



STRETCHING CANVAS ONTO STRETCHER BARS

Materials Needed:

- Fredrix® Primed or Unprimed canvas
- Fredrix® Canvas Pliers
- Ruler
- Heavy Duty Staple Gun or Magnetic-Head Track Hammer
- 3/8" Stainless steel Heavy Duty Staples
- Fredrix® Stretcher Strips: 2 equal horizontal & 2 equal vertical sizes

- 1.) Assemble frame by fitting together tongue and groove ends of stretcher strips. Check the squareness of the frame by measuring across the diagonal corners so that both are equal. Attach cross bracing if needed.
- 2.) Cut canvas 4" longer on all four sides than assemble stretcher frame. Center the canvas face down, on a clean flat surface. Align stretcher frame with the vertical and horizontal weave of the canvas.
- 3.) Fold one side of the canvas over the longer stretcher strip and drive a staple into the center of the back of the stretcher strip (for clean edge), flush with wood.
- 4.) Go to the opposite side. Grip canvas with canvas pliers (with left hand for right handed person) and stretch tight, until a straight crease is formed running across the canvas. Maintain tension and drive staple (with right hand for right handed person) into the center of back of stretcher strip, flush with wood. If staples are not flush with wood, maintain tension with pliers and hammer staple until flush with wood. Do not overstretch. (Unprimed canvas may go out of alignment or damage stretcher frame when canvas shrinks during priming.)
- 5.) Stretch and attach canvas to the centers of adjacent stretcher strips in the same manner: Canvas will now have a diamond shaped wrinkle.
- 6.) Drive in staples every 1 1/2"-2", moving outward from the center, alternately switching to opposite sides. Drive in one staple to the left and right of center, then go to the opposite side and repeat. Then go to adjacent sides and repeat. Work from the center toward the corners. Pull tightly; using canvas pliers, but not so much that it will wrinkle canvas between staples. First pull tightly towards you, then with other hand pull at right angle, towards corner, for an even stretch in both directions, then staple.
- 7.) Stop 3" from the corners. For rectangular stretcher frames, adjust stapling so that you arrive 3" from each corner at the same time. Double fold canvas at corners, so that final fold lines up with edge and staple through folded canvas into back of frame while exerting finger tension.
- 8.) Fold the excess canvas to the back of the frame and staple or tack to allow for remounting in the future. If the canvas is trimmed flush with the frame, remounting to same size is more difficult.