

# Float Mounting

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A spectacular and dimensional finishing effect can be achieved by floating a completed embroidery on an elegant background created of richly textured matt board, luxurious fabric, delicate Japanese paper or a layered combination of fabric, paper and/or matt board. A similar technique is used by conservationists to mount delicate pieces of lace, collars and old samplers for display.



Tranquility, a small kimono design, has been finished as a dimensional form, backed with a lining fabric and suspended from a gold chopstick mounted on a background of silk matt board and framed in a shadow box. By placing the kimono behind the frame, an interesting three-dimensional effect is created by the shadows that form along the edges of the kimono and frame as the direction of the light source changes.

Autumn Maples, a much larger kimono, has been backed and lined with fabric, suspended from a pair of mahogany chopsticks and mounted on a green silk fabric. The design is framed in a simple mahogany frame to coordinate with the chopsticks. In this method, the kimono is brought forward, appearing level with the frame, and creating a more subdued effect.



## Procedure...

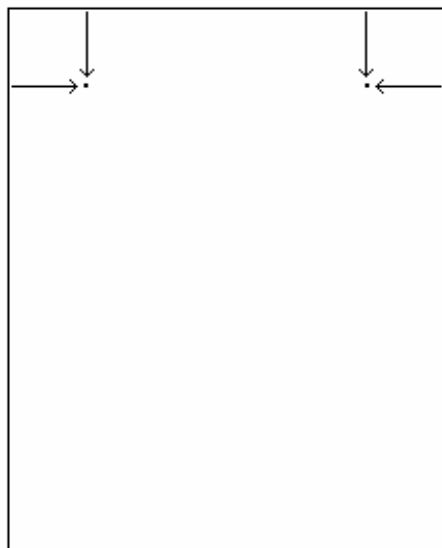
Choose a silk or textures matt board as the backing for your embroidery or attach a piece of silk and/or paper to a piece of matt board or foam core. Where ever possible, use acid free materials.

Lace or dry mount the backing fabric onto a matt or foam core board. Attach a dowel, chopstick or decorative rod to the back of the embroidery, by running it through a rod pocket sewn to the back of the embroidery. Center the embroidery and dowel on the fabric covered matt.

Use a pencil to mark the position for attaching the dowel at the top left and right edges of the matt board, as shown in Diagram A below. The rod should be attached approximately 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch inside the design area so that the anchoring stitches do not show. Use a large eye tapestry needle to a single hole through the matt board at the pencil marks. Diagram B shows a side view of the mounting method used for the kimono.

Place a button at the back of the matt board directly in line with the hole. Cut a long length of strong, medium weight thread, such as single strand of #5 perle cotton. Leaving a long tail, carry the thread from one hole in the button, through the matt board to the right side of the canvas, looping over the dowel, then back through the matt board, exiting out of a second hole in the button. Tie the ends securely with a double knot.

Repeat with the other side of the dowel, making sure that the top edge of the design is parallel to the top edge of the matt board before knotting the second pair of ends. Mount the matt into a frame.



A



B

A similar effect can be achieved using a finished embroidery that is either square or rectangular, as shown in Harlequin. In this design, the embroidery was lined and finished as a miniature rug, with large brass and antique glass beaded tassels suspended along the lower edge, and mounted onto a piece of black suede matt before framing.



First, center the finished design onto the matt board in the final position in which it will hang. Place a large tapestry needle into a canvas hole on the left edge of the design, just inside the design area. In this design, I used a canvas hole at the inner corner of the pink mitered border on the outside edge. Poke a hole through the matt board to mark the corner. Punch another hole near the center point and a final one at the opposite corner. These three holes are anchoring points that will secure the embroidery to the matt board.

Run a long, single strand of a coordinating thread through bees wax, then thread onto a tapestry needle. Leaving a long tail, carry the thread through the matt board to the right side of the embroidery. Take a “stitch” over a single horizontal canvas thread before taking the needle back through the matt board to the reverse side. Carry the thread across the back of the matt board and repeat the process with the anchoring points at the center and opposite corner of the embroidery.

To secure the tails, bring each tail to the center anchoring point on the reverse side. Bring each tail up into a separate hole in a small button and secure with a double knot.

This method is suitable for small embroideries and/or pieces that are fairly light weight. For larger pieces, you will need to adjust the number of anchoring points so that the top edge of the embroidery will not sag or attach with a rod or dowel using the methods previously outlined.