

Harrow Camera Club – Some Advice for New Members

There is a great deal of information about the club on our webpages here:

<http://www.harrowscamera.co.uk/> This short note is designed to help new members get to grips with the essential information they need to start to understand how the club works and what they can get from it. On joining new members will be given a copy of the current year's Programme. The Club Rules and the Competition are available on the website.

Weekly meetings

These are the centre of the club's activities and follow different formats.

- a) General competitions – projected and prints. This is how we get points to progress from Beginner to Promoted (advanced) status. They are awarded by external judges who are invited to look and comment on what are for them anonymous entries. This is an opportunity to get objective feedback on your work and may cover such matters as technical control of the camera and composition. The comments can be extremely useful in developing as a photographer. Generally, you may enter up to four images in the internal print and projected image competitions. This number may be adjusted from time to time depending on volume of entries.
- b) Specialist annual competitions – these are awarded points in the same way but are more restricted in their subject or form. They are not scored, but the judge will award first, second and third places and may choose to award runners up with highly commended or just commended. The winner will receive a trophy which they may hold for one year. All but the "Sets of (up to) 7" have both print and projected image categories:

Ron Norman Landscape Trophy,
Portrait & People Trophy
Monochrome Trophy
Set Subject Trophy (2017-18:
"Sunrise & Sunset", Holiday Snaps)

Panel of Prints Trophy
Sets of (up to) 7 **Trophy (projected image only)**
John King Panel of Small Prints Trophy
Nature Trophy

There is also an end of year competition into which you are invited to enter what you think are your best prints and projected images from that year. For full details on all the competitions see our website:

- c) Harrow Camera Club may also from time to time participate in and host external competitions involving other clubs. You are welcome to attend these but entries will have been pre-selected by a committee. The main external competitions are the Rosebowl and the Ron Wake Trophy.
- d) Workshops – where Club members give a demonstration of post-production techniques (for example using Adobe Photoshop or Elements) or a particular skill such as capturing motion. They may be participative – for example bringing our cameras along to try out lighting techniques on table-top photography. Workshops are another excellent way to pick up new skills or to look at your images afresh.
- e) Talks – demonstrating photographs from an internal or external invitee. Recent illustrated talks have been on Photography from London Rooftops, Close-up Nature Photography and Sports Photography.

Internal Competitions

Projected Images: These are the easiest to enter and a good way to start off your involvement with competitions. It's just a matter of getting up to four JPEGs to Avril either by USB stick or (preferably) uploading the file to her using WeTransfer (go to www.wetransfer.com) or (less preferred Hightail by the week before the day of the competition - full details from Avril. It's worth noting that images must be within certain pixel dimensions: further details here: <http://www.harrowcamera.co.uk/comp-int-how-to-prepare-projected-images-for-competition/> and must be in sRGB colour space. On the night, images are projected in turn for the judge to comment on and award points.

Prints: Preparing prints for competitions can be a bit more involved. Again, you may generally enter up to four prints and these should be presented (generally to Jenny King) by 7.50 on the evening of the competition. Each image should have a completed label stuck on the back giving your name and the image's title as well as a few more details. Blank labels can be obtained from Jenny King and thenceforth printed from your own copies or from the website here: <http://www.harrowcamera.co.uk/comp-int-how-to-prepare-projected-images-for-competition/> . When entering prints, a JPG must also be sent to Avril in the same way as for projected images (see above) to help later identification.

Printing: If you don't print the images yourself (as many do not) then you need to order them from a photographic printing service such as Tesco, Costco, Boots or Photobox - there are many more. You might be spending in the region of £1.40 per print measuring 8 by 10 inches. It can be done entirely over the internet and post, or where there's a retail outlet such as Watford Tesco you can take them in on a USB stick. They must not be printed any larger than A3.

Mounting: It is expected that prints will be mounted, and this really shows off your prints to the best effect. It involves sandwiching the print between a backing card and a framing card (with an appropriate hole cut out for the print), preferably bevelled. The overall size of the mount is not too important for internal competitions but 40cm by 50cm is popular and is required if your prints are to be considered for entry into external competitions by the club. It's best to start with white card, though in some cases pastel, coloured or black card may be appropriate.

Card: Card is available from stores such as Hobbycraft in Greenford. The large size of thick card is best, these can be cut to achieve 2 of the favoured 50x40 cm dimensions. Smaller, thinner card can be used for the backing. These and other outlets can also supply standard size read-made frames – these can be a good way to start. You'll probably also need a can of spray glue and some backing tape, also available from Hobbycraft. A large "self-healing" **cutting mat** is also useful if you want to avoid cutting up the surface of your kitchen table – also available from Hobbycraft or through the internet.

Bevelling: This is tricky at first and you need a specialist piece of kit to do it. The club has one that can be borrowed a week at a time and there are Youtube videos that take you through the process (eg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAwzffTesfE>). If, as many do, you eventually decide to buy one for yourself the Logan Team System Plus is available new through Amazon for between about £60 and £70.

For more detail of one way of mounting your prints see Eric Everatt's explanation below.

Other internal competitions

There are other more specific internal competitions scattered through the year. These include, the Annual Monochrome, Nature, Landscapes and Portrait & People Competitions (in all of which you may enter two prints and two PDIs), as well as the Panel of Prints Competition and the Panel of Small Prints Competition and a Set Subject competition.

External Competitions

The main ones of these are the North West London Federation competition (prints & projected), the Rosebowl, the Ron Wake Trophy and other interclub competitions. Entries are selected by committee members from images that have appeared in internal competitions. You do not need to do anything to have an image considered, but prints must be on 50 x 40 cm mounts.

