

How to Cut a Bevelled Edge Window Mount using a Trio System



initial tips before starting:

1. Mount Cutters should always be placed on a strong firm work surface and be at a comfortable working height. If the System is used on a bendy trestle table for example, the table will flex as you cut and so the System will flex with it. The result will be a bowed cut.
2. Place the System at right angles in front of you – not across you. Your arm and shoulder should line up with the cutting edge so that each cut is one smooth movement of the upper body. Your position should be slightly to one side of the System, not with the System in the middle of your body.
3. Always work on the back of the mountboard – whether marking out or cutting with either the Vertical or Bevel Cutter.
4. When bevel cutting always insert the mountboard underneath the Guide Rail from the cutter side for each individual cut – if you don't the bevel edge will be inverted when you turn the cut window mount over on the front.

To Cut the Mountboard Sheet Down to Size

Set up the system on a firm work surface and remove the Trio Guide Rail. Take out the Cutter Stops, turn the Trio Guide Rail over, remove the Mount Stop by slackening the screw with the screwdriver and then unlock the cam. Now replace the Trio Guide Rail, set the parallelogram to maximum and insert the sheet of mountboard face down under the Trio Guide Rail and up to the Squaring Pins. Measure out the correct size using the tape measure. Remove the Safety Guard, hook the Vertical Cutter onto the Guide Rail and push away from you in one smooth action.



be positive – don't hesitate, otherwise the blade may flex resulting in a curve at the end

the blade is very sharp so always remember to replace the Safety Guard after each cut.

The groove in the Base accommodates the blade of the Vertical Cutter as it cuts. It is only for use with the Vertical Cutter – not the Bevel Cutter.

To Mark Out and Cut the Beveled Edge Window

The Bevel Cutter is used to produce the pleasing angled cuts which are the feature of quality picture mounts.

Set the parallelogram to the border width required using the narrow scale for borders up to 70mm or the wider scale for borders up to 130mm.

using the narrow scale.

Insert the Mount Stop into the back of the Trio Guide Rail at a comfortable cutting position, taking into account the size of the mount, but set the Mount Stop so that it does not interfere with the Z shaped plate. Place the Trio Guide Rail onto the Base. Slide the SprintMat under the Guide Rail, across the whole Base and up to the Squaring Pins.



using the SprintMat is essential when bevel cutting as the blade must cut into a supportive substrate to achieve a clean, accurate bevel cut

Slacken the central knob and using the black indicator line on the Z plate against the short scale, move the Z plate to the required border measurement and lock the knob. Now insert the mount blank face down under the Trio Guide Rail, on top of the SprintMat across to the leading edge of the Z plate and up to the Mount Stop. Mark out the four border lines using a pencil against the Trio Guide Rail edge.

a hard pencil, say 4H, helps produce the fine lines needed for accurate cutting.



Place the Bevel Cutter onto the Trio Guide Rail and insert the two Cutter Stops. Before cutting, line up the centre of the V with the finish line and lock the top stop; slide the cutter back and line up the centre of the V with the start line and lock the bottom stop.



the cutter stop is set by positioning the centre of the V on the intersecting line and then locking it in position

Place one hand on the Trio Guide Rail for your support and with the Bevel Cutter held firmly against the bottom stop with the other hand, place the palm so that it covers the top of the cutter, rotate the blade fully into the mountboard with the heel of your hand and then push the cutter to the other stop in one smooth action.



ensure the SprintMat always supports both the rail and cutter



Manually retract the blade fully and take the cutter off the Trio Guide Rail. The cutter stops of course remain set for the opposite long side (if cutting a rectangle and for the other three sides if cutting a square mount). Turn the mount around and repeat the cut. Reset the bottom stop and repeat for the shorter sides if cutting a rectangular mount.

In just a few minutes you will have produced a professional quality mount that will set off any photograph, painting or picture.



using the wider scale

If you wish to create a border wider than 70mm, place the SprintMat under the Trio Guide Rail and slide it across to the leading edge of the Z plate and up to the Squaring Pins. Insert the mount blank face down on top of the SprintMat but this time slide it right across to the back of the Z plate and up to the Mount Stop.

You are now ready to mark out the borders and cut the window aperture as before.



For larger mounts remove the Mount Stop and slide the mount blank up to the squaring pins instead

Trio Maxi guide rail



use both parrellograms in tandem for large mounts but only the parrellogram nearest to you for smaller sizes

To Mark Out the Window Border using the Marker Gauge

With the mountboard face down, mark out the window border in pencil to provide a cutting guide. Set the measurement of the Marker Gauge to the required width for the

border and draw four lines If you are cutting a dropped border (that is one where the border at the bottom is wider than at the top and sides), you will need to adjust the Marker Gauge to mark out the wider border.



place the mountboard on the worksurface just over the edge and keep the yellow block firmly up against the side of the mountboard when drawing the line

a hard pencil, say 4H, helps produce the fine lines needed for accurate cutting.

helpful hints when bevel cutting:

1. If you need to cut several same size mounts with the same borders then mark up a master copy as a template – do not cut the window aperture. The template is then used to set up the system without the need for any pencil lines.
2. To cut the occasional window aperture that is longer than the system will allow use the Trio Guide Rail off the base and without the Mount Stop. Cut the window part way, keep the blade and Bevel Cutter in position, slide the Trio Guide Rail through the cutter along the mount and then complete the full length of the cut. This is for the odd occasion only, needs care and a couple of practice runs to avoid a step in the bevel cut when the rail is moved along.
3. When bevel cutting a cutting substrate is essential otherwise the mount's surface paper will tear leaving a ragged edge. The cutting substrate for bevel cutting has in the past been a spare piece of mountboard – used by default, not by design. Mountboard is not the solution as the core is a random criss-cross of fibres which cause drag, resistance and distortion when bevel cutting; its surface is not flat so does not provide full support for the cutting line. The specifically designed SprintMat has all its fibres in the same direction as the cutting line and its especially laminated surface gives superb support- providing the perfect substrate for the blade to cut into – makes for cleaner more precise bevel edge windows with minimal effort
4. Typically the blade depth is approximately 3mm for standard thickness mountboard. However, you may need to make adjustments for different thicknesses; Conservation quality mountboard for example is slightly thicker. If you are over or under-cutting the corners this indicates the blade depth needs adjusting. For over-cutting (when a cut is showing beyond the corner on the front) turn the blade depth screw clockwise to reduce the cutting depth; for under-cutting (corner not releasing) turn the screw anti-clockwise to increase the cutting depth.
5. If you have a problem adjusting the cutting depth, it is easier to start with the blade depth set too shallow and then adjust it by very small increments until the corner drops out perfectly.
6. To begin with, try an equal sided mount. It is the mount that guides the eye into the action of the image, so wide borders are usually more effective than narrow, ribbon-like ones.
7. If the mount is to be fixed flat to the wall, whether in a frame or not, make the border the same width all around. But, if the picture is to be hung with a hook, the picture will tilt slightly so increase the bottom border width a little so that you overcome the illusion of a shorter looking bottom border – this is known as a dropped border.

Longridge Mountcutters are different – anything else is a compromise



Longridge, Shetlands House, Northclose Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XP, England
T: 07752 9293631 E: sales@longridge.co.uk W: www.longridge.co.uk

