



*Learn and be inspired.*

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## Multiple Openings: 122

The Outside Size

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## Multiple Openings: 122

### The Outside Size

**It is time to clear up questions about determining the outside size. This is often the last step to finish a design. Too often, the options are not clearly understood, and the project might not come out correctly.**

There are 2 situations to consider. First, one where the arrangement will be designed, and the size of the arrangement will be the key to setting the outside size. And another where the outside size is determined at the outset, the arrangement is designed, and the arrangement must be within this set size.

Let's begin with the first situation—the custom framing formula where the size of the arrangement and the border width will determine the outside size.

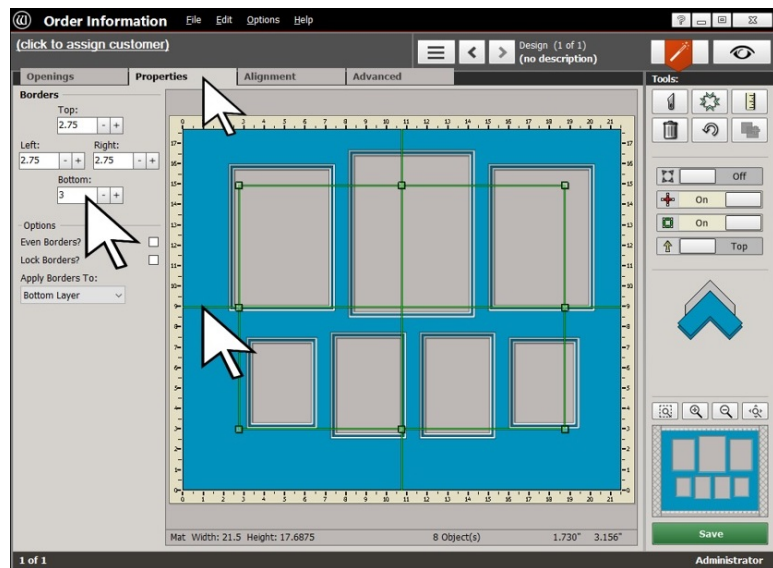
### The Borders

The arrangement of the openings is finished. The **Border** sizes are not yet set, though.

- ▶ Click the **Properties** tab at the top.
- ▶ Move the cursor over a green border line in the work area and click.

This opens the **Properties** for the **Borders**. On the top left will be the table of widths.

- ▶ Enter the **Border Widths** for the **Top, Left, Right, and Bottom** as the design dictates.



This illustration shows the final border widths in the table at the left. The green lines in the work area illustrate where these borders fall.

**Note:** none of the edges of any of the openings are against the borders. As a consequence, the outside size is not yet correctly set.



## Dynamic Outsides

Wouldn't it be nice if there was a tool that would just make this calculation and finish the design? There is!

**Dynamic Outsides** applies the specified **Borders** to the arrangement on the screen and sets the outside size as you work.

*Note: there is a new outside size with every change to the design.*

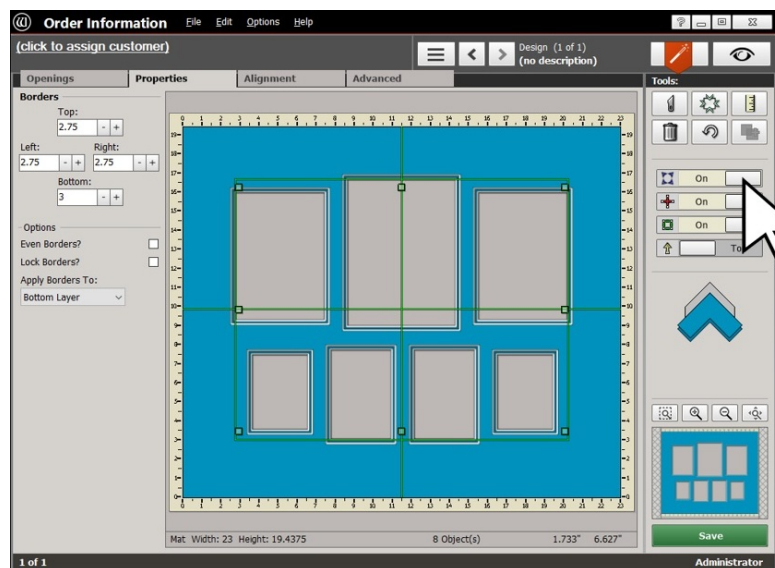
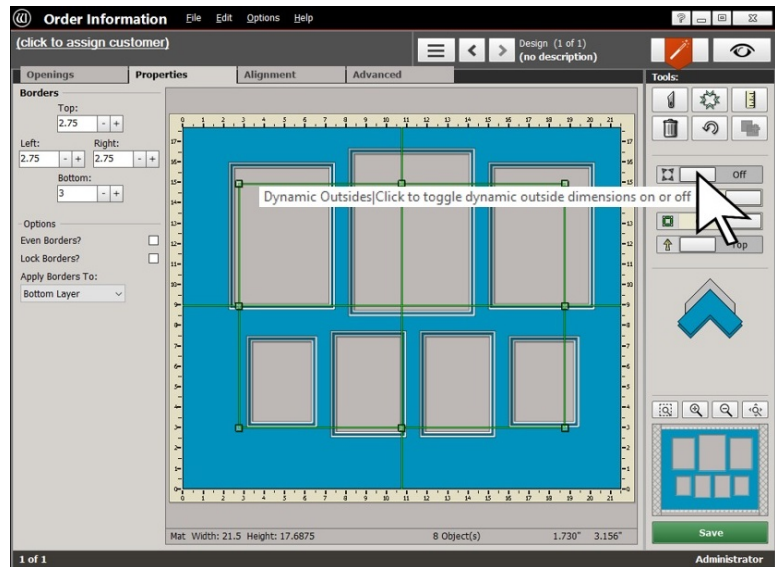
At the right under **Toggles**, there is a button with arrows at its corners. This is the **Dynamic Outsides** button.

