

Dimensions, Margains, & Seals

Dimensions

Period manuscripts were not always large. As a matter of fact, by modern standards, some period illuminated manuscripts were practically miniscule. While you are not barred from doing a larger piece, keep in mind that it will be more expensive for the recipient to frame. You're encouraged to choose a standard framing size. If you're not sure, just do a Google search and see if frames in that size are readily available under \$20. 11"x14" is a popular size for SCA scrolls, but 12"x16" will mat cleaner when framing.

Margains

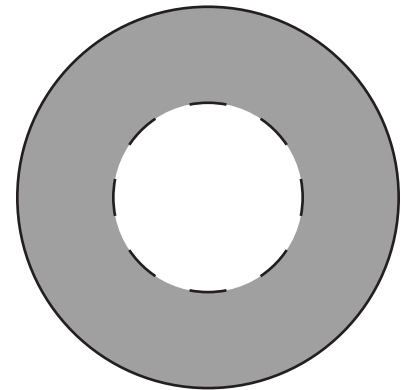
Your piece should have 1" margains meaning that there should be a one inch strip around the outside edge of the piece that is not painted, designed, or calligraphed. Be careful to consider the margains when designing your scrolls. For example: If you're working on a 12x16" sheet of bristol board, your design will need to be 10x14."

Seal Sizes

The actual dimensions of the current seals are 1.75" and 1.5" respectively. That being said, the seals are never that exact size when the wax is laid down. If you want the seals to be clear of the design, leave at least 2."

If you want the seals to be more integrated into the design, paint partially under the seals, leave the center bare still so the wax adheres easily to the paper. See diagram to the right:

- 2" inch circle laid out.
- Paint the gray area up to the interior dotted line with non-essential design.
- Do not paint anything within the 2" seal space that is essential and cannot be covered over by wax.



Design Concepts

Horror Vacui

"Fear of open space" which played a huge part in many period artworks. Especially illuminated manuscripts.

Symmetry

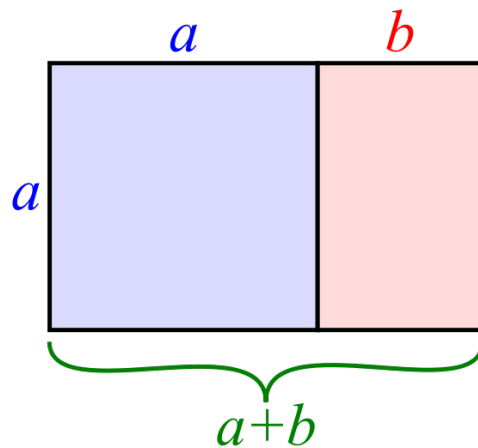
A piece that's symmetrical is mirrored horizontally or vertically across a center axis like a butterfly's wings. Generally there has to be at least 30%% difference between two symmetrical sides before the a-symmetry looks intentional rather than like an error.

Good drafting can...

- Help you to preserve negative space.
- Ensure you have space for all your necessary elements before starting
- Give your piece a general feeling of cleanliness
- Allow you to tackle complex period layouts without advanced design or drawing skills.
- Make simple tools powerful allies.
- Simplify art into math.

Golden Ratio

Mathmeticians since Euclid (300 BCE) have studied the properties of the golden ratio. The golden ratio is 2:3. A golden rectangle may be cut into a square and a smaller rectangle, and the rectangle will have the same aspect ratio of the original. It appears throughout period works.



Draft along:



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