

# Dry Mounting Chinese Brush Paintings

## Background

Clearly, many people find traditional wet mounting unappealing. In the past we have heard of some bad experiences with framers trying to dry-mount Chinese paintings, as they don't understand how the paper behaves. Encouragingly, there now seem to be some practical alternatives.

The links here were found by searching the internet. The Chinese Brush Painters Society does not endorse or guarantee the techniques described. It is always best to experiment with a sample before you try with a good painting.

Note that the longevity of these processes is not known, and over time there may be deterioration or colour change. One of the photographic sites mentioned the disadvantages of dry mounting:

- Dry mounting is not a reversible process. This means if at any stage your artwork is damaged and requires restoration, it is extremely difficult for conservators to remove it from its backing and carry out treatment.
- At some point, all dry mounted artworks will probably begin to delaminate and bubble. If stored in a stable, dry environment at room temperature, it may be 10-20 years before evidence of this begins to emerge. However, if stored in a humid environment with fluctuating temperatures, these negative effects may begin to occur after just 2-5 years.
- The glue film may eventually deteriorate, causing staining and general discolouration

## Silicone Release Paper

Here are internet demonstrations of using silicone release paper by Henry Li:

Xuan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBde4hN8FAQ>

Other paper: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Qs33QAmOjs>

UK Suppliers:

- <http://www.framersequipment.co.uk/ancillaries.htm>
- <http://www.drytac.com/silicone-release-paper-single-sided.html>

- <http://www.firstcall-photographic.co.uk/hot-press-silicone-release-paper-24in-x-33-feet/p1768>

NOTE: The release paper used in the videos is single-sided. Double-sided release paper is available, but would leave the supporting paper between the painting and the backing. So make sure you buy the type you want.

### **Freezer Paper**

NOTE: Freezer paper seems to be designed for use with fabric applique, so may not work well with paper.

Sources for freezer Paper:

- <http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk/reynolds-plastic-coated-freezer-paper/565516-1000>
- <https://www.empressmills.co.uk/shop/haberdashery/applique-interfacings/freezer-paper-50/>

### **Glue stick**

It may be possible to use glue stick.

Example: mounting silk onto rice paper with a glue stick (e.g. a BIC). Apply the glue stick evenly to the backing paper, then put the silk on with a bone folder to smooth it, lastly iron the back with a moderately hot iron (so it won't burn the silk). The iron melts the glue stick so it spreads evenly. This is very good for book covers as PVA glue might show through fabric covers.

Note that the glue is likely to degrade, to this technique is not suitable for your best paintings.

This technique is useful for making cards.