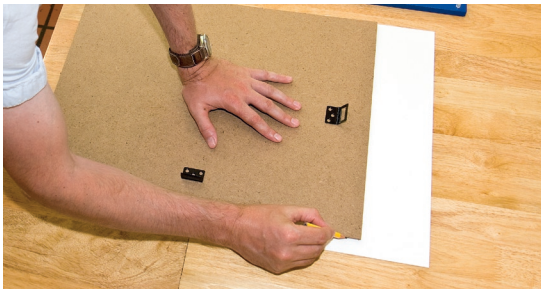


## STEP BY STEP Cut a professional mount



### Cut the mountboard to size

**1** Remove the backboard from the frame and line it up with the top and side edges of the reverse of the mountboard. Draw along the edges of the backboard with a pencil. Remove the backboard and slide the mountboard under the cutter's guide. Butt the board up against the right-angle stops at one end and line up the first pencil mark. Use the vertical cutter to trim off the excess, pushing away from you in a continuous motion.



### Measure up your print

**2** In order to work out the size of your window, you need to measure your print. For a print as big as A3, make sure your window is a good 1cm smaller (width and height) to allow for any measuring mishaps – this will allow an overlap of 5mm all the way around, making it easier to place the mountboard over the print at the end without having to line it up precisely.



### Size up the window

**3** Our trimmed board is 50cmx40cm, while our print is 41cmx29cm. This is a difference of 9cm vertically and 11cm horizontally, or 4.5cm top and bottom and 5.5cm at the sides. To ensure our window is smaller than our print, we need to mark out borders of 5cm and 6cm respectively. To do this, simply set the scale on the mount cutter to the relevant size, slide the mountboard under the guide so it butts up against the guide's edge and mark out each border.



### Know your limits

**4** Next, place the supplied mat under the guide – this provides a firm backing to ensure a smooth, clean cut. With the mountboard in place, place the bevel cutter on the rail (with the blade retracted), slide it along until the V on the cutter lines up with the marked line, and fix one of the 'stops' in place to prevent the cutter sliding any further. Do the same at the other end so that there are two stops at precisely the right distance apart.



### Cut it out

**5** Placing the bevel cutter against the stop nearest you, push down on the cutter's handle to engage the blade and push smoothly but firmly away from you in one continuous motion, until the blade reaches the far stop. Retract the blade and lift the cutter off, then spin the board round and repeat the process on the far side. Once you've done the two sides, reset the scale for the borders at the top and bottom and repeat the process.



### Frame at last

**6** If you've set the stops carefully and fully engaged the blade for each of your four cuts, the centre piece should simply drop out. All you need to do now is stick a small square of acid-free tape to two corners of the underside of your print, lay the mountboard window over the top, then press down firmly to secure it in place. Turn the board over and tape the remaining corners in place, then pop your mounted print into the frame. ■



### PhotoPlus Super Tip!

“ It's often a good idea to allow slightly more space at the bottom of your window than at the top. If the borders are the same height at the top and bottom, an optical illusion will make it look as if your image is sitting too low in the frame. Making the bottom border slightly higher than the top one counteracts this, and allows extra room for a title or signature, if required. ”



### PhotoPlus Super Tip!

“ There are all sorts of bevel cutters available and some are easier to use than others. We used the Trio cutting kit from Longridge ([www.longridge.co.uk](http://www.longridge.co.uk)) because it contains everything you need to get started, including a vertical cutter, a bevel cutter, spare blades, a calibrated cutting guide, a tape measure, a pencil and cutting mat. At around £325 it's not cheap, but it does produce perfect, hassle-free mounts in a matter of minutes, and will save you hours of frustration (not to mention wasted mountboard) if you plan to do a lot of picture framing. ”