

VIEWFINDER

March 2009

Comments and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to:

Peter Odds, 8 Kiln Ride, Wokingham, Berks., RG40 3JL Tel: 0118 9782619 e-mail: p2odds@googlemail.com

Hello Everyone,

First, I would like to say welcome to those new members who have recently joined. I hope you enjoy being members of the club and we look forward to seeing your photographic work.

Our membership numbers are the highest they have ever been and whilst we welcome the new members we have to recognize that an enlarged membership brings its own constraints e.g. meetings can become crowded, the time needed for viewing and judging the competition entries and the coffee break, can all become extended. With the increased numbers we need to start on time at 8.00 pm. So far this has worked out all right, but, if you can, please come to the meetings by 7.45 and help with getting the equipment out. Bob Picton is in charge of preparing our display equipment and welcomes your assistance. After all none of us are getting any younger! Coming early also means you will get the seat of your choice!

I would like to suggest that any member who has not yet entered one of our competitions, please consider doing so soon. I am a firm believer that to get the best out of an organisation such as ours, you need to participate in the different events such as the competitions. You will learn a lot from preparing your entry and from the comments and mark given by the judge on the competition evening. If you need information or advice on club and photographic topics, do ask one of the Committee Members, who are listed on your Membership Card, or ask one of the other members for advice. For instance, I am often asked about print mounting for competitions. The problems of knowing what to do may stop someone entering a print competition. So I have added an article on simple print mounting at the end of this Viewfinder and it will also be on the web site for future reference. If you have doubts as to how to do print mounting, have a look at the article, it might help you.

As the digital world moves on so must we. The latest change takes place in September this year. From September, slides are to be replaced with projected digital image (PDI) competitions in the Southern Photographic Federation inter-club competitions and we will be following suit for our internal competitions. As we have already introduced our own PDI competition, the change will not be too difficult, but we will have to revise the club rules and may have to revise how to prepare entries.

On a different subject, Bob Picton tells me that one of his entries in the Royal Horticultural Society photographic competition has attracted the attention of the Medici greeting card producers who are offering him a three year contract for the use of his image. Well done Bob.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Kim Tomlin and Paul Hampton on becoming Southern Photographic Federation Judges. I understand that they recently attended a Judging Seminar in Basingstoke and having employed their judging skills on a number of test prints, were appointed judges. This is very good news for the club as we need talented people to help us maintain our place in the photographic community.

Peter Odds, Chairman.

WEBCC Web Site and Forum

Have you set up your gallery on the web site yet? Do consider up-loading your photographs. All you have to do is send your photos to Paul Hampton and he will be pleased to set up your exclusive gallery of pictures. What about the forum? It was only at the end of November last year that I asked Paul Hampton whether it would be difficult to set up a forum for club member discussions. The next day I had an e-mail letting me know that he had already set up a forum discussion group using a Google facility - thanks Paul.

Summer Challenge 2009

Last year we introduced the Summer Challenge and it proved very popular with 20 members taking part. For the benefit of new members, the idea is that teams of four people, chosen randomly from all the members willing to participate, choose a theme and produce four prints on that theme for display and judging by an outside judge, at the first meeting of the new season on the 11th September.

This is intended to be a fun thing and is not part of our normal range of activities, but, it needs as many members as possible to take part, so I hope you will all allow your names to go forward.

Please send me an e-mail as soon as possible, to p2odds@googlemail.com with your agreement to take part in the Challenge.

The Teams and Themes

The teams will not be pre-arranged. The names of all the members willing to have a participate, will be drawn in groups of four at the meeting on the 23rd April. This should give ample time before the summer break for the different teams to meet and consult each other about their theme. The choice of theme is your group's to make They can be anything, whatever takes your fancy, but, cannot be the same as the themes chosen at the AGM for the two Quarterly Competitions.

Print Presentation and Marking

The prints are to be judged as a group of four; preferably one for each member of the team. Each group of four should have a group title. The titles and authors' names of the individual prints should be on the back as per our usual practice. The prints are to be no larger than A4 so that they can be produced by the average domestic ink jet printer, and mounted on suitable card. Showing these prints does not preclude them being used in the normal way for other club competitions. Each print will be marked out of 10. An additional mark will be awarded for each individual author who produces a print for his team i.e. four prints and four authors equals four extra points, four prints and only three authors then only three extra points etc. maximum team points being 44.

Diary Reminders

2nd April - Joint Photographic Clubs of Reading (JPRC) 'Battle'

Six clubs form the JPRC they are WEBCC, Whitchurch Hill, South Reading, Woodley, Burghfield, Goring & Streatley. In the 'battle'/competition each club has five print and five PDI entries. Pam Loft and I have chosen our entries from the best marked prints and PDIs over the last few competitions. This year the hosts for the 'Battle' are Burghfield. WEBCC Members whose work is included in our entry are: Mike Holderness, Ron Simpson, John Drew, Rodney Hart, Brian Burden, Kim Tomlin, Tony Hayward and Peter Odds. Should any member wish to attend the competition please contact Pam Loft.or Peter Odds.

23rd April Projected Digital Image Competition

The requirements for the preparation of images will be as in our previous PDI competitions. New members should view the detailed instructions for preparing images on our website.

14th May

- 1) 4-Print Competition: Literally four prints on a theme mounted on a single board. Everyone can have a go. You decide the theme. Titles are allowed on the front of the board. Member details on the back.
- 2) Best of the Best 2007/8 WEBCC competitions: This is to find the best of all the qualifying entries i.e. prints and slides, that achieved scores 9.5+ during last year.

