

Tapes & Their Uses



A wide range of tapes is used in picture framing. To help find your way through what you might need, we have grouped tapes under headings of where they are used in framing. Some will appear in more than one section, simply because they may apply to more than one of the areas identified. We have also tried to indicate, to a certain extent, when working on certain styles of framing, some tapes would not be recommended. For practical guidance see **HH Sheet: Attaching Artwork Using Tabs**

Construction

These are the tapes used to hold elements of the mount, spacers etc in place or to add a decorative element to the mount.

- **Double Sided Tissue Tape:** This is a general purpose, double sided tape, with a strong adhesive system. It is hand tearable. This tape has a thin release liner. Its uses include sticking mount layers, foam spacer strips, mounting paper, card, plastic and flexible films. *Not suitable for attaching artwork directly.*
- **Tapestry Tape:** a heavy duty, double sided adhesive tape. Excellent for a strong fix within the structure of a framed item. Occasionally used in attaching and mounting some fabric based artwork at budget level; BUT must not be used in commended, conservation and museum level framing.
- **Linen Tape (self adhesive):** a canvas type, adhesive tape. Used on canvas stretchers (gallery wraps) to tape over staples / tacks on stretcher back to provide a tidy surface & neat finish;
- **ATG Tape:** similar uses as for double sided tapes (above). Advantage here is that it operates in an Adhesive Transfer Gun (ATG), making it quicker to use, especially on larger works.
- **Mat Decoration Tape:** especially produced with art effect finish (gold, silver, white linen etc) to provide a "face" on deep bevel mounts.
- **Rebate Lining Tape:** these tapes are designed to provide a barrier between the rebate of the frame and the mounted artwork (used in conservation framing).
- **PH 7-70 Hinging Tape:** see attaching work, opposite.

Temporary Fix & Masking

Some tapes are used for the low tack properties, making them easy to lift with minimal damage to a surface.

- **Masking Tape:** conventional masking tape is frequently used in developing complex mount structures (double mounts etc). It can be removed from the backs of boards without causing major, visible damage;
- **Magic "811" Removable Tape:** Clear, mat finish, easy tear polyester tape, with a light tack, removable adhesive. Can be used on mount surface to mask areas for sponge effects, colour lines & wash fills etc. It provides a clean edge with minimal bleed.

Attaching Art Work

These tapes are in direct contact with artwork. **PH Neutral** (acid free) tapes are advised in all work. NB for conservation work, "archival" alternatives are available (see below)

- **PH 7-70 Hinging Tape:** a treated, acid free self adhesive tape. The strong adhesive makes it ideal for joining under-mounts to widow mounts in hinge mount system. Used for creating attachment tabs in framing up to conservation level
- **Linen Tape:** (see Construction) occasional use for making attachment tabs for heavier duty artwork in hinge mounts (up to conservation level work).
- **PH7-70 ATG Tape:** is similar to **Double Sided Tissue Tape**, but treated to be PH Neutral. Can also be used with ATG gun. Occasional use for directly attaching heavy duty "panels" of work (up to conservation level work).

Frame Assembly

Tapes used to seal between the back of the frame and the backing board.

- **Eco Kraft Tape:** a self adhesive, brown tape. Strong adhesive provides a good bond with the backing. Not easy to lift. There are varying widths available.
- **Gummed Brown Paper Tape:** a water activated gum makes this brown, paper tape ideal for sealing the backs of frames. Easily be removed, later, by wiping down with a damp cloth, which loosens the gum. Ideal for conservation level (and above) work.

Archival (conservation) Work

For archival work, tapes in direct and indirect contact with artwork must have PH neutral adhesives that are easily reversible. **Gummed archival tapes and archival papers used in conjunction with starch based adhesives** should be used. If in doubt check any manufacturer's information.

- **Gummed Archival Paper Tape:** used in similar ways to PH7 70 hinging tape. The gum adhesive is water activated and can therefore be easily removed from artwork.
- **Gummed Brown Paper Tape:** see above
- **PH7-70 ATG Tape:** can be used in the construction elements of mounts.
- **PH7- 70 Hinging Tape:** can be used to hinge new under mount to window mount. Also used to seal a glass, mounted work and filler board as one unit.



Double Sided Tissue Tape



Tapestry Tape



Linen Tape



ATGTape



Mat Decoration Tape



Masking Tape



Magic "811" Tape



PH7-70 Hinging Tape



PH7-70 ATG Tape



Eco Kraft Tape

Always remember that there are 3 issues to be aware of with tapes attaching artwork:

- Potential for "acid" damage;
- Staining from adhesive;
- Strength of adhesive;

Always check with product specifications.



Gummed, Brown Tape



Gummed, Archival Tape