FATG Level 1 (Ultimate Level) Framing

The Gold Standard in Art Protection

Recognized by the Fine Art Trade Guild as the highest level of conservation, Level 1 Framing, once known as *Museum Framing*, is the ultimate in art preservation. This standard is trusted by galleries, museums, and serious collectors to protect artwork of historical, personal, or monetary value for generations.

What qualifies as Level 1?

Only the finest conservation materials earn the FATG Level 1 seal:

- **100% cotton throughout**-for unmatched archival quality
- **Acid and lignin-free-**to stop deterioration before it starts
- **Fade and bleed-resistant-**for colors that last a lifetime

When only the best will do, FATG Level 1 mats deliver unmatched protection and museum-quality presentation—so your art remains as brilliant as the day it was framed.

Matboards from Crescent Brands that meet this standard:

ALPHARAG® ARTCARE

RagMat® MUSEUM

Crescent Brands proudly supports the standards of the Fine Art Trade Guild

View our membership listing ›

Meeting every museum-grade standard is just the start—our boards also pass Oddy testing for extra assurance you can count on.

Attribute	Test Method	ISO Equivalent	Value
Absence of Lignin	TAPPI T236 om-85	ISO 302	<5
Reducible Sulfur	TAPPI T406 om-88	n/a	<0.008%
Presence of Iron or Copper (furnish)	TAPPI T266	n/a	Iron <30ppm; Copper <1ppm
pH-Cold Extraction (slurried pulp)	TAPPI T509 om-88	ISO 6588	8.5-9.5
Alkaline Reserve	ANSI IT9.2-1991 sec 5.2	n/a	3-5%
Color Retention, Lightfastness	TAPPI UM 461	n/a	No loss after 72 hours
Color Retention, Colorfastness	Internal-Water Submersion	n/a	No bleed after 40 hours
Photographic Activity Test (PAT)	ANSI IT9.16-1994	ISO 14523	Pass
Oxidizing Gas Incubation Test	ANSI IT9.15-1992(modified)	n/a	Pass @1000ppm
Silver Tarnishing	TAPPI T444 om-85	n/a	No staining
Cobb Size Test	TAPPI T441 om-90	ISO 533	57-95 g/m2
Acid Gas Adsorption Test (SO2 and NO2)	Gas Exposure at 30ppm Measured by cessation of weight gain	n/a	0.13g SO2 absorbed/gram zeolite; 0.058g NO2 absorbed/gram zeolite
Acid Gas Desorption Test (SO2 and NO2)	Gas Chromatography on saturated zeolite at 250°	n/a	No off-gassing of absorbed gas
Gaseous Acetic Acid Adsorption Test	Getty Conservation Institute procedure	n/a	Pass

FATG Level 2 (High Level) Framing

Strong Conservation Protection

Formerly called Conservation Level, Level 2 Framing is the Fine Art Trade Guild's second-highest conservation standard. It provides long-term protection with trusted conservation-grade materials—without the additional components required for Level 1. Perfect for original art, limited editions, and other pieces of moderate to high value.

What qualifies as Level 2?
Conservation-grade materials, approved to meet the FATG Level 2 standard:

- **Virgin alpha-cellulose:** purified wood pulp, permanently treated to remove acids and lignin (not just "acid free" for temporary pH neutrality)
- **Chemically stable:** for long-term preservation
- **Fade and bleed-resistant:** for lasting color protection

An ideal choice when full museum-level preservation isn't required, but dependable, lasting protection is a must.

Matboards from Crescent Brands that meet this standard:

ALPHAMAT® ARTCARE · Crescent® Select · FABRICS & TEXTURES · ROYAL MOORMAN KARTON

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Meeting every conservation-grade standard is just the beginning—our boards are tested to exceed industry expectations

Specification	Details
Furnish	X100% virgin alpha-cellulose fiber; meets stringent stability and permanence standards. Tests (TAPPI T-236 om-85 / ISO 302) confirm board is free of groundwood and lignin.
pH Value	Alkaline pH of 8.9 ± 4, measured by TAPPI T-509 om-88 cold extraction on slurried pulp.
Buffer	Alkaline reserve of 3–5% (ANSI IT9.2-1991 Sec 5.2).
Molecular Traps	Synthesized to adsorb air pollution gases and degradative by-products from artwork, photographic media, and wood mouldings.
Lightfastness	Tested with Xenon Fadometer (ASTM D3424); colors exhibit less than 2.5 point brightness shift.
Bleed Resistance	No visible bleed after 48-hour submersion (FACTS EXPMMB-2000 Sec 10.03).
Resistance to Aging	12 days in circulating air at 100°C; 10 days at 100°F/90% RH; no change in appearance or strength.
Sizing & Adhesives	Water-based alkaline adhesive, free of solvents, used to bond all components.