

# Framing Pastel Artwork Without Spacers or Mat

Presented 11/8/2017 at WPA Member Meeting by Kathy Kamin

This is a method for framing art painted on acrylic-primed Gator Board, which is a moisture-resistant, acid-free board. Pastels painted on other papers can also be framed this way, as long as it is backed with an acid-free, moisture-resistant board.

## Supplies Needed:

- Your completed art
- Frame for the size of your art
- Frame points
- Glass, the size of your art
- Acid-free, archival clear tape
- Acid-free foam board, cut to the size of your art (if needed)
- Acid-free backing paper, cut to the size of your frame's back
- Acid-free double sided tape
- Hanging wire & hardware

1. Complete your painting on the primed Gatorboard allowing 1/4" to 3/8 " around the edge which is a continuation of your background, but not crucial to your composition, as it will be hidden once put into the frame.
  - a. For example, in a 5 x 7 frame, the 5 x 7 dimension refers to the opening in the back of the frame. The actual opening will be approximately 5 3/16 x 7 3/16".
2. Clean your glass with a microfiber cloth or your cleaner of choice.
  - a. Rita recommended Spray-way Glass Cleaner from Walmart as an ammonia-free cleaner that reduces static.
3. Place your clean, dry glass directly on top of your pastel painting.
4. Using a small piece of tape, apply 1/8-inch on the top front of the glass and wrap it over the edge of the glass and onto the back of the art. Repeat on 2-4 sides to anchor the glass to the art and make it stable and keep all layers straight. Check the art from the front – is it straight?
  - a. If your art is on paper, sandwich it between the glass and a piece of acid-free, moisture resistant backer cut to the same size and anchor 2-4 sides in the same way.
5. Cut tape to the length of top of your glass/art, and apply it approximately 1/8" down on the top front of the glass.
6. Wrap the tape tight over the edge of the glass and the Gatorboard, securing it smoothly onto the back. Trim the corners neatly.
7. Repeat on the other 3 sides, making sure there is some overlap on the corners.

- a. You are making an air & moisture tight package out of your art & the glass. This will protect it from humidity and handling.
8. Place your glass/art into the frame. Check it from the front to make sure it looks good.
9. Add acid-free foam board if necessary to ensure a snug fit.
10. Insert frame points or press existing frame points flat against the back of your art backing.
11. Apply acid-free backing paper using acid-free double-sided tape around the edges of the frame.
12. Install hanging wire & hardware.
13. Attach your WPA entry labels – and Congratulations! Your art is ready to hang in the next WPA show!

Materials listed below are what Rita Kirkman uses:

Gatorboard 3/16" thick, white –

- available from Blick's, & other online sources – be sure it has Gator in the name

Art Glass Water White

- I purchased this glass from [framedestination.com](http://framedestination.com)
- Prices for the Art Glass Water White varied depending upon the size & quantity ordered – as an example, a single 6x6 glass was \$6.37. Four pieces of 6x6 were \$6.11 each.
- Felt their frames were reasonable as well – 8x10 wood frame (2" wide, black) including the Art Glass Water White, framing points, backing, & hanging hardware was \$27.56.
- I found them to be a great resource on framing, very easy online ordering, & helpful over the phone. If you are new to framing, check out their Resources tab – their guides & FAQs are very helpful!

J-Lar Super Clear Tape – Shurtape is the manufacturer

- 1" x 72 yard roll
- Purchased on Amazon for about \$12.00 per roll plus shipping.

I purchased the following at Michaels (love those coupons!)

Acid-free foam board

Canson Black Drawing Paper – acid free, for covering the back of the framed art

(Materials & method from a workshop given by Rita Kirkman, July, 2017)