

# Shadowbox Design

by Jodie Prymke, CGF



## *Memories of Nature*

**H**olidays are the perfect points in the year to relax and enjoy all the wonders that nature has to offer. It's often the smallest things that will bring happy memories of past holidays rushing back. For four-year-old Millicent, she will always remember playing in the bright fall leaves of North Adelaide, Australia with her mother. She was fascinated both by their size and their vibrant colors.

“Millicent’s Adelaide” is a shadowbox that was created for a collection of fall leaves found along the wide streets of North Adelaide. North Adelaide is a

historic suburb of the City of Adelaide in the state of South Australia, situated just north of the River Torrens and within the beautiful Adelaide Park Lands.

Millicent and her family had stayed there while her father was in town for business, and when it was time to go

home, Millicent’s mother decided to have a few of her favorite leaves framed to preserve the happy memory.



*The customer was involved throughout the design process; for example, choosing the font that was used for the inscription.*

*The simplest objects—like a leaf collected on a trip—can evoke happy memories when beautifully displayed.*

### **Drying the Leaves**

Place the leaves between two sheets of wax

## Materials

**Matboard:** Bainbridge Alphasag A8640 Antique White 4-ply  
**Backing Board:** Bainbridge Artcare archival foam board  
**Outer Frame:** Larson-Luhl Allegra 284712 gold 3/4" wide  
**Inner slip:** Partos Plus 3002GL Italian gold leaf 5/8" wide, cut vertically  
**Glazing:** Tru Vue Museum Glass  
**Calligraphy:** Kunstler Script by Gunnar CMC with pen attachment

paper, ensuring that the leaves do not overlap. Open a large book and place the sheets between the pages. Close the book and lay it flat for safekeeping. Place weights on top of the book and check once a week until the leaves are dry. When drying multiple leaves in the same book, allow several pages (at least 1/8") between each sheet of leaves.

### Iron to Preserve Color

This method works best on fresh leaves that have not yet started to dry. Place one leaf between two sheets of wax paper, and put a scrap of matboard or a piece of calico on top. Heat with a dry clothes iron, no steam, for two to five minutes, or until the leaf is dry. Turn the

leaf over and repeat on the other side. Once the leaf is dry, cut the wax paper close to the leaf and peel away each side. Wax from the paper will remain on the leaf, helping to preserve its color.

### Designing the Frame

A simple arrangement of the leaves was created at the design table with Millicent and her mother. It's always a great idea to include the clients in the design process, especially when a child is involved. A photograph of the design was taken as a reference.

An additional custom touch was the inclusion of the inscription "Millicent's Adelaide," which was written on the matboard using a Gunnar CMC with a pen tool attachment before the placement of the leaves. The font used was a customer favourite, "Kunstler Script." Most fonts can be downloaded and added to your CMC's software if it is not included as standard.

The matboard chosen was Bainbridge Alphasag 100 percent cotton board in Antique White. The leaves were glued into place on the matboard with Lineco Neutral pH Adhesive. A piece of glass was placed over the top, and the arrangement was allowed to dry for a few hours.



**House of Troy**  
New Z-LED Picture Lights



- No UV or IR
- Line Voltage
- Dimmable to 5% with Standard Dimmer
- Diffused for Even Light Spread
- 2700K, 90+CRI
- 50,000 Hour Lifetime, 5 Year Warranty
- 9 Styles, Multiple Sizes and Finishes

[www.houseoftroy.com](http://www.houseoftroy.com)  
 toll free: 800-428-5367

## Deluxe

# "Floreat" Hangers

### Hangers That Won't Damage Walls

The Floreat has been called the perfect picture hanger. It cradles the fine steel nail at the proper angle and leaves only a tiny pinhole when removed. There are many imitators, but none can match the Floreat in quality. Why risk your customers' artwork on anything less, when you can offer the best?



50lb
30lb
75lb

Floreat is the registered trademark of Ziabicki Import, and stamped into only authorized Floreat Hangers. Floreat has remained unchanged in over 80 years.

