

Frame It Yourself

- This method of framing can be done without special tools or equipment.
- The key is to **work in standard sizes** such as 16x20, 18x24, 24x36, etc.
- First determine the size of your photograph, for example 12x18. Then add 6 inches (for your mat width) to both dimensions to get your frame size. In this example your frame size would be 18x24.
- Michaels and other stores offer sectional aluminum frames which can be assembled with a screwdriver. You must purchase two packets, one for the long side and one for the short side. Using the example above purchase an 18 inch and a 24 inch package. The packages include the springs, hangers and the screw plates to secure the corners.
- There are many stores which offer single white mats in standard sizes. Be sure to get a mat with the appropriate mat width, in our example you want a 3 inch mat.
- You will also need foam board to mount the photograph on. If you cannot find it in a standard size, just cut it down with a utility knife and a T square.
- Mount your photograph on the foam board using a T hinge using filmoplast P-90 or archival framing paper tape. Milar clear photo corners will also work.
- Plexiglass can be purchased at Lowe's, they will cut it to the size you need. You must clean the plexiglass with a specially designed cleaner and a soft cloth. Plexiglass scratches easily so be careful.
- Clean the plexiglass on both sides. Place the matted photograph face down on the plexiglass. Assemble two sections of the frame on the photograph & screw the corner together. Then add the third leg of the frame, followed by the fourth section.
- Tip: When using black metal frames, color the ends of each section with a black magic marker so the unpainted aluminum does not show.
- Place the hangers on the two vertical sides about 1/3 of the way down from the top. Secure the wire thru the loops in the two hangers.
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