In the illustration above, **Dynamic Outsides** is off. The outside size will not change as you make changes to the design.

In this illustration, the arrangement is complete, the **Border** widths have been set, and **Dynamic Outsides** has been switched on.

*The borders have been automatically applied around the arrangement and the outside size is set.*

The project is ready to cut.





## Working with a Predetermined Outside Size

Ready-made frames in standard sizes are a big part of our work. Also, it is common for a customer to bring in a frame for the project. In both situations the mission is to fit the arrangement into a set outside size. In this example the frame will be 20 x 24 inches.

### Setting the Outside Size

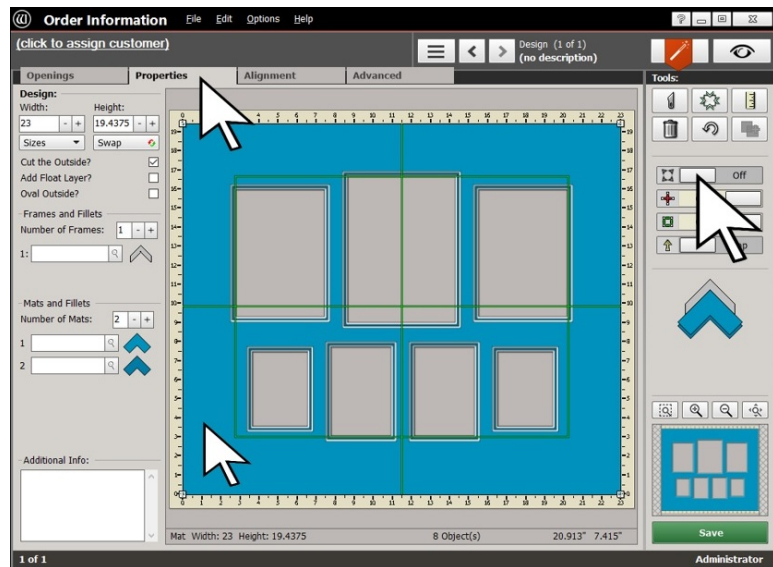
▶ Click in a blue area of the mat away from any openings.

▶ Click the **Properties** tab.

**Note:** at the upper left, the current size of the design is 23 x 19.4375 inches.

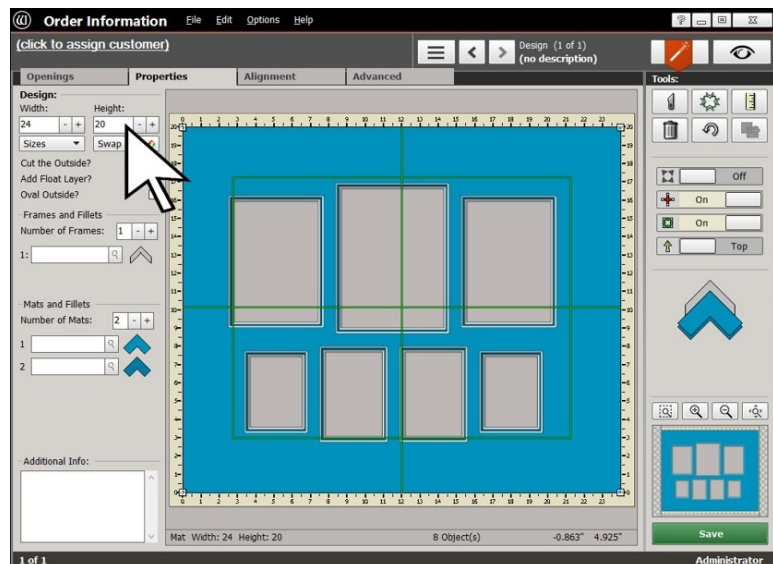
▶ Click the **Dynamic Outsides** button to de-activate it.

