

MATTING YOUR PHOTOS

Jacksonville Camera Club
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WHY MAT A PHOTO?

- Maintain air space between glass and image
- Create visual space for the image
- Enhance the decorative function of an image

TOPICS

- How will the photo be displayed?
- Choosing a Board
- Choosing a Size
- Pre-Cut Option
- Cutting Your Own Mats

CHOOSING A MAT

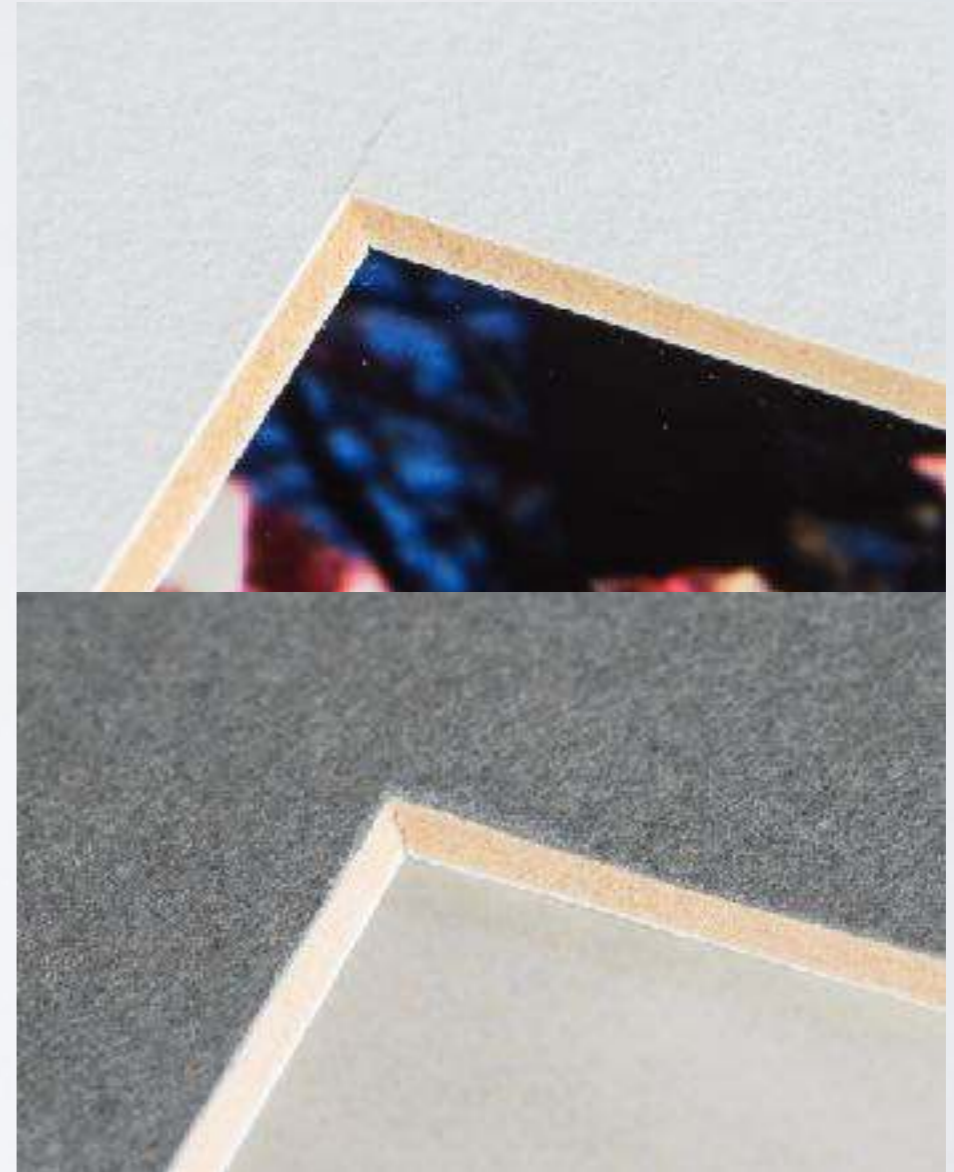
- Is the image a work of art or a decoration?
 - Artwork should have a plain mat that draws the eye to the image
- Part of a set or series?
- Single image?
 - Focal point for a wall or room
 - For sale
- Temporary or reconfigurable installation?
- Is the image irreplaceable? Ansel Adams original? digital print?

