

## HANDOUT FOR THE VIDEO "Masking and Creating a Frame"

I hope you were able to take away some useful tips for yourself and your art from my video *"Masking and Creating a Frame."* Since it's probably hard to remember everything, I've put together this handout with all the important information for you.



## MASKING TAPES – AMAZING TOOLS

**Masking tapes are essential tools** in resin art. Years of experience have shown that there **isn't a single tape or one way to mask** when working with resin. **I've selected three tapes that meet the requirements** for working with resin. They are specifically suited for resin work and might just be the perfect ones for you!



**These are my favorite masking tapes:**

- Blue 3M Scotch Tape 3434
- tesa® 50600 PET Silicone Tape
- Strong Cloth Tape (Duct Tape)



## WHAT OPTIONS ARE THERE?

There are **different ways to mask your artwork**. The reason is always the same: the **tape protects certain areas** of your piece **from resin**. You decide which areas those are. You can apply tape along the **edges, the sides, the top, or the bottom** of your artwork.

## OPTION 1

**What:** Taping the sides

**Why:** When pouring, **the resin flows over the edges** of the artwork and the taped sides. Thanks to the masking tape, the **sides remain protected** and free of resin.

**Removing the Tape:** Once the resin is **dust-dry**, you can **peel off the tape**. You can also remove it after just one or two hours. In that case, the **resin will partially flow** over the sides, which can create a really nice effect.

**Advantage:** Simple image design, as you can **tilt and rotate your artwork** to **spread the resin**.

**Disadvantage:** Since the **resin flows over the sides**, you may **need a bit more** of it.

## OPTION 2

**What:** Creating a Frame with Masking Tape

**Why:** With the **frame** in place, the **resin doesn't flow over the edges** - it stays on the surface of the artwork. The **sides remain protected** and resin-free.

**Removing the Tape:** Here, **timing is everything**. When the **resin starts to set**, it will **look like** it's beginning to **gel**. Gently lift the tape at one corner: does the resin have the consistency of thick honey and form a slight thread? **That's the perfect moment**. Remove the tape completely, and a nice, **smooth edge will form**.

**Advantage:** **You need less resin** compared to when it's **meant to overflow**.

**Disadvantage:** The **design** process is a bit **less flexible**, as you can't tilt and rotate your artwork as easily.



## OPTION 3

**What:** Taping the Bottom

**Why:** If you want the **resin to flow over the sides**, it's a good idea to **mask the bottom of your artwork**. Resin drops tend to form there (similar to drips when painting). They can be easily removed by simply **peeling off the tape**.

**Special Features:** If masking didn't go perfectly, you might still get some resin drips on the bottom edge of your artwork. Here's the best way to remove them:

- **If the resin is still soft** (dry to the touch but not fully cured): briefly warm the drips with a heat gun or crème brûlée torch, then carefully cut them off with a craft knife.
- **If the resin is fully cured:** sand off the drips. The best results come using sandpaper for lacquer, with a coarser grit between 60 and 80.

**Removing the Tape:** Once the **resin is dust-dry**, you can **peel off the tape**.

**Benefit:** Your artwork is **covered with resin** on both the surface and the side edges. This means the **entire visible area has a uniform layer of resin**.

**Disadvantage:** You'll need a bit more **material**, since it's meant to **overflow**.



## MASKING TAPE AND ARTISTIC DESIGN

The **three mentioned ways** of using tape are **primarily technical**.

Of course, you can also use the tape to **mask areas on the surface of the image**. If there are parts of the image that should **remain free of resin, tape them off beforehand**.

What you do depends on what you want to **achieve creatively**.

It's best to **test beforehand** which tape works best for your purpose.

## STORING TAPE PROPERLY

There are a **few simple tricks** to ensure you can enjoy your tape down to the very last inch:

- No direct **UV exposure**
- **Avoid** extreme **heat** or **cold**
- Store in a **dark room** (or keep in a box)
- Keep it **clean**

**Do not keep** your tape near your **workspace** when working with resin. **Resin** is a powerful **adhesive**. Even a single drop in the **wrong spot** on the tape roll is enough to make all the **layers stick together**.

If you keep these points in mind, both the adhesive strength and the tear resistance of your tape will be preserved.

I wish you lots of fun experimenting!

Yours,

*Stefanie Ellef*