Now the outside size will not automatically change.



Enter the final outside size—24 x 20 inches—in the **Width** and **Height** fields.

**Note:** the outside size has changed, but the arrangement is no longer centered.



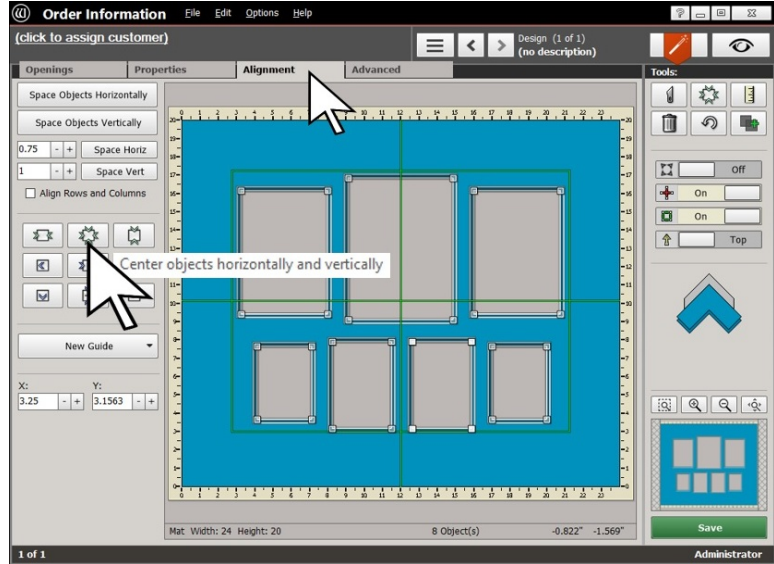


## Positioning the Arrangement of Openings

- ▶ Select all the openings in the arrangement.
- ▶ Click the **Alignment** tab at the top.

The buttons in the top row of the **Aligning** section will be useful here.

- ▶ Click the middle button. It is the **Center Objects Horizontally and Vertically** button. It will put the arrangement in the middle of the work area.

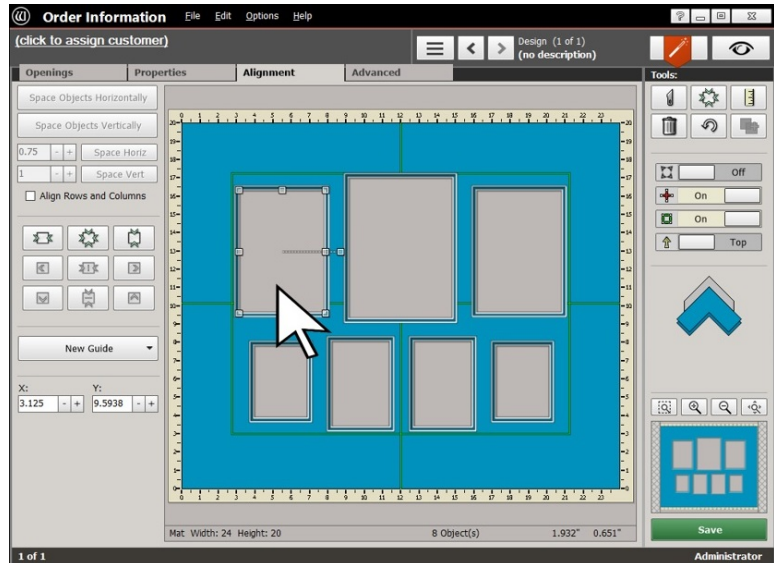


Most of the time, the arrangement will look best in the center of the work area, but there may be some adjustments to help the arrangement fit the space better.

These adjustments, as you might imagine, are for artistic purposes.

- ▶ Use the arrow keys on the keyboard for these changes.

**Note:** the selected items will move a sixteenth inch per click (1mm in metric).



In this example, the top row of the arrangement was moved up 3 clicks. The outer openings on the top row were each moved 2 clicks to the outside.

Once the arrangement is more pleasing inside the outside size, the project is ready to cut.



## Things to Remember

There are only two situations for the outside size.

- ★ Half of the time, the outside size will be determined by adding the **Border** sizes to the size of the opening arrangement. **Dynamic Outsides** will set the outside size automatically.
- ★ The other half of the time, the outside size will be pre-determined by the frame size, and the arrangement will be made to fit inside.
- ★ The centering buttons and the arrow keys will help with those artistic adjustments needed to make the project look its best.