EXAMPLES



ARCHIVAL MAT BOARD

- Mat Quality - caveat emptor
 - Cheap and Cheerful
 - Conservation, Archival, Museum Quality
- Look for specific features
 - Lignin Free, 100% Alpha Cellulose, Buffered
 - Photographic Activity Test and Other ISO Standards
- For excellent longevity choose 100% alpha-cellulose e.g. Bainbridge Alphamat or Crescent Select
- For max longevity choose 100% rag, e.g. Bainbridge Alphasag or Crescent RagMat



CHOOSING A SIZE

- Even or Uneven Borders
- Centered or Off-Center
- Broad or Narrow
- Optically Centered







GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Top edge at least as wide as sides
- For larger images the image should occupy at least half the vertical and horizontal dimensions
- 4 inch max width for larger images $>11 \times 15$
- For a smaller image ($<8 \times 10$) a large mat can make it seem larger
- Optical Centering - mostly for purists
 - Bottom edge is slightly wider than top edge

OPTICAL CENTERING TOOL

<http://www.russellcottrell.com/photo/centering.htm>

mount - width: 16 height: 211

print - width: 8 height: 10

preserve aspect ratio

space inside mat: 3/8

frame rabbet width: 3/8

top mat width: 4 1/4

optically centered window print

equal top and sides

vertically centered

custom top mat width

draw | rotate area ratio = 3.32 Φ^2

mat ratio = 0.29

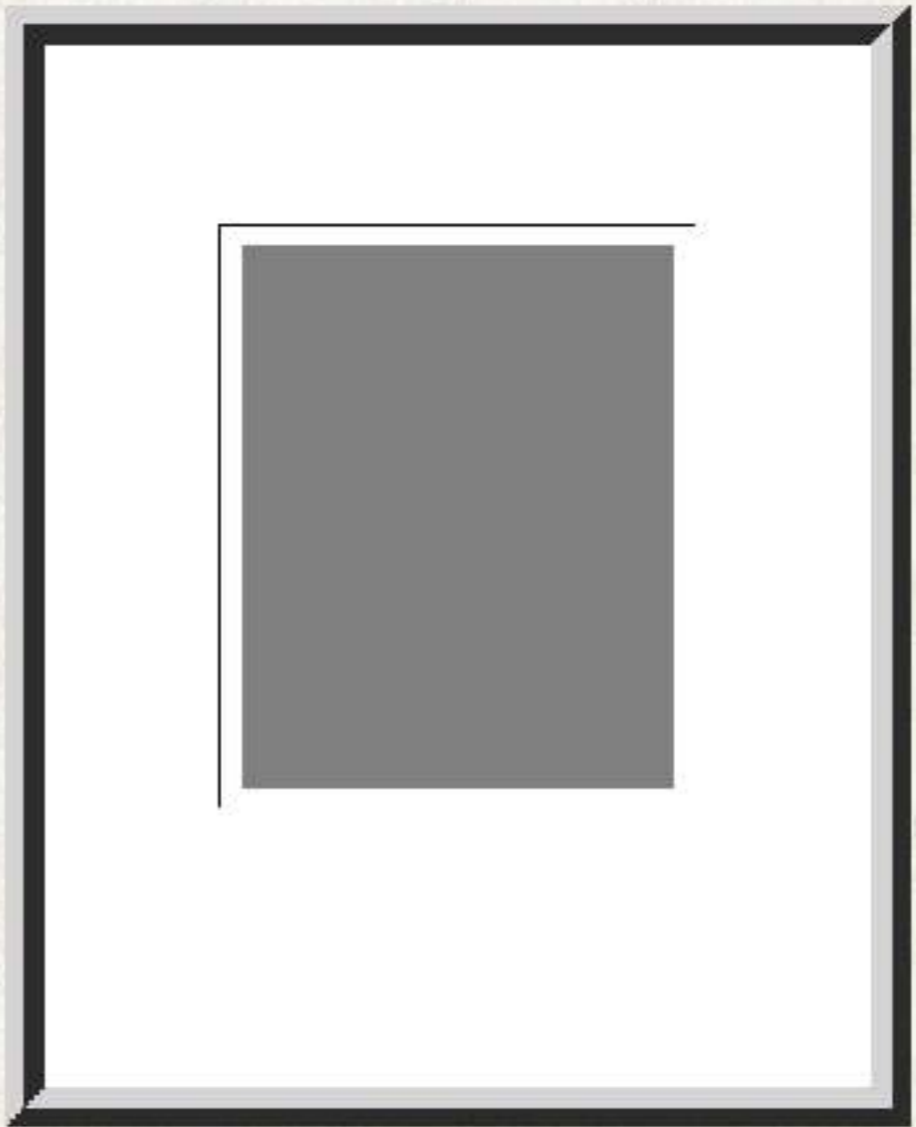
calculate: mount size | print size mat ratio

