

## **DIY Fabric Picture Frame Mats Tutorial**

### **Supplies:**

- Cardboard (I recycled a few shipping boxes for this project. If your fabric is graphic heavy or colored, you can probably get away with cardboard boxes with logos on it. If your fabric is light colored or thin, make sure you use plain cardboard with no graphics - they will show through)
- Box cutter
- Picture frame(s)
- Hot glue gun
- Fabric glue (I used Aleene's Fabric Fusion)
- Scissors
- Pen/pencil
- Lint-free cloth (optional, not pictured)
- Foam paintbrush (optional, not pictured)

### **Instructions:**

1. Plug in the hot glue gun.
2. Remove the back of the picture frame. Lay it on your cardboard piece and trace around it with pencil or pen.
3. Lay the traced cardboard piece on top of another piece of cardboard or cutting mat if you have one. (This is to avoid cutting through and ruining your tabletop)
4. Using your box cutter, carefully cut along your traced lines and remove the resulting piece. Discard the remains. **Important:** Make sure cardboard piece fits into your frame before going to next step. Trim any extra if necessary.
5. Lay the cut cardboard piece over your fabric. This does not need to be a perfect shape, cut the fabric approximately 1/2"-1" larger than the cardboard on each side. **Note:** If using cardboard with logos, place the side with the most color face up on the backside of the fabric.
6. Using the hot glue gun, dispense the glue along one entire side of the cardboard. Firmly pull the fabric over the side and affix it to the wet glue. Press firmly along the length of cardboard. Pick up the cardboard piece and look at the front side - if there is any bunching, take each end of the fabric in your hands and pull to straighten it out. Allow the glue to dry for about 1 minute.
7. Repeat step 6, on the opposite side you just glued. **Important:** this time, make sure you pull the fabric taut when affixing the fabric for a smooth surface.

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- 8.** Glue fabric to the cardboard on the remaining two sides.
- 9.** Eye or measure the placement of your photograph on the newly fabric-covered cardboard.
- 10.** Using your fabric glue, apply thin lines around the edges of the back of your photograph and throughout the middle OR use a foam paintbrush to apply the glue. Use sparingly with a thin layer or the paper will bubble & photograph ruined.
- 11.** Attach to the fabric. Press firmly across the whole photograph. Use a lint-free cloth (I used my shirt sleeve) to "wipe" the photograph firmly to make sure the whole picture is attached. Let dry for at least 30 minutes.
- 12.** Re-assemble the frame. It will be a snug fit. Depending on how thick your cardboard, fabric or dried hot glue is, all the pieces of the frame may not fit. If this happens, just replace the original cardboard/wood frame back with the newly fabric-covered cardboard.