

FREE PDF GUIDE

FESTIVAL OF CRAFT  
GUIDE TO  
FRAMES  
& MOUNTS  
UK & USA

Sizes • Measurements • Tips



EVERYTHING  
YOU NEED TO  
CHOOSE THE  
PERFECT FRAME



STANDARD  
SIZES



MEASUREMENTS  
EXPLAINED



UK & USA  
COMPARISON



EXPERT  
TIPS

## FESTIVAL OF CRAFT GUIDE TO FRAMES AND MOUNTS/MATS

### UK and USA

When choosing a frame, there are three measurements to understand:

#### **Artwork or print size**

This is the size of the picture, print, photograph, certificate, textile sample or artwork.

#### **Mount size / mat size**

In the UK this is usually called a **mount**. In the USA it is usually called a **mat**. It is the card border that sits around the artwork.

#### **Frame size**

This usually refers to the size of the glass or backing board that fits inside the frame, not the outside edge of the frame. The outer frame will be slightly larger depending on the width of the frame moulding.

### UK Standard Frame Sizes

UK frames are often sold in both **metric sizes** and **inch sizes**. Common ready-made frame sizes include traditional photograph sizes, A-series paper sizes, and popular poster sizes.

### Common UK Photo Frame Sizes

<b>Print / Photo Size</b>	<b>Metric Approx.</b>	<b>Common Use</b>
6 x 4 in	15 x 10 cm	Standard snapshot photo
7 x 5 in	18 x 13 cm	Small portrait or gift photo
8 x 6 in	20 x 15 cm	Medium photo print
10 x 8 in	25 x 20 cm	Portraits, certificates, art prints
12 x 8 in	30 x 20 cm	Landscape photography
12 x 10 in	30 x 25 cm	Medium art print
16 x 12 in	40 x 30 cm	Larger photograph or artwork
20 x 16 in	50 x 40 cm	Large print or mounted artwork
24 x 20 in	60 x 50 cm	Large artwork
30 x 20 in	76 x 51 cm	Poster or panoramic photo

Standard UK photo sizes often include **6x4, 7x5, 8x6, 10x8, A4 and A3**, with frames generally measured by the inside aperture rather than the complete outer frame size.

## UK A-Series Frame Sizes

A-series paper sizes are very useful for art prints, certificates, posters, craft instructions and book illustrations. A-series frame sizing is widely used in the UK and Europe, especially for prints, posters and certificates.

<b>A Size</b>	<b>Metric Size</b>	<b>Inches Approx.</b>
A5	148 x 210 mm	5.8 x 8.3 in
A4	210 x 297 mm	8.3 x 11.7 in
A3	297 x 420 mm	11.7 x 16.5 in
A2	420 x 594 mm	16.5 x 23.4 in
A1	594 x 841 mm	23.4 x 33.1 in
A0	841 x 1189 mm	33.1 x 46.8 in

## Popular UK Ready-Made Frame Sizes

These are especially common in shops and online: IKEA UK, for example, lists **30x40 cm, 50x70 cm and 61x91 cm** among commonly chosen frame sizes.

<b>Frame Size</b>	<b>Good For</b>
20 x 25 cm / 8 x 10 in	Small prints and photographs
30 x 40 cm	A4 print with mount, or medium print
40 x 50 cm	A3-style artwork with mount
50 x 70 cm	Posters, larger prints
61 x 91 cm	Large posters

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## USA Standard Frame Sizes

In the UK this border is called a mount; in the USA it is usually called a mat.

In the USA, frame and mat sizes are usually given in **inches**. USA Frame and Mat Pairings. The mat opening is usually cut slightly smaller than the artwork so the picture does not fall through the opening.

## Common USA Frame Sizes

USA frame guides commonly pair **8x10 frames with 5x7 images**, **11x14 frames with 8x10 images**, and **16x20 frames with 11x14 images** when a mat is used.

<b>Frame Size</b>	<b>Common Artwork / Photo Size With Mat</b>
5 x 7 in	5 x 7 photo, usually no mat
8 x 10 in	5 x 7 photo with mat, or 8 x 10 without mat
11 x 14 in	8 x 10 photo with mat
12 x 16 in	8 x 12 or 9 x 12 artwork
16 x 20 in	11 x 14 photo or artwork with mat
18 x 24 in	Posters, prints, certificates
20 x 24 in	16 x 20 print with mat
24 x 36 in	Large poster or 20 x 30 print with mat
30 x 40 in	Large artwork or exhibition print

## USA Frame and Mat Pairings

<b>Image Size</b>	<b>Mat Opening Approx.</b>	<b>Frame Size</b>
5 x 7 in	4.5 x 6.5 in	8 x 10 in
8 x 10 in	7.5 x 9.5 in	11 x 14 in
11 x 14 in	10.5 x 13.5 in	16 x 20 in
16 x 20 in	15.5 x 19.5 in	20 x 24 in
20 x 30 in	19.5 x 29.5 in	24 x 36 in
22 x 32 in	21.5 x 31.5 in	30 x 40 in

## Mounts and Mats: Important Notes

A mount or mat gives the artwork breathing space. It also helps stop the artwork touching the glass, which is useful for photographs, prints, textile samples and delicate paper.

<b>Artwork Size</b>	<b>Suggested Border</b>	<b>Common Mount Border Widths for a more professional look, many framers make the <b>bottom border slightly deeper</b> than the top and sides. This is called <b>bottom weighting</b>. It helps the</b>
Small photo, 6 x 4 or 7 x 5 in	1 to 2 in	
8 x 10 in print	1.5 to 2.5 in	
A4 artwork	40 to 60 mm	
A3 artwork	50 to 80 mm	
Large artwork	70 to 100 mm or more	

<b>UK Term</b>	<b>USA Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Mount	Mat	Card border around the artwork
Aperture	Opening	The cut-out window in the mount/mat
Backing board	Backing board	Board behind the artwork
Frame rebate	Rabbet	The inner ledge that holds glass, mount and backing
Picture frame	Picture frame	The frame itself

artwork look visually balanced once it is hanging on the wall.

## How to Choose the Right Frame Size

A simple rule is: **Artwork size + mount border = frame size**

## Quick Reference: Best Frame Choices

<b>Artwork / Print Size</b>	<b>UK Frame Suggestion</b>	<b>USA Frame Suggestion</b>
6 x 4 in photo	8 x 6 in or 10 x 8 in with mount	8 x 10 in with mat
7 x 5 in photo	10 x 8 in with mount	8 x 10 in with mat
8 x 10 in print	12 x 10 in, 14 x 11 in or 40 x 30 cm	11 x 14 in with mat
A5 print	A4 frame with mount	8 x 10 or 11 x 14 in
A4 print	30 x 40 cm or 40 x 50 cm	12 x 16 or 16 x 20 in
A3 print	40 x 50 cm or 50 x 70 cm	18 x 24 or 20 x 24 in
A2 print	50 x 70 cm or larger	24 x 36 in
Poster	50 x 70 cm, 60 x 80 cm, 61 x 91 cm	18 x 24, 24 x 36 in