

Getting Started: Grid Preparation Tips

Materials needed:

Scissors, Tape Measure, Large Straight edge, Ruler, Drafting Tape, Roll Paper, Light pencil (H/HB)

- Work with a partner (similarly working at wall or easel spot) for easier preparation
- From the paper roll, mark 34" on each side and carefully cut the paper on the mat cutter (an extra set of hands to keep the paper from rolling is helpful here)
- Clean all drawing areas (easel trays/ chalkboards) before mounting your drawing
- Make sure that your drawing board or wall surface has no raised textures (Covering the drawing surface with at least one layer of paper is recommended, masonite can also be used on the cork boards)
- Carefully unroll the paper and tape it to the surface **securely**. Check the paper for defects.
- Once the paper is mounted, measure in one inch from all edges to mark the border.
- Making sure your hands and straight edge are clean, rule off the border and check the measurements with a tape measure after finishing the border. You can also use a triangle to be sure it's square
- Once the border is checked begin marking off the grid in 4" increments.
(Make sure to work from the bottom up in case there is a shortage/overage of space in the final block)
- Have your partner hold the straight edge while you trace lightly in pencil - don't etch the surface. Those working at the easels may want to lay the board on the ground to apply the grid.
- Label the grid blocks for easier identification
- Cut a cover sheet from the roll paper to protect the drawing and tape it securely.

Note for Spring 2021:

If you are working at 16" x 20", measure in 1" from each side of the 18 x 24 paper, and 2" in from the top and bottom.

The grid blocks will be 2" square, so put your marks at 2" increments before ruling the grid.