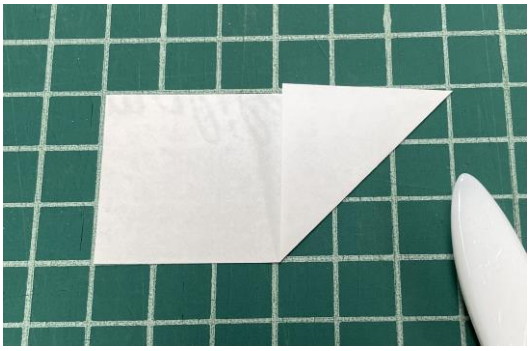
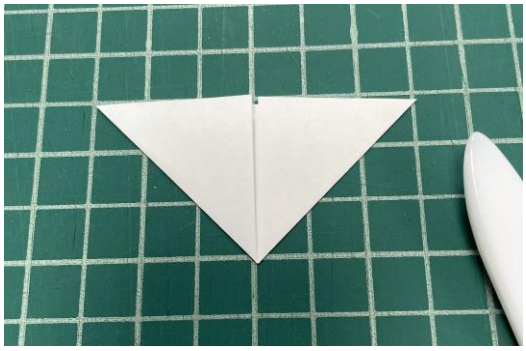
Making Z-fold Corners

There is a variety of corner styles that can be safely used for mounting paper-based objects. The advantage of a Z-fold corner is that it allows the object to be safely removed from the mat without removing the corner and allows the work to be returned to the mat without the need to replace the corner. The drawback to this style is that it is somewhat less secure, particularly if a work has a strong curl and lifts the folds of the corner. Another drawback is the bounce created by the fold which can create a small gap between the window mat and the object when it isn't compressed inside a frame. Every object that is mounted should have its unique characteristics considered before determining the safest and most effective mounting method.

We cut out standard corner blanks to have a ready supply. The sizes we keep on hand on 1/2" x 1", 1" x 2", 1 1/2" x 3", and 2" x 4". On occasion we make custom sizes for objects that need larger or smaller sizes. These blanks can then be used to make the three different styles of corners that we most frequently use. We mainly use Permalife paper for corners, but other papers that pass Oddy/PAT testing can also be used:

Fold the corner inwards as you would for a "standard" corner, using a Teflon or bone folder to set the creases:

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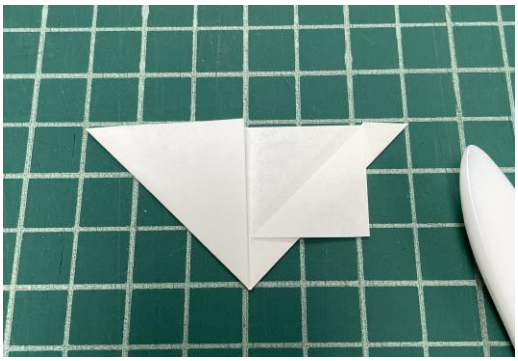
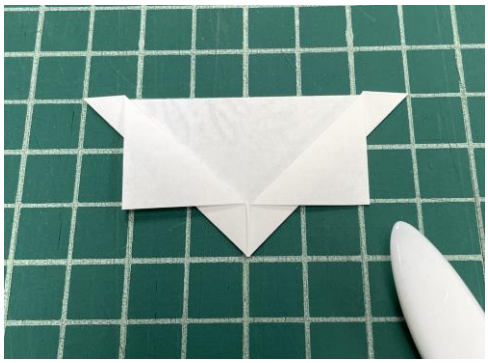
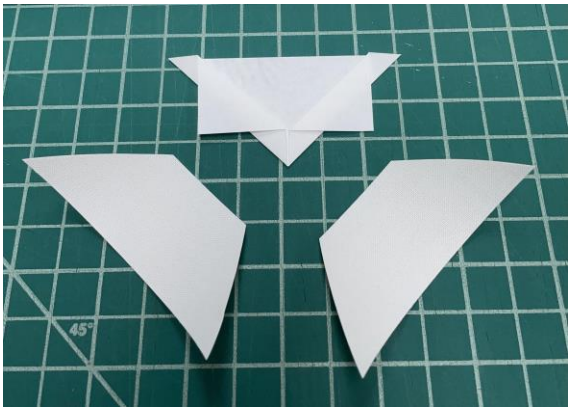
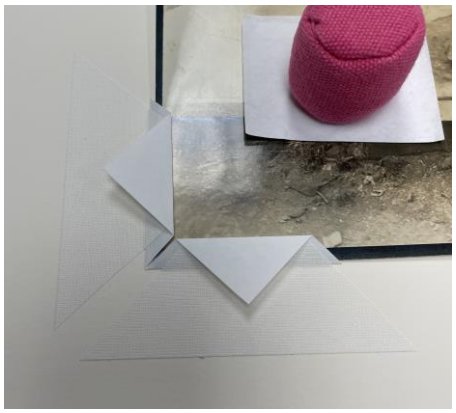
Again using the Teflon or bone folder, fold the paper back again to the desired amount to avoid blocking the image in the window mat:

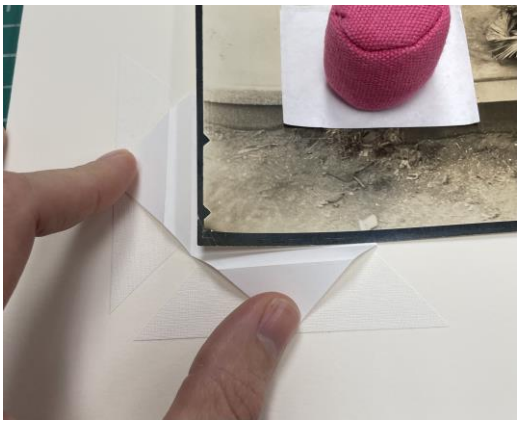



Attach to the back mat, leaving enough space for the object to expand if there is a change in environmental conditions. We use pressure sensitive Filmoplast SH tape for this purpose, but other tapes/adhesives can be used based on the object and circumstances. In some cases, attaching the corner to the back mat using 415 behind the corner can be useful. Adhesives such as wheatstarch paste can also be considered for attachment of the corner:





You now have a completed Z-fold corner that can be folded back to remove the object:



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