mount size, equal top and sides

fractions decimals

[undo](#) | [redo](#) | [reset](#)

scale the display:



print position - from the top: 4 1/8-

from the sides: 4

mat widths - top: 3 3/4-

sides: 3 5/8

bottom: 5 1/2+

fractions decimals inches to cm

BUYING PRE-CUT

- Be wary of generic, in house, brands
- Expect to pay \$10-20 for top quality precut (16x20 size)
- Example sources lodima.org americanframe.com

CUTTING YOUR OWN MATS

- Why???
- Save up to 50% over pre-cut
- Meet a last minute need, e.g. print competition
- How?
- Mat board in bulk available in standard sizes or in 32x40 sheets
- At local art framing shop or online e.g. lodima.org americanframe.com
lightimpressionsdirect.com gaylord.com
- Low cost mat cutters available for <\$100, e.g. Logan

CUTTING YOUR OWN MATS



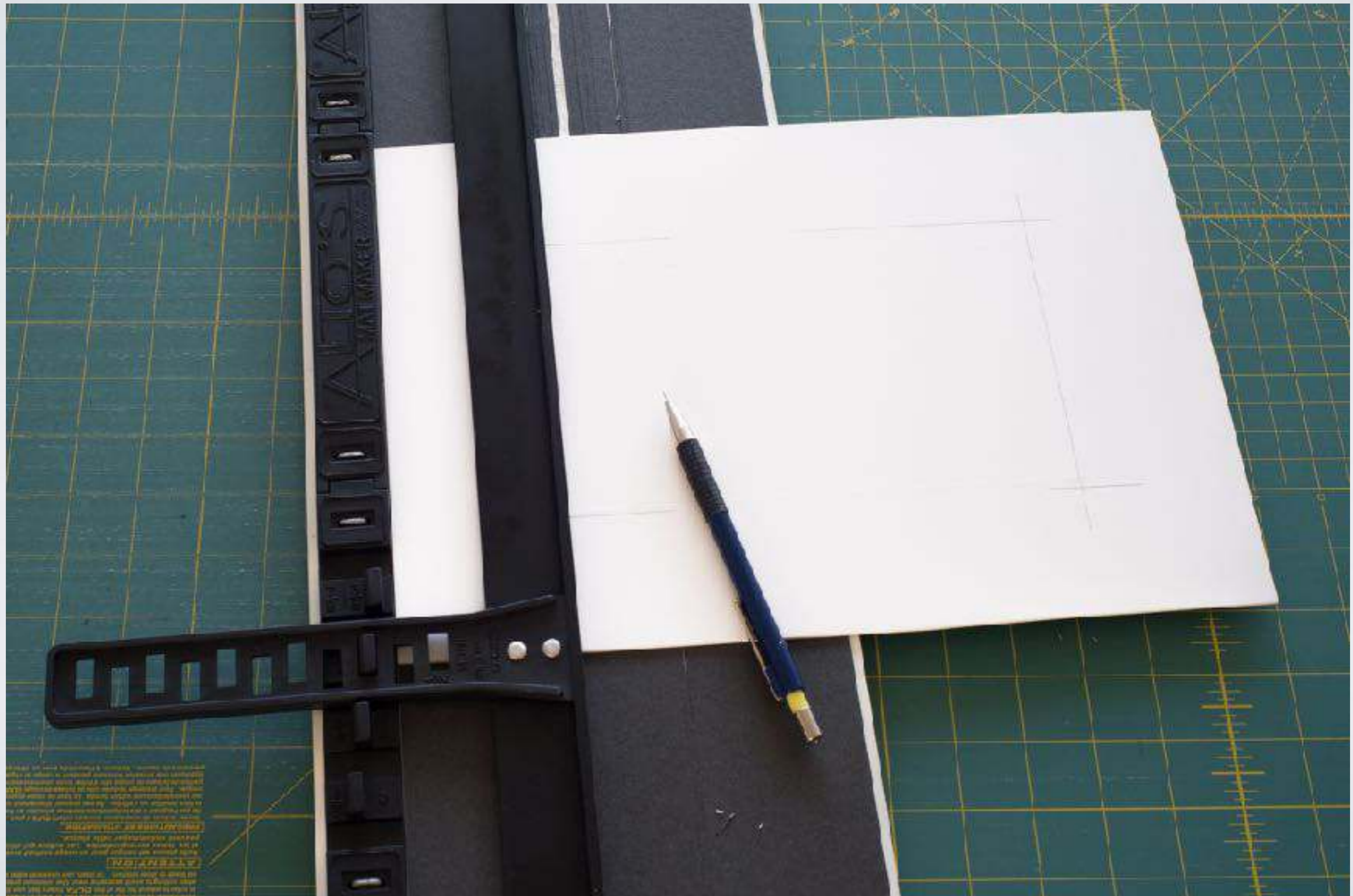
CALCULATIONS

Mat Size	11	9
Opening Size	6.5	4.5
Subtract	4.5	4.5
Divide by 2	2.25	2.25

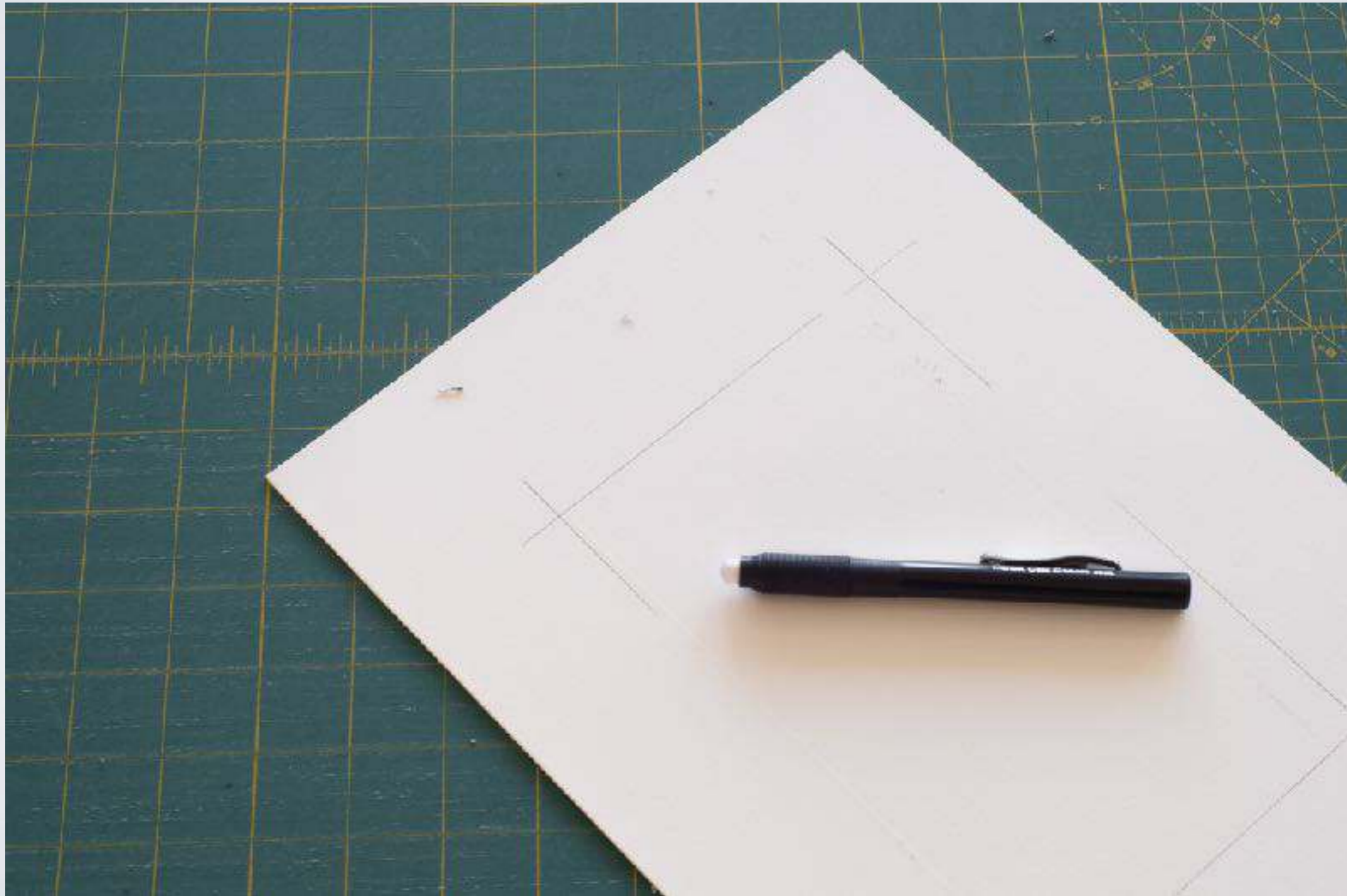
CUT MAT TO SIZE



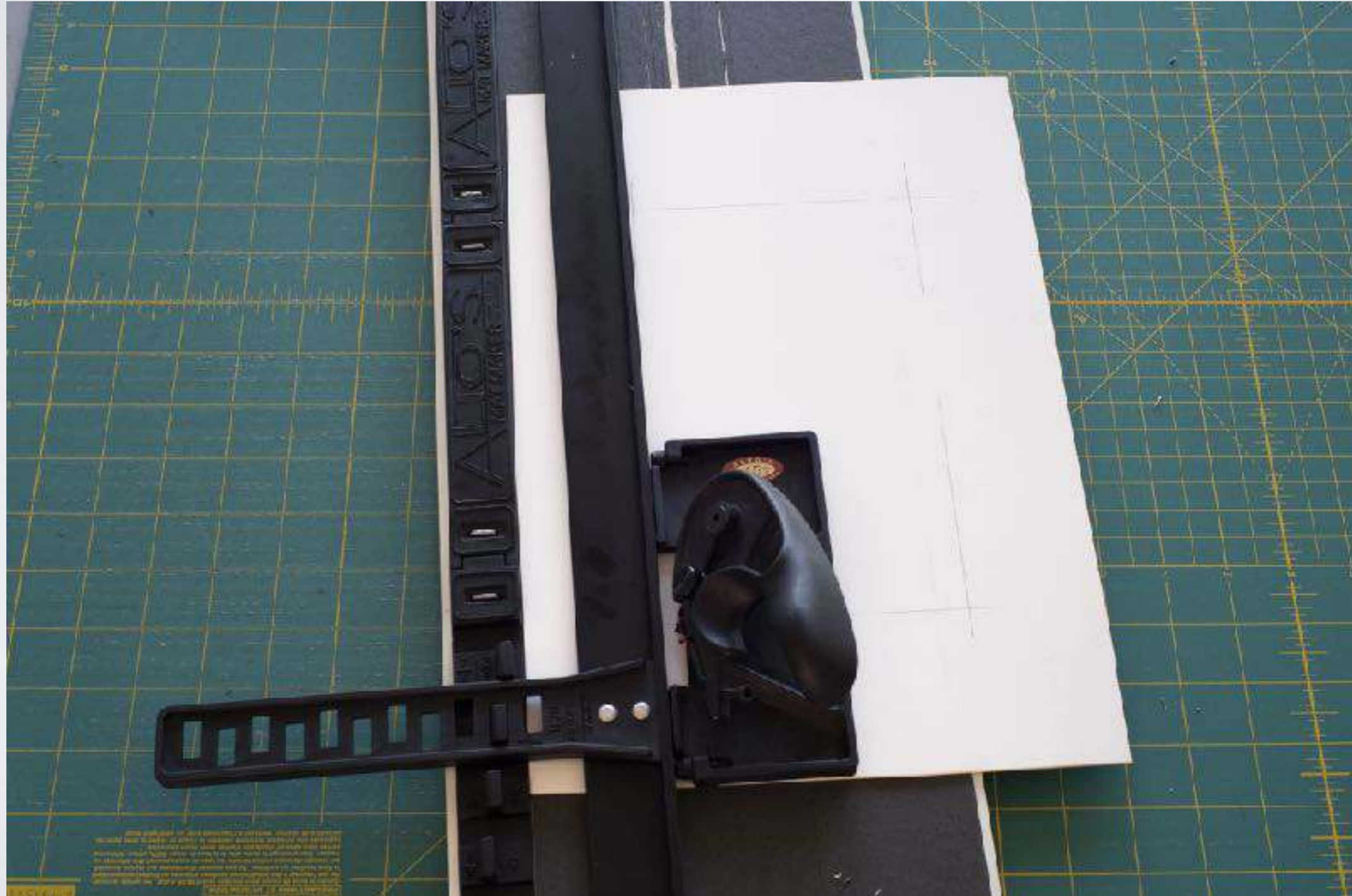
