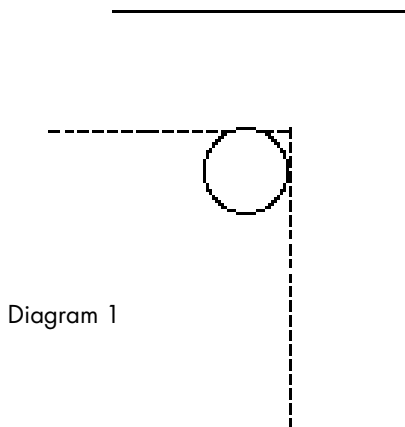
To create this mat, small squares, instead of circles, are cut at each of the four corners and the window opening is then cut to connect them (see Diagram 2). This creates a corner that is the opposite of an offset corner mat, where a square is cut into each of the corners of the window mat, instead of being cut out of it.

Begin by cutting your matboard to the desired outside dimensions, then marking the window mat opening in pencil on the back. Once you have decided on the size and placement of the four smaller squares at each corner,

mark them in pencil on the back also. Then cut the four squares, and finally, the window mat opening.

The mood of this design element is affected by both the size of the corner squares and their position relative to the window mat opening. A good rule of thumb would be to begin by positioning the center of the squares at the point where the sides of the window mat opening would meet to form a corner. Keep the size of the squares to about one quarter of the measurement of the mat border. For example, if your mat border is 4", start by making your corner squares 1" and position them so that $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the square will be cut into the window opening.

You can then alter this design by moving the placement of the squares—closer inside the mat opening for a more subtle look, or closer to the edge of the mat for something more dramatic. The size of the corner squares should also be altered so that they are in proportion to the overall size of the mat, the size of the mat opening, and the measurements of the mat borders. ■





Frame design by Tim Franer, CPF
Mats: Tru Vue White Art UltiMat #1984
Anti-reflective glass keeps the artwork sharp despite the multiple mat depth.