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# Practical Pointers

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## Film Mounting Made Easy

Jack L. Dixon

*Talmadge Memorial Hospital, Augusta, Georgia*

Wanda M. Hibbard

*Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia*

*Use of transparent plastic sheets and double-coated tape for mounting polaroids and transparencies reduces the technologist's time in completing a study. Additionally, our method is more economical than commercially available film holders.*

Nuclear medicine, ultrasound, and radiology departments are using several different types and sizes of image recording materials ranging from polaroids to strip films such as 30 or 75 mm, and including a wide range of sizes of transparencies. With the current emphasis on the use of computers and formatting systems, many images may be recorded on one easy-to-handle transparency. More often though, a patient study may include several small films of varying sizes; this is especially so since the rapidly escalating price of silver has induced film users to be conservative and use the smallest possible size of film to acquire the needed patient data. The use of small films, if not collated in an orderly fashion, leads to difficulty in organizing a patient study on the viewbox for diagnostic analysis and, also, increases the risk of loss or misplacement of important patient data.

We have tried several commercially available film holders designed to hold various types and sizes of films and have found them to be unsatisfactory for several reasons:

1. difficulty in fitting film into the slots or pockets designed to hold them;
2. excessive technologist time used in film mounting;
3. inability to mount variable sizes and numbers of films on a single sheet;
4. flimsiness of some commercial holders prevents mounting on a view box;

5. excessive cost of commercial holders as compared to our alternative;
6. retention of fingerprints on some commercial holders;
7. lack of complete holder transparency requires removal of film or polaroid for study;
8. lack of uniformity in the outside dimensions of holders designed for various image formats.

### Our Procedure

The procedure we use is very simple and efficient as well as inexpensive. The materials required are: (1) transparent plastic sheets, 14 × 17 in., (2) double-coated transparent tape ¼ in. wide, and (3) regular transparent tape, 1 in. wide. A tape dispenser that allows simple and rapid application of the double-coated tape is used.

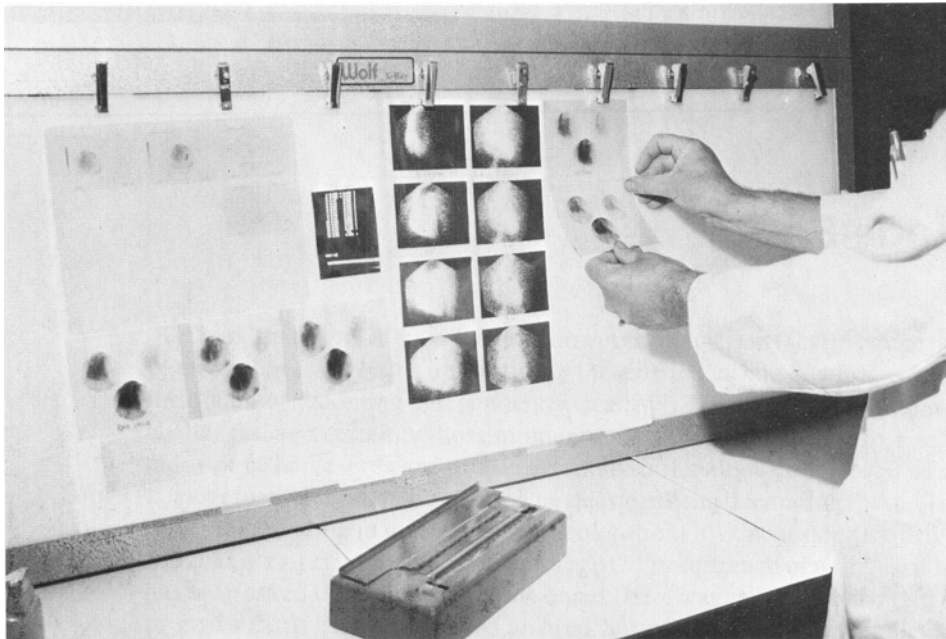
Apply double-coated tape along one or two edges of the image (transparency or polaroid), then place the image in its appropriate order on a sheet of transparent plastic. When all films are in place and appropriate labels are applied, a protective face sheet of transparent plastic is taped over the sheet holding the images with the 1 in. regular transparent tape. Tape only at the center of each edge. The transparent plastic sheets have a natural tendency to adhere, thus holding together so that no additional taping is needed. An entire patient study can usually be mounted on one 14 × 17 in. format for ease of handling, viewing, and storing.

If more than one imaging format or media is used, there is no problem in mounting all on the same transparent sheet. Some examples of the formatting we use are illustrated in Fig. 1.

Using our procedure, the cost of mounting 100 patient studies is \$35.40. (200 14 × 17 in. plastic sheets cost \$25.00; 8 rolls of double-coated tape cost \$10.00; and the cost of

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For reprints contact: Wanda M. Hibbard, Dept. of Radiologic Technologies, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA 30912.



**FIG. 1.** Variety of types and sizes of images or data can be mounted on one sheet.

one roll of regular tape costs 40¢.) Using commercial suppliers, the cost for 100 sheets varies. For example, it is \$85.00 for Polaroid holders (12 films); \$35.00 for 35-mm film (12 films); \$90.00 for 70-mm film (25 spots); and \$95.00 for 485s (8 films).

Mounting films of small and varying sizes on trans-

parent plastic with double-coated tape can save a department from 50 to 60% in mounting costs. Several film sizes and formats can be collated to place a complete study on a single sheet. A technologist's time spent on mounting films will be reduced because of the speed and ease of mounting on plastic sheets.