Annual Exhibition

Recently this has been held at the Cow Byre, adjacent to Manor Farm library in Ruislip. You may submit any two or three of your prints for display. Many find it simplest to provide prints they entered in to the end of the year competition if that has already occurred. The exhibition is open to the public, so send your friends along.

Meet-ups

Anyone may organize one of these – ask Judith Gimber for details if you would like to do so. Recent meet-ups have included visits to an annual photographic equipment exhibition, pelican feeding at Hyde Park, Borough Market, a bridge club and the final stage of the Tour of Britain cycle race.

Newsletter

This is produced electronically six times a year and can be a good reminder about what competitions and events are coming up.

Finally – we hope you enjoy being a member of the Harrow Camera Club. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask. If you have any suggestions, do not hesitate to suggest them. The club is full of people with a wide variety of interests and experience.

Miscellany

Each year there's generally a very good (non-photographic) quiz night. And of course there is the Annual General Meeting in July, at the end of the Harrow Camera Club active year, which runs from September to August.

If you are looking for somewhere fairly local to buy equipment, SRS Microsystems in Watford has competitively priced new and used cameras, lenses, tripods etc.

The club also runs a website, which features club news and galleries of members' images.

There is a Newsletter (*Focal Point*) published every two months.

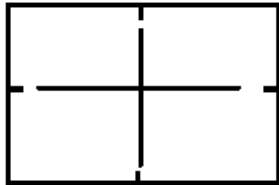
Good luck.

Equipment

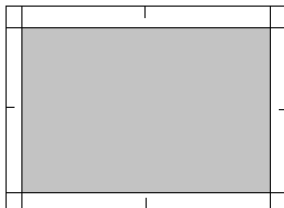
Photo [10 x 8 or 12 x 8 inches Matte] [Boots Online]
A3 Mountboard [White or Cream][1250 micron][Daler Graduate][Hobbycraft, Watford or Cassart, London]
A3 Card [White] [210gsm][Hobbycraft, Watford or Cassart, London]
Double sided tape [Hobbycraft, Watford or Cassart, London]
Scissors
Tweezers
Plastic 12" ruler
Pencil
Cutting Mat [Self Healing][Hobbycraft, Watford or Cassart, London]
Cutting tools [Logan Team System - Heavy metal ruler and bevel cutter][Amazon]

Instructions

1. On the reverse of the mountboard. Mark the mid-point of each edge and draw a line through the mid-points forming a cross with the centre in the middle of the board. If required offset one of the lines.

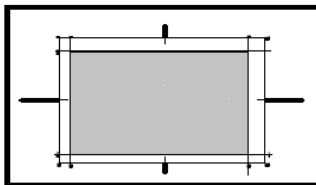


2. On the back of the photo, draw horizontal and vertical lines to represent the visible part of the photo when mounted. Alternatively, mark the points [8] on each edge of the photo where the visible part is to be.

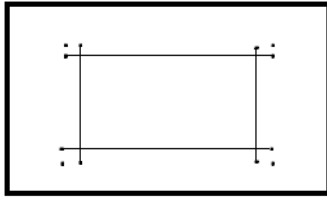


Remember that there needs to be a 2mm overlap even if the whole photo is used. Place a mark on each edge of the photo where the mid-point of the visible part is to be.

3. Place the photo, back facing upwards, on the reverse of the mountboard and align the mid-points on the back of the photo with the cross drawn on the mountboard. With the pencil put a dot on the mountboard at the four corners of the photo. Also, put dots [8] on the mountboard next to the points [8] on the photo where the visible part is to be.



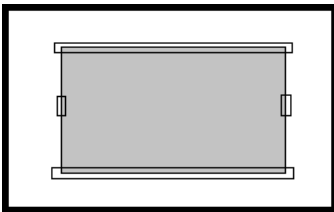
4.Remove photo and draw lines on the mountboard between the points defining the photo visible area.



5.Cut out the rectangle defined by the lines with a bevel mount cutter. Make sure that the bevel is in the correct direction when the mountboard is face up.

6.Replace the photo, back facing upwards, on the reverse of the mountboard with the photo corners matching the corner points on the mountboard. Check that there is some overlap on each side of the photo with the cut-out.

7.Holding the photo in place. Put small pieces of double sided tape in the middle of the shortest sides of the photo overlapping the mountboard. This will hold the photo in place. Put double sided tape along the longest sides of the photo overlapping the tape onto the mountboard. It is important that the top part of the double sided tape is still covered whilst this is done. As a further check that everything is ok, turn over the mountboard and make sure the photo is centred properly. Replace the mountboard reverse side facing upwards.



8.Put double sided tape along the edges of the mountboard. Leave the top part of the tape covered.

9.Smooth down all the tape to remove any creases/bubbles.

10.Remove the tape backing covers with a pair of tweezers.

11.Carefully put the mountboard, reverse side up, to one side and place the backing card on the table. If possible place a heavy ruler next to the longest side of the card [not on top of the card] to stop it moving. Alternatively, make a template for the card to fit into from old bits of card and mountboard.

12.Turn over the mountboard, photo facing upwards, and place on top of the card being careful to ensure that the corners match up. This may be easier if the mountboard is held slanting upwards and two corners aligned with the card before gently letting the mountboard drop onto the card.

13.Turn over the mountboard and smooth out any creases/bubbles on the backing card. If the card and mountboard are slightly misaligned trim off any excess with a pair of scissors.

14.Stick a Harrow Camera Club competition label onto the back of the mountboard/card.