

Mounting on Stretcher Bars

NOTE: If you choose to stretch your Artist Color Guide, it is recommended that the stretching be done **BEFORE** you paint the canvas.

1. You will need canvas pliers (like ordinary pliers with a wider gripping area), stapler/staples or hammer/tacks, and the appropriate-sized stretcher bars for the Artist Painting Color Guide© you want to stretch.
2. Assemble by interlocking the mitered corners according to directions included with stretcher bars.
3. When your stretcher frame is assembled on a flat surface, verify that it is square. This can be done by measuring the diagonal distances from both opposing corners. If these are equal, the corners are square. If there is a problem, correct it by attaching a small metal right-angle brace or a small right triangle of plywood on the inner frame corner.
4. Lay the unpainted Artist Painting Color Guide© canvas picture-side down on a clean, flat surface. Place the frame on top of the canvas directly over the picture area. The excess of this canvas will be used to attach to the stretcher frame.
5. Fold one side of the canvas over the side of the shorter stretcher bars and attach with a tack or staple to the center of the stretcher bar.
6. At the opposite side, use canvas pliers to grip the center of the canvas and pull it around the side of the stretcher bar until a slight crease is formed to the tacked end. While holding the tension on the canvas, place another tack or staple at the center of this rail, just like the other side.
7. Move to the longer stretcher bars/canvas, repeating steps 4 and 5. After attaching the canvas to the first long stretcher bar, you will notice a triangular crease on the front of the canvas, and a diamond-shaped crease when the fourth side is attached.
8. Place temporary tacks or staples at all four corners.
9. Starting with the center of one of the long bars, grip the canvas with the pliers, pull it around the side of the bar and attach to the edge every 2 inches. Then switch to the opposite side and repeat this process. Continue working from the center until both long sides are completely tacked down to all but about one inch from each corner, stretching the canvas evenly as you attach it.
10. When both long sides are finished, remove the temporary tacks or staples placed in Step 7. Then repeat the same fastening process (described in step 8) to attach the shorter sides working out from the center.
11. Fold and pleat the corners of the canvas and neatly wrap them around the frame. While keeping tension on the material, tack all of the excess canvas to the frame so that it is neatly secured. Then place tacks or staples on each side of all four outer corners.