GUIDELINES ON BACK



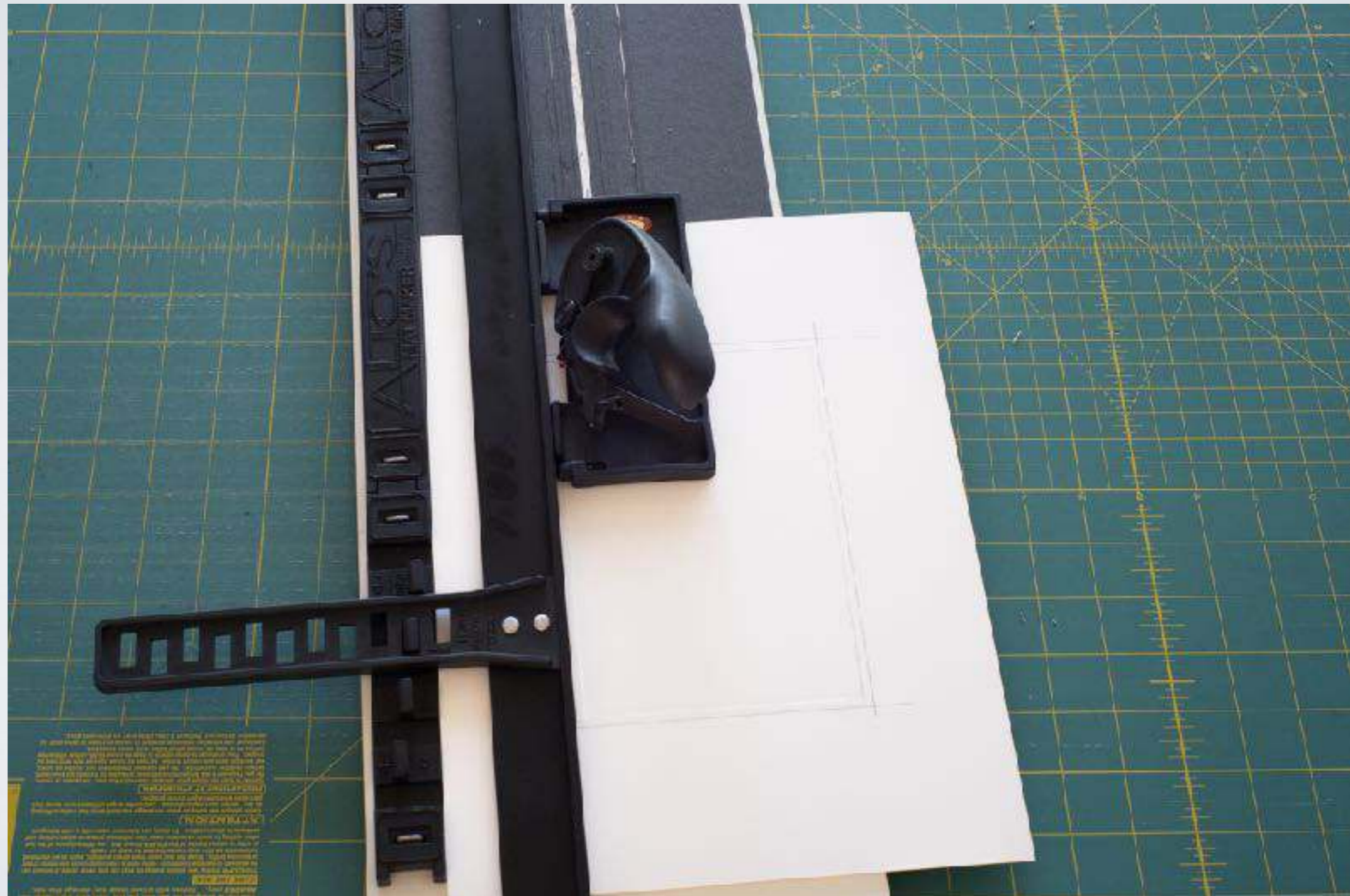
CLEAN UP MISTAKES



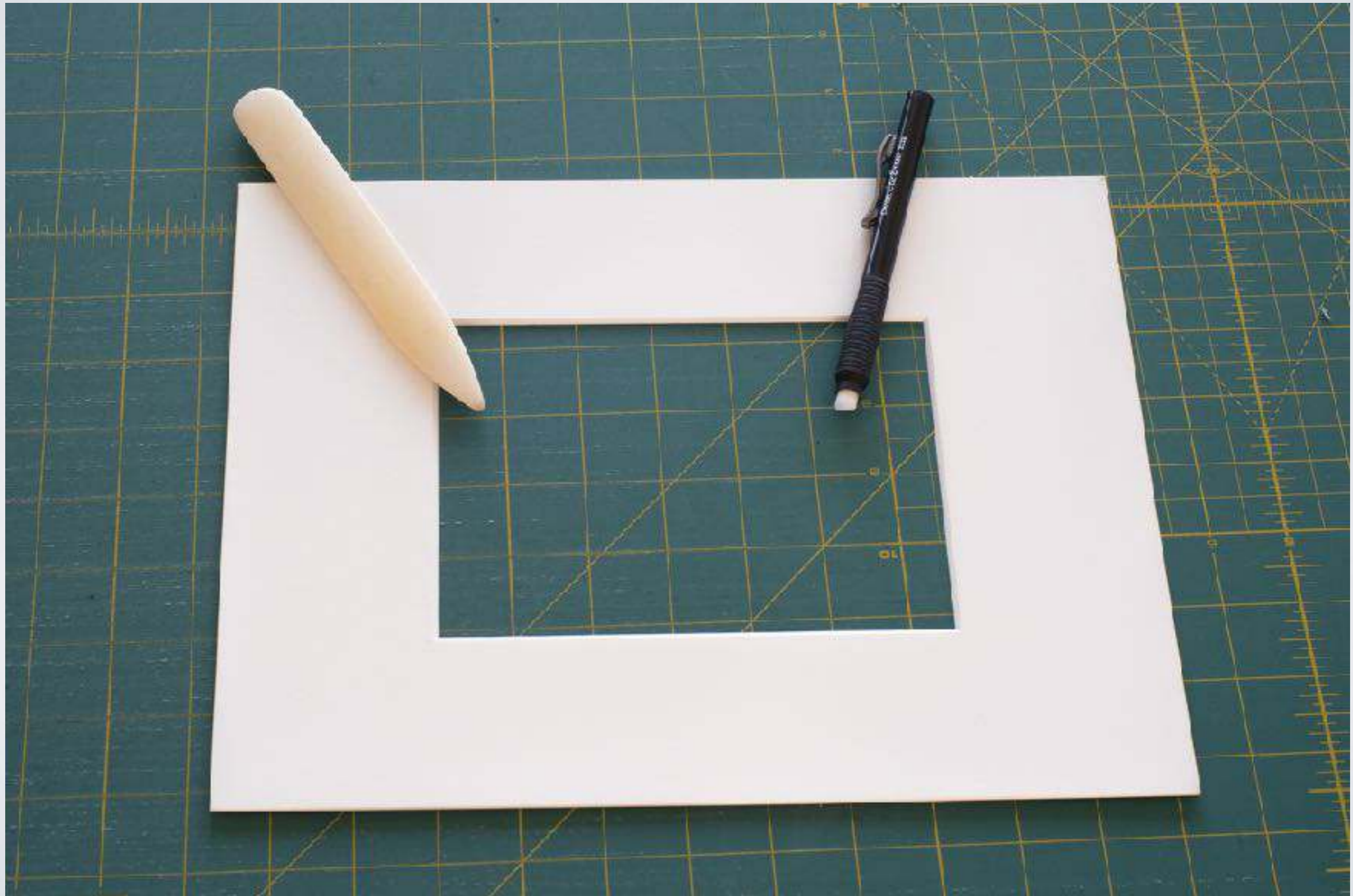
BEGIN A CUT



END THE CUT



CLEAN THE FRONT



MOUNTING YOUR PRINT

GAYLORD.COM
LIGHTIMPRESSIONSDIRECT.COM



QUESTIONS?