



Mounting Canvas onto a Stretcher Frame

Below are some guidelines to follow when mounting stretch canvas onto a stretcher frame. These guidelines will help limit image scratching, edge curl, and edge cracking. Visit our website for product application guides and additional bulletins. www.magiclee.net

- * After printing, images should be allowed to dry before handling. Apply surface treatment prior to stretching. When applying finish, apply light prime coat and let dry. Final finish coating may then be applied.
- * Canvas should be allowed to rest in room temperature for several hours before stretching. Canvas should not be stretched in temperatures below 65°F as canvas would be more susceptible to cracking in cold environments. The ideal environment is 50%RH/70°F. A suitable work space for stretching would be a felt-lined work table.
- * Stretcher bars with rounded edges are recommended over sharp edge stretcher bars.
- * Heavier canvases are designed for automated wraps and gallery wraps.
- * Check the squareness of the frame by measuring across the diagonal corners so that both are equal. Cross brace if needed. Crossbracing is suggested for standard stretch frames 24" x 36" and larger.
- * Cut canvas 4" longer on all four sides than the assembled stretcher frame. Leaving excess canvas around the frame will allow for possible future remounting.
- * The use of staples, rather than tacks, is suggested for easier canvas mounting. Secure staples flush with the wood and at a slight angle to the edge of the stretcher bar.
- * Secured canvas should be snug but not overstretched across the stretcher frame. To help prevent corner tears use less tension on matte canvas than on glossy canvas.
- * Secure first side by driving 3 staples in the center of the stretcher bar, starting at the center, then driving a staple on both sides of the initial staple. Space staples 1 1/2" to 2" apart. Rotate frame to opposite side while being careful not to drag canvas across the work table. Grasp the canvas edge in the center with Stretching Pliers and pull taut. Secure with 3 staples in the center as with the first side. Rotate canvas to adjacent unattached side and repeat process. On the fourth side, repeat process by securing the center with 3 staples. Moving from the center outwards, alternately add 2 additional staples to each side of the first staples. Rotate frame to opposite side and repeat process until all edges are secured.
- * Double fold canvas at corners, so that final fold lines up with edge and staple through folded canvas on the back of the frame. Fold the excess canvas to the back of the frame and staple. To reduce canvas bulk at the corners of the stretcher frame, consider using wedge corner cuts.
- * Stretched canvas should be stored in the vertical position. Avoid leaning canvas prints against one another. If one stretched canvas must lean against another, place glassine paper or craft paper between canvases.