

THE FRUGAL ARTIST

There is an artist, Carol Marine, who has published a wonderful book titled “Daily Painting” wherein she encourages us to do a small painting every day. In an article I read about her work, she described a device her husband made for her. She shows pictures, says anyone can make one, and will hook you up with free plans if you want, so I don’t think I am giving away anything here. I simply looked at the one she was using/described and made my own without any plans or dimensions.

So here goes:



I used ¼ inch MDF panel for the back panel. Make it whatever size fits your easel and puts your painting surface at a comfortable height. I glued a strip of 1/8th inch hardboard (Masonite) across the top of the back panel. A larger piece of 1/8th inch material was cut diagonally as shown, with the bottom piece glued to the back panel, and the top piece free to slide back and forth on the diagonal cut

line. I glued a strip of 1/4th inch wood to the movable piece to stiffen it and act as a handle of sorts. My painting support is also 1/8th inch gessoed hardboard panel. By placing it on the back panel with its top against the top strip, slide the movable angle upwards along the slope to contact the bottom of your painting panel to clamp it in place. A couple of clamps to fasten the slide to the back panel will hold all in place. You now can paint to all edges of your support with nothing in the way. Above you see a blank ready for paint, and one that I have finished using this device. Enjoy!

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