

(This is taken from emails.)

Hi all,

I have had a couple of people ask me about framing your scrolls to protect them. Here are a few options, most expensive to least expensive.

You should use a mat between the glass and your scroll as the paints we use here in AZ are water based and can absorb moisture during the rainy season and the paint can stick to the glass. That can ruin the piece if you ever do want to take it out of the frame.

1) If you have the money, I recommend going to a professional frame shop. I use Nick's, on the North East corner of the I-17 and Northern (by Marie Calander's) here in Phoenix for my professional art. Nick is the owner and one of the framers, he's been in the business for over 20 years and does a wonderful job. All of his framers are great! They really take their time to match the art and the mat with the frame and your personal tastes. They are the place that other frame shops and chain stores take their really tough stuff or mess ups to fix. Once you start going there, and spend over a certain amount, you get a permanent discount on all of you framing. I just can't say enough good stuff about this specific shop.

Embroiderers: Nick's is also an expert at framing needle crafts.

Sports collectors: Also good at shadow boxes and framing memorabilia.

2) If you have slightly less moolah, then I'd say take it to Michael's or another art supply store that does framing. They won't be as good as a dedicated frame shop, but usually once the piece is on your wall you really can't tell.

3) If you have just enough money to buy an off the shelf frame and mat at a store like Michael's, but don't want to or can't cut the mat yourself, you can have the frame department cut the mat for you. Yes, they will charge you for the cut, but it's better than loosing a finger or ruining your mat, and I think it's \$10.00 or less for the cut. Take your scroll in to the store with you if you're having them cut the mat so they can get the correct measurements off the piece.

4) If you don't have a lot of money and want to put it in some kind of frame, then I'd get one of the front-loading (the glass pops off the front type) frames at Michael's or another art store to put it in for safe keeping until you can afford a better frame. (Most of the scrolls I have are in these frame without mats. Yes, yes, I know, I'm not taking my own advice, but I also don't intend on taking them out of the frames.) The standard scroll size we give out will fit (with a little room left over) in an 11 x 14 inch frame. You can put a thin mat in these frames as well.

5) If you don't want to put them in a frame at all, but still want them protected, you can always go buy a portfolio case or a presentation book. These are both available at Jerry's Art-a-ramma here in Tempe (literally just South of the US-60 on Rural/Scottsdale Rd on the East side of the street, from the 60, once you get across the freeway, turn at the 1st

traffic light, the shop is at the back of the mini-mall, and the cases and books are to the right as you go in the door). Jerry's has them at extremely good prices and sometimes you can find them on sale for even better prices!

If anyone has another way and price point, please let me know about it.

I hope you all find something that works for you!

Thanks,

THL Hrefna karsefni

Great advice! As a former pro framer, I would have only a couple of other suggestions:

- 1) If your budget allows-use acid free matting as the acid in the paper of the regular matting will eventually stain your scroll
- 2) You may also frame the scroll without matting (though it looks better with) and add spacers to the glass. The plastic spacers are 1/8" to 1/4" thick and snap right onto the glass edge. Your framer will guide you to a thicker channeled frame to allow for this. It's a cool shadow box-ish effect without the cost of a shadow box and it allows room between the artwork and the glass.
- 3) When hanging your framed works of art, be sure and take moisture into consideration. Hanging them opposite a swamp cooler vent will lead to a warped scroll and mat. And though it's tempting-never ever hang them in your bathroom :)

Lady Melissa of Monster Hall