

MAKING a PRINTING TARGET

It pays to make a Printing Target so all of your prints will be of consistent size. This is not to be overly compulsive, but when you go to cut mats later in the semester it will be a lot easier if your prints are all the same size.

SETUP the EASEL

- set the arms of the Printing Easel to 4" x 6"
- move the top and bottom arms UP, half a big notch
- position the Easel under the Enlarger
- put a negative in a Negative Carrier and adjust the Enlarger to fill the frame in the Easel
- double-check that the shape is right
 - every camera is slightly different
 - they are not all exactly 2 : 3 ratio

MAKE a BLACK MASK SHEET

- take a sheet of paper out into the daylight, exposing it completely
 - hold it from underneath so you don't have a 'white' fingerprint on the edge
 - RC paper is best for this purpose because it is dead flat
- run it through the chemicals so you get a black sheet
- dry the black print completely
- now you have a great Mask for making Test Strips
 - it is completely opaque because the emulsion is a thin layer of silver

DRAW the TARGET

- put the dry black print into the **adjusted** easel, back side up
- use a sharpie marker to draw a line inside the frame onto the back side of the photo paper
- now you have a Printing Target for making 4 x 6" prints on 8 x 10" photo paper



e.g. a 4 x 6" print on an 8 x 10" sheet with a black border
photo by Nikki Roberts, Spring 2009

USING PRINT TARGETS

MAKE MORE TARGETS

repeat the same procedure to make additional Printing Targets for other print sizes
e.g. 5 x 7.5", 3.33 x 5", etc.

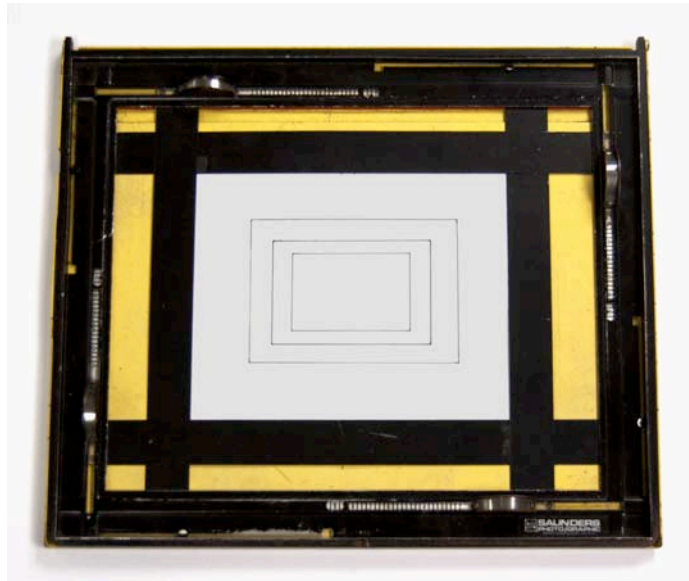
note: don't make a print larger than 5 x 7.5" on an 8 x 10" sheet
there will not be enough border to be archival
and the grain from a 35mm negative looks terrible at that size

note: don't ever crop you prints
learn how to compose you shots in the camera as you shoot
if you depend on cropping you will develop 'lazy eye'
and never get the best shot from just the right location, angle or time

Now that you have a sheet of photo paper with one or several targets for printing at your favorite sizes, here is how to use it.

USE the PRINT TARGET

place the target into the printing easel
slide the top edge of the paper into the small slot
open the blades of the easel up to approximately 7 x 9"
small enough to hold the paper down flat
but open enough to not get in the way of the exposure area
focus the print to fill the rectangular target
this will make a print with a rough outside border edge



If a clean outside border edge is desired,
move the blades so they just cut the outside edge of the black border.
Just remember that when these prints will be matted
the edge of the black border needs to go under the mat board,
so don't make the border too thin.

OTHER PRINT TARGETS

LARGER PRINT TARGETS

if you want to make larger prints,
make an 8 x 12" Printing Target on an 11 x 14" piece of photo paper
then the grain gets cool again



e.g. an 8 x 12" print on an 11 x 14" sheet with a black border
photo by Nikki Roberts, Spring 2009

MULTIPLE PRINT TARGETS

if you want to make multiple prints on 1 sheet of paper,
make a target for that as well
otherwise it will be impossible to get the photos positioned properly.