

Picture Frame *The FrameCo Way!*

Selecting the "right" colour, size, and shape of the moulding for your picture can be quite a problem. However there are a few rules which may help make the job easier.

Colour

There are two types of picture frame moulding, natural finish and manufactured or pre-finished with stains, wax, limed or gold and silver leafed.

Our Suggestion for the DIY (Do It Yourself) framer is to use pre-finished moulding. They are available in a great variety, and it is difficult to duplicate professional finished mouldings. They are usually made of better quality timbers and are well priced in comparison to finishing moulding yourself.

Most professionally finished mouldings are made from timbers such as Obeche, Ramin or Pine. These cut and join well, and are soft to medium hardness. Ash and Oak have a more pleasing grain and therefore are ideal for lime-waxing or natural staining, but are very hard and are more difficult to work with. **Usually the plainer the finish the more the moulding stands out!** So go for mouldings with several paint and wash finishes as these will appear less prominent. You also then have a chance to match a colour in the picture.

Size & Shape

Like plain, solid coloured finishes, **a moulding with some shape to it will appear less than a flat plain moulding.** So go for a moulding with some beading, slope, curve or angle in the design (see fig. 1). These break up the surface and make it appear smaller. "If you do your job properly you should not see what you do at all" . . . more often the plainer the moulding the more it stands out! Frame for the picture and not for your personal taste or to match a colour scheme. **A flat backed moulding is much easier to apply clamps to, so avoid deep reversed mouldings with a small back surface, no matter how good they might look.** (see fig. 2).



fig.1



fig.2

Mouldings with some shape to the profile and multi layered finishes and washes will appear smaller, and you will make less mistakes with these. It is usually harder to put too big a moulding on a picture than one too small!

WIDE, FLAT & HARD

The wider the moulding, the flatter it is and the harder the timber, the more impossible it is to cut and join successfully. Avoid these pitfalls. They may appeal to you, but you will not obtain a satisfactory join.

The question of the aesthetic balance is hard and much depends on the eye of the beholder. By trying various mouldings against the image and the chosen mount board colour, you will be able to pick the "right" moulding.

Do this with the item to be framed with you, and never try to hold the colour and design in your head, selecting something from memory.

How to Buy Moulding?

Mouldings are usually sold in 1.8 to 3m (6ft to 9ft) lengths, from specialist art shops, picture framers, or a builders' merchant. You can purchase these by the length or cut to size if the supplier offers such a service. This is called a 'chop' service, and is a good way to get started. A chop service can be mitred to the exact size or square cut so that you do the final mitre cut.

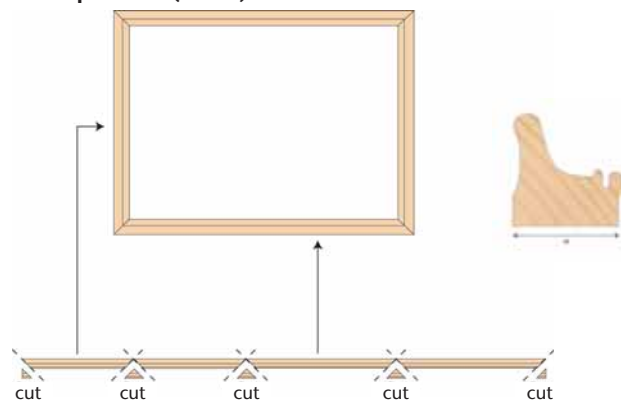
FrameCo offers a chop service on all our mouldings and this is a good way to get started without a saw and measuring system.

How to Measure your Frame?

There is a simple formula for calculating the length of moulding required to build a frame to fit your picture. Add the length (L) to the height (H) of the picture, double this sum, then add ten times the width (W) of the moulding being used. This takes care of the waste generated by making 8 mitre cuts, plus a small margin for error.

Before you cut - you must allow a small amount of clearance or play so that your picture fits into the frame easily - so add 3 mm (1/8") to the length of each side - a total of 12mm or 1/2".

Total Required = (L + H) x 2 + 10 x Width of the Moulding



A Chart calculating the amount of moulding required is shown on page 41.