

Keep in mind that the two cuts forming a corner of the window must end at the same point or they will be visible on the front of the mat. This means you have to be very careful where you start and where you end your cuts.

You usually have to position the mat cutter's blade along the line you wish to cut, and then push the blade into your starting point on the mat board. The blade usually pierces the board at an angle, so you actually have to start the cut with the point of the blade $\frac{1}{16}$ " to $\frac{1}{8}$ " inside the pencil markings. This may seem counterintuitive, but because of the blade's angle, the razor's edge on the back of the board is always a little ahead of the razor's edge on the front of the board. Starting your cut a little early on the back means that when you push the blade at an angle through the mat, the cut on the front of the board begins precisely where the corner should be.

Similarly, you should end your cut a little past the markings, so the blade reaches the corner on the front of the board. It may take a little practice with your particular mat cutter to figure out just the right starting and ending points for your cut.