Simple Print Mounting

by

Peter Odds,

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This treatise sets out to describe the steps to simply face mount photographs on cardboard using an adhesive as opposed to cutting 'mats' and inserting the photo behind the board. There are several things you should take into account such as the photograph, the board, its colour, the adhesive and the tools you need.

The Photograph

If your photograph is home processed on an ink jet printer. Try to, allow 24 hours for the print to dry properly. Unless it is properly dry the print surface can become damaged when handling it.

The Mounting Board

Choose the board colour carefully. The right colour can enhance a picture. Whilst this is a matter of taste, you will often hear a judge remark on the picture mount and whether it compliments the picture. A poorly produced mount can draw adverse comments and may even affect the final mark

For even small prints the board should be at least two millimetres thick. One can either buy a large board typically measuring say, 84 cm x 59 cm (33" x 23.5") and cut it down to size, or buy a pack of ready cut boards. Cutting large boards down to smaller sizes is not straightforward. If you are new to mounting photos I suggest you consider using a ready cut board such as the ones supplied by Firstcall Photographic (see below for further details).

However, if you are planning to enter the '4-Prints on a theme' competition depending on the size of your photographs you may need to buy a large board.

The Adhesive

I recommend 3M Spray Mount and buy mine in 400ml spray tins. The advantage is that it sprays the adhesive evenly and if you need to re-position the print when you are sticking it down you can. Do not expect to do this ad infinitum. Aim to put the print in the right place to start with.

The Tools

A firm flat surface on which to work is essential. You will probably need to trim your picture. Assuming that you are working on an A4 or smaller sized photographs, to do this you will need a 305 mm (12") flat steel rule (anything but steel will easily become cut) and a craft knife,. Ideally, you will also have a 600mm x 450 mm self-sealing cutting mat. However, you could use several layers of newspaper, thick enough for the knife blade not to penetrate to the surface beneath. To do the mounting you will also need a pencil and a soft cloth. Lastly, have some white spirit and a cloth handy to clean up any excess adhesive. If you using the large boards, and have to cut them, you will need a long 92 cm (36") straight metal, preferably steel, flat rule (not an extending rule).

The Method

Look closely at your picture and trim away any excess white edging or indeed any unnecessary foreground or sky that might detract from the visual impact of the main subject. Whether landscape or portrait shape, the picture has to be placed centrally on the mounting board. Measure the width of the picture and compare it with the width of the board. Work out a position for the print that will give you an even border on each side. As a general rule try not to have borders that are less than 2.5 cms wide otherwise the picture will look cramped. For large prints a more generous border will look better. Carefully put two pencil guide dots alongside which, the print will be placed. If you are right-handed they will be on the left border. Next, choose a top border width that will give you a top

border slightly smaller than the bottom boarder. Again mark the top print edge position with two small guide dots. Put the print into position and check that the guide dots are in the right place to put the picture in the centre of the horizontal axis.

Next we have to apply the adhesive. A light spray should be applied up and down and across the picture making sure that the corners are well covered. As the spray can get everywhere, I tend to do this outside, using a clothes peg to hold the photo against a folded newspaper. After say, the up and down spraying I move the peg and do the across spraying to ensure that everywhere is covered. Do not attempt to mount the picture on the board for 30 – 45 seconds to give a chance for the adhesive to go 'off'. After this resting pause, it is possible to put one's fingers on the sticky side with out too much coming off. Align the print with the pencil guide dots and smooth the print down with the soft cloth. Job done! Should any of the adhesive find its way onto the print surface with some inks it is possible to wipe it away with a soft cloth and white spirit without damage. But, try it on another print first in case it has the effect of removing the ink as well as the adhesive.

Enhancements

To improve the appearance of the finished work some people like to mount the print onto a thin white card or even paper and then trim off the excess card/paper to leave say, a two to three millimetre border to the picture. In this case it is easiest to put the photo any where on the white card/paper without bothering too much regarding its position as you are going to trim off the excess card/paper. The colour of the edging could also be chosen to improve the appearance of the print. The print with its edging is then pasted on the mounting board using the method above. Some think that whilst white and other colour boarders can be applied in the photographic processing, doing it as described enhances the overall appearance.

Where to buy large size mounting board?

In the local area I suggest that you look at Bookends in Wokingham (rather a small choice), The Print Room in Bracknell (also a small choice), Hobbycraft in Reading and one you may not be familiar with, Creative world, The Bishop Centre, Taplow SL6 0NX who have a fairly wide selection of boards and colours.

Where to buy cut mounting board?

Have a look at www.firstcallphotographic.co.uk as mentioned above. I do not have any interest in them but, they offer a good deal. They say:

We have re-launched our range of inexpensive board this year.... Our unique range of double sided board allows you a twin colour choice to make the most of your mounting budget. The colour options are white/cream, grey/black or olive green/brown.

Packed in 10's, we have extended the sizes available too. We can offer board in 10 x12, 12 x16, 16 x20 and 20 x24 inch sizes. As the usual way to mount board is to allow a 1 inch border around the print this means that paper sizes of 8 x 10, 10 x 12, 12 x 16 or 16 x 20 inches will be perfectly presented.

The best thing about our mounting board this year though is that we have re-negotiated our contract with the British manufacturer allowing us to do a 3-for-2 deal on all sizes. Simply buy two of the same size board and we will give you the third pack FREE.