

# Fabric-covered Mats

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*Make your own beautiful matting for cherished photos or stitching, using fabrics and embellishments of your choice. Here's how to do it.*

## **You will need:**

**lightweight poster board, cut to the size of the frame you wish to use**  
**a piece of tightly-woven fabric, one inch larger all around than the size of the frame**

**spray adhesive**

**x-acto knife**

**scissors**

**a pencil**

**a ruler**

**a straight edge for cutting**

**white all-purpose glue**

**embellishments for decorating, if desired.**

**(Lace trim, satin ribbon, beads, ribbon or paper roses, etc.)**

## **Basic directions:**

In the center of the poster board, measure out and cut (with a straight edge and x-acto knife) a window to fit the dimensions of the piece you are framing, allowing slightly more space at the bottom, and even amounts of space on both sides.

Spray the front side of the poster board thoroughly with spray adhesive and let dry. Press the cotton fabric and lay it face down on a clean, flat surface. Center the poster board, glue side down, onto the back of the fabric. Turn over and firmly smooth out the fabric over the entire surface. (Avoid wrinkles and air bubbles by using a flat surface and carefully pressing the fabric first. If you do get an air bubble, prick it with a pin then smooth around the pin hole to push the air out.)

Placing the mat fabric side down, use a pencil or other marker and a straight edge to draw a big "X" from corner to corner on the back of the fabric through the window you cut. Cut along the "X" lines with scissors, right up to the corner of the mat window. Fold these flaps back, trim off the points, and glue to the back of the board. On the outside edges, fold the sides back and glue



to the back of the mat. Then fold over the top edge, folding in the corners as though wrapping a gift, and glue to the back of the mat. Avoid any bunching up at the creases. Then fold over the bottom the same way and glue. Decorate the front with ribbon roses, bows, beads, etc. Glue lace trim to the back behind the window for another nice touch. Be sure to let the glue dry thoroughly before placing the mat over your art.

***Decorating suggestions:*** black velveteen fabric with shiny square colored gem-style beads that are flat on the back; calico cotton fabric with lace trim, paper roses, and a satin bow; white sheer or lacy fabric with a lace trim and pearl-type beads, pink satin ribbon, and pink and rose ribbon roses.