

PMA has been around for a while and is a great alternative to other forms of mounting prints such as dry mounting, spray adhesive and various tapes. There are advantages and disadvantages to each method. A dry mounting press is expensive at about \$1500. Spray adhesive is messy, has noxious fumes and is unforgiving when positioning a print. Tapes leave unsightly ridges and can be unreliable.

PMA addresses all of these disadvantages by being easy to use, economical and quick. It is available from most large art supply and framing supply sources. It is available in 50' rolls in three widths of 11", 16" and 24." Prices range from \$40 to \$80. Also packaged are a squeegee, a reusable sheet of waxed paper and instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF 3M 568 POSITIONABLE MOUNTING ADHESIVE (PMA)

Unroll the adhesive sheet with adhesive side up. Place print on the adhesive and cut adhesive from roll. The print will lightly adhere to the adhesive sheet.

Pick up the print with the attached adhesive sheet and accurately trim all borders. Use an Xacto knife rather than scissors. The adhesive can stick to the scissors.

Turn print over (face down) onto a clean smooth surface. Use the supplied squeegee to apply multiple, overlapping strokes to the print from the center outward. Make sure all of the area is covered with moderate, multiple strokes. More strokes are better than fewer.

Remove the backing sheet from the print. Choose a corner and use a fingernail to start the separation. It helps to place the print on the working surface and pull the backing sheet slowly and gently to loosen it. It's easy to remove, but go slowly so you don't crease the print.

Place the print on the mounting surface and lay down gently. Check alignment. Pickup and reposition, if necessary. When satisfied, place the protective release (waxed) paper over the print and squeegee down with moderate pressure over the entire surface. TIP: I recommend the use of a print roller rather than the squeegee for this final step. It's gentler on the print surface to use the roller.

Current price for PMA: 11" X 50' \$38

16" X 50' \$54

24" X 50' \$81

Sources: Dick Blick Art Supplies dickblick.com (800) 828 – 4548

Framing Supplies framingsupplies.com (800) 334 - 9060

Final tip: Try to keep adhesive material off of your fingers and the print surface. It is very hard to remove. Lacquer thinner works well to remove it from your fingers. DO NOT use lacquer thinner on the print.