

Diptych and Triptych Multi-panels

Origin of the words

Diptych (DIP-tik)

This word is taken from the Greek word *diptycha*, which means double folded. It originally described a writing tablet consisting of two tablets connected with a hinge. The inner surfaces of the tablets were coated with wax, and a stylus was used to mark notes into the surface. Later the wax could be heated a bit and smoothed out for reuse.

Triptych (TRIP-tik)

This word is taken from the Greek word *triptychos*, which means having three folds. It is essentially the same as a diptych except it had three panels hinged together.

Diptych Configurations

A diptych image is most often split into two equally sized panels arranged in a horizontal (landscape) configuration close to each other so they visually “join” into a single image.



One of the considerations in creating the images for a diptych is how the dividing line between the panels affects the subject matter. For a subject that is centered in the composition, splitting it in half and separating it onto two different panels is distracting, to say the least. This is especially true when the subject is a person or animal. It might be useful for an abstract image of some sort where the division of a center-placed subject is part of the composition, but that’s getting into the abstract arena, which would go beyond this explanation.

It is also possible to generate the panels in unequal sizes, and to arrange them in either a horizontal or vertical (portrait) configuration for special applications or odd-sized locations. Using different sized panels in a vertical configuration can be a visually attractive display in a tall and narrow location.

Triptych Configurations

This 3-panel arrangement can be configured the same way as 2-panel diptych, normally in a horizontal configuration. It is common to divide the image into three equally sized panels, or to set the center panel a bit smaller than the outer left and right panels to avoid awkward dividing lines of the subject. The outer left and right panels are normally set to the same size.



If the division between the left and mid panels was moved to the left a little, it would intersect with the light to dark transition in the image. This would reduce the visual “connection” between the panels.

Cost Comparisons of Multi-panel vs. Single Image Prints

The cost of a multi-panel print of images is affected by the materials and shipping cost. Largest sizes often require truck freight, while mid-sized and smaller size prints can be shipped via FedEx and UPS. Larger canvas single prints also need extra foam backing and thicker frame material to keep the canvas taut, which adds a bit more to the cost.

Stretched Canvas Pricing

Smaller sizes use .75 inch stretcher frames. Larger sizes use 1.25 inch stretcher frames. Canvas prints have an underlying stretcher frame, plus larger wooden frame parts and additional foam backing is necessary on larger sizes.

Overall Display Size (inches)	Single Print Cost	Diptych Cost	Triptych Cost
2:1 proportion prints			
36 x 72	\$895*	\$495	\$383
30 x 60	\$475	\$282	\$311
24 x 48	\$374	\$264	\$272
3:1 proportion prints			
24 x 72	\$474	\$267	\$373
20 x 60	\$524	\$220	\$272
16 x 48	\$190	\$197	\$281
*Requires truck freight			

Metal Print Pricing

The cost structure with metal prints is different than stretched canvas. With metal prints, the cost is closely tied to a cost per square inch basis. Larger prints have a larger inset frame on the back of the print, but it's a minimal amount of material. A multi-panel print is the same overall square inches as a single print.

Overall Display Size (inches)	Single Print Cost	Diptych Cost	Triptych Cost
2:1 proportion prints			
36 x 72	N/A	N/A	N/A
30 x 60	\$1067	\$1058	\$1115
24 x 48	\$748	\$734	\$785
3:1 proportion prints			
24 x 72	N/A	N/A	N/A
20 x 60	\$776	\$757	\$808
16 x 48	\$573	\$538	\$579

It is usually best to mount the panels with not more than an inch or two between them to keep them visually connected. Of course, the image contents may look "better" with more space between the panels to coordinate with surrounding furnishings and other artwork. It's your choice.

NOTE: Pricing is effective April 2026 and subject to change without notice.