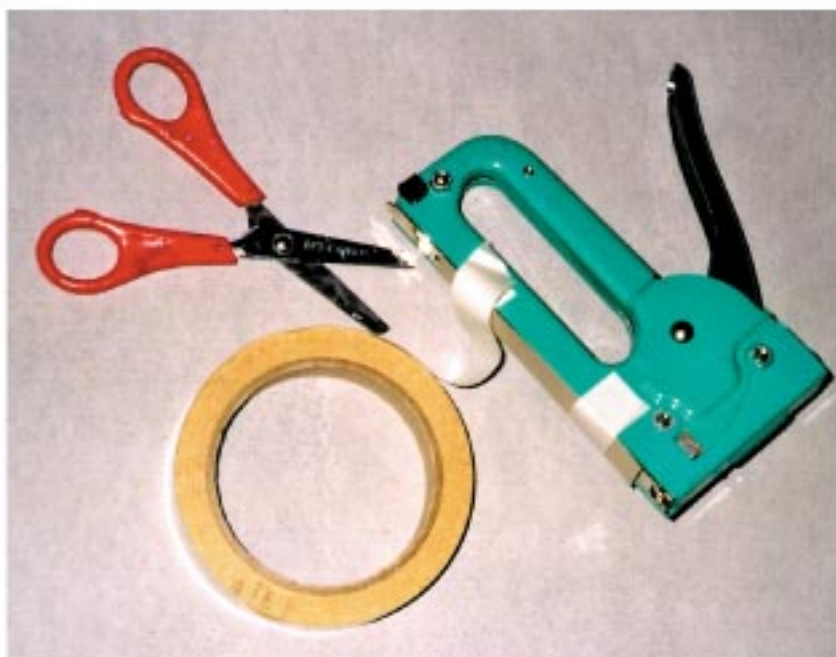


# Mounting, Planning and Arranging the Layout

## Getting Started

Once the colour scheme has been decided on, the board can be backed in the chosen colour. Before doing this it is a good idea to check:

- That you have selected sufficient backing paper from the stock cupboard to cover the whole of the display board. It is easy to make a mistake and to find that you are a few sheets short of the number actually needed. It is also most frustrating to find that, on returning to the stock cupboard, there is none of the original colour left on the shelf. Decision making in this case now has to start all over again!
- That you have a staple gun that works and that it is full of staples! It is very annoying to run out, particularly when you are standing on steps and are just about to fasten the final piece of backing paper to the board. There never seems to be any one around when this happens and as you climb down from your perch in search of more staples that last piece of paper seems to have a mind of its own and decides to descend to the floor as well!
- That the staple gun has a piece of cardboard attached to its under surface - but not covering the hole where the staples come out. This is to push the staple gun slightly away from the board and leave each staple, when fired, with a slight lip sticking out. This will make staple extraction very easy and safe, particularly if the display boards are soft and the staple gun fires them deeply into the board. This slight lip doesn't detract at all from the appearance of the display,
- That as you pick up the paper to use for backing (if it is in sheet form) you always keep the same side of each sheet facing the front. This aims to prevent a chequer board effect occurring that possibly isn't intended or wanted and will in fact detract from the final display. Even following this sequence doesn't guarantee that sometimes the sheets of paper don't exactly match which is most annoying!
- That the backing paper lies flat and level on the board - if it looks messy and creased before the mounted work is added it won't be improved by the pieces of work themselves and the whole display will suffer as a consequence. Try to position the staples you use, to run, as far as possible, in the same direction. This will be less distracting from the overall appearance of the display.
- Attach the border - if you are going to use one - at this stage as it will give an indication of the space now available on the board for the pieces of work and how they can be arranged, and not crammed, into this space.
- If the display board is small it can be extended by attaching more of the same backing paper to the wall on either side of the board. Small pieces of Blu-tak will be needed to attach the paper and the mounted work added will need to be small and light so that it doesn't pull the backing paper away from the wall.



*Preparing your staple gun for easy staple extraction.*

## Planning and Arranging the Layout

The essence of good display is the control and effective use of space. The aim is to catch the eye and invite it to investigate further and absorb and appreciate the information presented. This works well if we create a sense of direction and balance within a display.

Keep things simple! The more fussy a display becomes the more it loses its message. If work is on a rectangular / square piece of paper then it needs to be presented horizontally. Try laying the work on the floor beneath the board 'brick style' with verticals, horizontals and parallels fitting simply together.

Work with the shape of the board - most display boards are rectangular or square in shape (even if they are hung in awkward spots and at undesirable heights) Key Stage Two may get large boards down to floor level and end up putting pieces of furniture in front of them whereas Key Stage One may get boards that are small and way above the children's heads!

When arranging the work run it parallel with the edges of the board and leave a border around the work as a breathing space. Work will look better and create more of a focus if it is in a tight block with limited space between each piece, rather than filling the board and leaving large gaps between each one.

## Spacing

To help make decisions about the amount of space to allow between the pieces of work it is a good idea to have a box full of strips of card of varying widths. Try these different widths of card between the pieces of work whilst it is lying on the floor in order to choose spacing that will allow the maximum amount of work to fit evenly and effectively on the board. Hold the card 'spacer' between the pieces of work as you attach them to the board and the spacing will be even and regular.

If you try arranging work by attaching it temporarily with Blu-tak it may well come adrift before you have time to fasten it down. Mapping pins are more effective in this situation.



Examples of 3D work on display.

