

Handy Hints Sheet 28

...helping you get started.

Glazing Products: The Right Choices

Because so many frames end up with work being held behind glass, the issue of making the right selection of glazing product is a fundamental one. It is very easy to opt for basic 2mm float glass without questioning what benefits other options bring. In the main, the choice you make will often be around balancing out certain conflicts (some of which overlap):



1. value of artwork
2. requirement of a medium
3. requirements of the frame design
4. size and weight of the finished piece
5. transportation needs
6. health & safety
7. where it will hang
8. product cost

What is last on this list can too easily be the first, when we make our choice. This sheet explains what some of the alternatives to 2mm float glass.

Do remember glass should not be in direct contact with artwork.



2 mm Float Glass:

The most widely used glazing product. It is easy to source, cheap and easy to work with. It is acceptable for a wide range of framing.

Be aware that it is visible, appearing as a slightly reflective element and offers no real protection against harmful UV rays. Float glass also has a slight greenish tinge to it.

Clear Acrylic:

A clear, plastic glass that is ideal for glazing picture frames where safety, posting or weight, are issues. It is easy to work with using a **Fletcher Scoremate**. While the protective plastic is in place, score and snap, then remove the protection. It can attract dust so should not be used with framed pastels / chalk artwork.

It may scratch and discolour over time and offers no protection from UV rays.



Diffused (non reflective) Glass:

A picture framing glass which is acid etched to give a non glare, diffused finish. It provides an "immediate" view of work, making detail very easy to see. Ideal with single mounted work where detail or information is important to be clearly visible: photographs, certificates, calligraphy. It is **not** suitable for deep box framing or multi layered mounts. **When using, the etched surface faces out**

Be aware that while it diffuses light, it offers no real protection against harmful UV rays.



Non Reflective Acrylic:

This has similar practical applications to the **basic acrylic glass**, but has a matte finish on one side to reduce glare which makes it very popular for picture framing and poster framing. The matte finish (should face out) diffuses light striking the surface which helps to reduce glare. For best results, the sheet must be placed against or a small fraction from the picture or artwork.

Be aware that while it diffuses light, it offers no real protection against harmful UV rays.

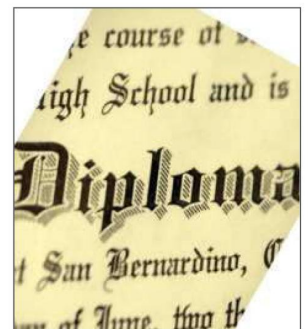
Low Reflection Invisible:



Low Reflection Invisible reveals true colours and texture of the art – no green tint or optical distortions. Thanks to its anti-reflective coating, which reduces unwanted reflections to less than 1%, nothing will prevent one from viewing the actual content of the framed item. Moreover, Low Reflection Invisible has a smooth surface that allows for details to emerge unaltered. Low Reflection Invisible will enlighten the work of every framer – it can be cut and glazed from either side and its coating is scratch resistant and very easy to clean.

UV Clarity:

Choose UV Clarity to achieve an outstanding clarity with its capability to transmit ~98% of light and to gain a conservation grade UV protection* of ~92%. UV Clarity will make you forget about green tint and optical distortion. Moreover, the anti-reflective coating reduces unwanted reflections to less than 1%, in the meantime it is scratch resistant and very easy to clean. It can be cut and glazed from either side.



UV Museum:

For the most precious artwork or family heirlooms, Museum glass is the highest quality anti-reflective picture framing glass available in the industry. It protects against harmful light rays and has the highest light transmission, along with the lowest reflection rating of any glass product. It reduces reflection by over 85% (to less than 1% of total light), the lowest possible reflection rating with UV protection. It protects works of art against 98% of harmful indoor and outdoor UV light rays. The result is consistent, durable quality and the most attractive display for artwork.

