

## **Ink, Papers and Frames Selection Options**

### **By Wes Odell**

Several people who have re-located to Sun City and need information on where to purchase ink and paper for photo-quality printers, and metal frames. Here are some things we do and places where we get it.

Ink and Paper: Several years ago a friend did an exhaustive survey to find the lowest prices on inks and papers. His concentration was on "web-based" providers. He found "Atlex.com" to be the best. We have purchased our ink cartridges and papers from them for several years and have had no complaints. We have also found their prices to be the best, but we're always willing to listen to others. You may contact them at [www.AtlanticExchange.com](http://www.AtlanticExchange.com) or 800 327 2822. I suggest you call them and ask for a price list. They are distributors of Epson, Canon, Kodak, Hahnemuhle, Hewlett-Packard and others. Delivery to Georgetown usually takes three business days. If you have, for example, an Epson paper type and size you like but don't see on their price list, they might have it anyway, so ask. Compare this price against what you've been paying for a box of 50 Matte Paper Heavyweight, Epson, 8 ½ x 11 inch: \$9.13, Item number S041257.

Mattes and FoamCore Backs: We usually buy at Hobby Lobby when they're on 50% sale. The VAC Studio usually carries nice foamcore at \$5.00 a sheet. If Hobby Lobby doesn't carry the color you need, try "The Framers' Gallery" in Georgetown. Fred Bolgen can get almost anything. He orders twice a week. (An order on Monday early afternoon arrives on Wednesday, for example.) There is a professional matte cutter in the VAC Studio. Bob Peek will teach classes (up to three people at a time) if you'll phone him to make arrangements. His phone number is in the binder on the cutting table. There is also a nice ATG tape (gun) applier in a cabinet in the VAC Studio.

Framing: Many people prefer the non-metal frames and wait for sales at places such as Michaels or Aaron Brothers. We like metal frames because they are so precision built, easy to put together, and come in a wide variety of colors. The trouble with using them is that stores which sell them carry only limited colors and profiles. (Profile refers to the size and shape of the metal in cross section.) As a result we use a mail order company, American Frame Company, whose toll free number is 800-537-0944. You can peruse their comprehensive website at [AmericanFrame.com](http://AmericanFrame.com) ..... Orders usually arrive in three working days. They add about \$6.00 minimum for shipping, so you're better off ordering several at one time. I suggest you contact them and ask for a Catalog which includes a price list. For the past six months they have been providing a matte cut to the size of every metal frame (except for the very large sizes) free. They'll even cut a hole in it for you at no cost. Check out two of the three pages of matte colors at the back of their catalog. A typical price, for example, is a Radius (profile) in one of 27 colors ... 11"x14" = \$6.60 and 16"x20" = \$8.80. Compare those costs against your local store prices. These frames are quality Nelson frames, not a cheap knock-off.

We buy our framing wire, and ATG tape rolls for when we tape pictures at home from American Frame Co.

If you ask when you order they will send you free five small samples of metal frames (color and profile) with each order. We have a nice collection if anyone wants to look at them before ordering.

Glass: We buy our glass at Hobby Lobby. Several standard sizes come pre-cut and pre-packed and at good prices. They'll cut to any size while you wait and you'll be charged for the glass only. (They charge for the price of the standard size glass from which they will cut your piece, but don't charge a cutting charge.)

We also purchase these two other standard items: Plastic envelopes (11"x14") and backing "boards" (cardboard) cut to 11"x14." We get them from "Impact Images" You may contact them at [www.ClearBags.com](http://www.ClearBags.com) or 800 328 1847.

Matting, misc: We find that we get a better finished product if we affix the image to the backing with spray glue (3M Photo Spray) and roll it on tight with a rolling pin. Getting the matte and the image aligned precisely can be a bit tricky, but we'll show anyone who needs a bit of instruction. Then we affix the matte(s) to the backing board with ATG tape.