# Ziabicki

## IMPORT COMPANY, INC.

[www.ziabicki.com](http://www.ziabicki.com) • [zimport@netwurx.net](mailto:zimport@netwurx.net)  
 Tel: (262) 633-7918 Fax: (262) 633-8711

The frame choice for this design was an easy one—Larson-Juhl 284712 Allegra in gold. The warm, gold autumnal tones and the delicate leaf embossing of the frame perfectly complemented the subject matter. Additionally, the 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" rabbet depth housed the three-dimensional project with ease. A piece of Tru Vue Museum Glass was placed into the frame, followed by a vertically cut 5/8" Italian gold leaf slip (liner) to create the space needed to ensure the leaves did not touch the glass. The matboard with the leaves attached was placed into the frame along with an Alphamat Artcare backing board for strength and protection, and then the frame was sealed.

The end result: Millicent was a very happy customer,

both with her leaf collection and her frame design.

The subjects for interesting and memorable shadowbox designs needn't always be expensive or "touristy." Sentimental objects as simple as a stone found along the side of a road, or a vibrant autumn leaf plucked from the ground by a curious child, can evoke the happiest of holiday memories. As the framer, all you have to do is create a beautiful display for such objects—and watch the smiles unfold. **PFM**

**Jodie Prymke, CGF**, is an international award-winning frame designer and PFGV Certified Guild Framer. Her boutique framing gallery, Jodie Prymke Fine Art Framing, in North Adelaide, South Australia, opened in March 2008. She specializes in unique frame designs, French matting, and frame restoration.

**Frame It<sup>SM</sup>**

**Business Insurance  
Designed by Picture  
Framers for  
Picture Framers**

- Damage Caused by you to Customer's Art
- Consigned Art
- Property, Liability, & Auto
- Workers' Compensation
- Convenient Payment Options
- Local Claims Handling
- Property off Premises & In Transit
- Data Breach & Cyber Liability

**Get a quote online!  
800.942.2729**

www.frame-it.org • frame-it@capax.com • capax.com

**capax** P.O. Box 3231 Modesto Ca 95363 • Buildings, Corby, Myraa Lic#0144793

For information and details please call or visit our website  
www.craft-inc.com  
800-827-2388

**Clearmount**  
A Division Of Craft Inc.

Also available in several single saw models

**DOUBLE MITER SAW SYSTEMS / SCALES**  
COMPATIBLE WITH YOUR 10" OR 12" SAWS OR WITH OURS!

For a list of distributors, please visit our website: [www.wire-cablespecialties.com/wheretobuy.asp](http://www.wire-cablespecialties.com/wheretobuy.asp)

**When You Hang A Custom Frame  
On A Length Of Wire Costing Pennies,  
It Better Be Good Wire.**

*It's ironic that the integrity of every custom frame ultimately depends on its least expensive component. Virtually every item commonly used in creating a custom frame cost more than the wire it will hang on. Bottom line – there's a degree of security in knowing the wire you used was the very best. After all, it serves to protect your customer's fine art as much as conservation glass or archival matboard.*

*When your store's reputation is literally on the line, is saving two cents per frame really worth it?*

**WCS** 440 Highlands Blvd.  
Coatesville, PA 19320, USA  
Phone: 1-866-219-3133  
E-mail: [sales@wire-cablespecialties.com](mailto:sales@wire-cablespecialties.com)  
[www.wire-cablespecialties.com](http://www.wire-cablespecialties.com)

**SoftStrand**  
The Original "Finger-Friendly" Picture Wire

**SURFLON**  
The Original "Finger-Friendly" Picture Wire

**MADE IN U.S.A.**

THE ORIGINAL "FINGER-FRIENDLY" PICTURE WIRES SINCE 1989. **SOFTSTRAND® • SUPER-SOFTSTRAND® • SURFLON® SYSTEM**