

Printing and Mounting Guide for New Members

This document is intended as a brief guide for new members and others who would like to enter prints in assessments and competitions, but do not have their own photo quality printer.

For the last two years I have had my exhibition images printed by DSCL (www.dscolourlabs.co.uk). Others printing services are Loxley (www.loxleycolour.com) Peak Imaging (www.peak-imaging.com) and ProAm Imaging (www.proamimaging.com). I've only used DSCL so the following is based on experience of their service.

DSCL prices for prints are listed at dscolourlabs.co.uk/about/Print_Prices and examples for standard prints are: 10" x 8": 53p; 12" x 10": 75p; A4: 65p; A3: £1.15 (all include VAT) Lustre, gloss & pearl finishes are available, as are other services such as large format and fine art printing.

Post & Packing costs £3.49 or £3.99 for Royal Mail first class – depending on size of the largest print. If you order before 1pm the prints are dispatched the same day so they arrive well packed the next working day.

The process is relatively straightforward; you prepare your image as you would any other image and then go to the DSCL website; select 'order prints' and then the size and paper type. Paper profiles for Macs and PCs can be downloaded from the DSCL website. When ordering prints at sizes other than those listed, order the next largest listed size. For example, if you require a 9"x9" size print you would make your canvas size 10"x10" as this is the nearest listed print size. You would make your image size 9"x9" and this would be placed in the middle of the 10"x10" print. Technical support is available from dscolourlabs.co.uk/about/NEWNEW_Technical_Support if required.

One thing you may wish to consider is the calibration of your monitor. For my first order from DSCL the prints were a little darker than I expected. Before my second order I used the club's monitor calibration gadget and when the second batch of prints arrived they were a much better match for what I saw on my computer.

Mounting

In order to encourage newer members to enter prints for assessment, the committee has decided that prints submitted for assessments in the primary class do not need to be mounted; they may be submitted hardbacked (i.e. backed by board, not showing through an aperture) or simply printed. Traditional mounts may still be used if desired; whatever presentation is used the maximum size permitted is 50 x 40 cm.

Mount board ready cut to 50 x 40 cm is available from Paper Spectrum (www.paperspectrum.co.uk) in a selection of colours from £13.99 (inc VAT) for a pack of 10 sheets, plus £3.95 for 4-5 day delivery or £8.34 for next day. Paper Spectrum also sell mounts with pre-cut apertures (www.paperspectrum.co.uk/pre-cut-500x400mm-picture-window-mounts-178-c.asp).

Some club members use Romsey Framing for mounts. They're based at Agincourt House, Manor Farm Lane, Michelmersh (not far from the Jubilee Hall) and charge £4 a mount. Email raglands@madasafish.com or phone 01794 368 994.

The Picture Framing Shop in Hiltingbury Road, Chandlers Ford will also supply and cut mount board to order. Email info@thepictureframingshop.com or phone [02380 261 611](tel:02380261611) for prices.

The Range (Winchester Road, Southampton) sells some pre-cut mounts which may or may not be suitable for your image size.

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