

## Textile Framing

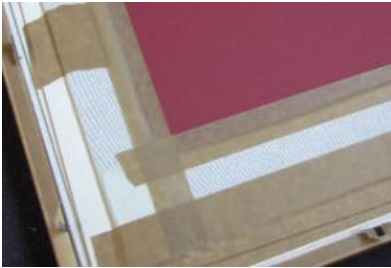
We are often asked if we can frame textiles or needlework and are very pleased to be able to say that we do. Framing needlecraft is just one of our specialities but it must be done correctly, not only to present the item properly but to preserve it for the future.

Any textile work that we complete must be reversible, that is to say it can be taken out of the frame and mount and be returned to its original state. Quite often we receive work to reframe that has not just been framed and mounted incorrectly but unfortunately has been damaged in the process.

Needlecraft is not something that can be done quickly, it takes someone, either your wife, sister, mother or grandmother for instance, many hours of patient and loving work to complete a piece. If you had to pay for the hours of work it had taken, it would be very expensive. It is also probably worth a lot to you anyway for sentimental reasons. If it is an antique piece such as a sampler then it deserves to be looked after properly.

So what can go wrong? Here are two examples of the mounting of a piece of needlework.

In example 1 the needlework has been stuck to the supporting board with adhesive, it has then been folded around the board and taped with self adhesive brown tape, quite often it will also have been stapled. It has also been attached to a coloured board that may over time transfer its colour to the material attached to it.



The adhesive means it cannot be taken off of the board without expense and specialist knowledge, and may well discolour and transfer to the needlework. In the worst case the adhesive could also cause the fabric to rot. The brown tape can also cause damage, either with its own adhesive or by the transfer of acid to the material. This is therefore not recommended.



In example 2 the needlework has initially been pinned to its support to ensure that it is straight. It has then been laced to provide sufficient support to keep the tapestry in position once the pins are removed. The supporting board is of an acid neutral material and it will be finally be inserted into a conservation or museum grade mount to help preserve the item.

The needlework will therefore be kept away from the glass, allowing the air to circulate and preventing any condensation that might build up in the frame from damaging or rotting the material.

Lacing and sewing may also used when we frame other textiles, such as sports shirts. These are also mounted and framed to provide a safe and secure home for these items and again all the processes used are reversible.

- Antique samplers
- Batik
- Carpet/Rugs
- Cross stitch
- Doily/Tray clothes
- Embroidery
- Handkerchiefs
- Lace
- Oriental work
- Quilts
- Scarves
- Scroll
- Silk painting
- Tapestries
- Multi media

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