

Stretching a Canvas



LEVEL
Easy

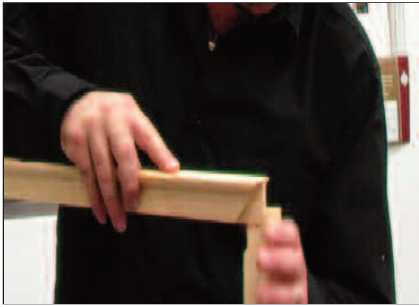
AGE
12 - Adult

Hello Mont Marte Joe here, today I shall be showing you how to build and stretch your own Canvas. Stretcher Bars come in 13 sizes, so work out what size you would like your Canvas to be and choose your stretcher bars accordingly. My Canvas is going to be 50 cm X 101 cm.

Material List

MAXX0016	Mont Marte Dual Action Pliers Aluminium
MAXX0017	Mont Marte Canvas Stapler Set with Remover
CAXX0008	Mont Marte Stretcher Bars X 2 50.8 cm
CAXX0015	Mont Marte Stretcher Bar X 2 101.6 cm
MPA0032	Mont Marte Gesso Tub 500 ml
MPB0040	Mont Marte Artist Brush Gesso no # 6 Long Handle Canvas

Let's get into it!



Step 1: Joining your Stretcher Bars

Lay your Canvas face down on the floor. Then join your Stretcher Bars together to form a rectangle.



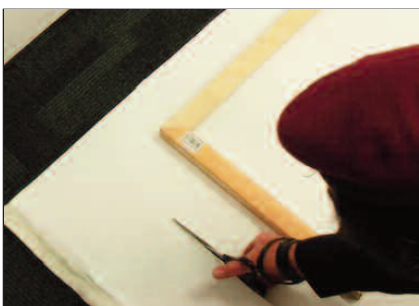
Step 2: Getting a Snug Fit

The Stretcher Bars are designed to fit together tightly, you may have to give them a tap with a hammer to achieve a snug fit. Do this gently to avoid damaging the wood.



Step 3: Getting it Square

Lay the Stretchers on to the back of the Canvas. Check that the corners of the assembled frame are square, do this by measuring the diagonals with a Tape Measure to ensure they are the same.



Step 4: Cutting the Canvas

With the square frame on the Canvas, cut the Canvas to the frame allowing 100 mm clearance around the frame for stapling. Ensure the horizontal and vertical threads of the canvas run parallel with the top and the sides of the frame.



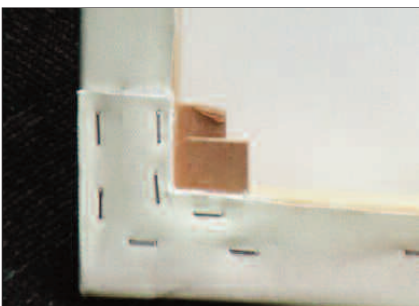
Step 5: Attaching the Canvas to the Frame

Fold the Canvas and place a staple in the centre of the long Stretcher. Use your Dual Action Pliers to clamp the Canvas and tension it. You will notice there is a step in one of the jaws of the Pliers, this is so you can use the corner of the Stretcher as leverage. Repeat on opposite side. Now do the same with the top and the bottom on the short Stretcher Bars. Now your Canvas is in place, work your way around the frame placing a staple every 50mm - 80mm using the Pliers to tension the Canvas as you do this.



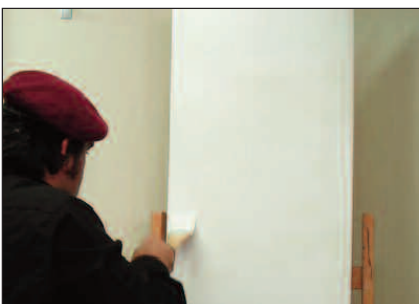
Step 6: Finishing off the Canvas

The corners of the Canvas should always be finished neatly. Tuck the excess Canvas neatly under the short edge of the Stretcher and pull the Canvas tightly across the upright Stretcher. Fix with staples, repeat this for each corner. This is called a gallery corner. If you are unsure of how to go about this step, please view the video.



Step 7: Placing in the Wedges

Insert two wedges in the slots provided in the inner corners of the frame. When in place, lightly tap these in to the frame using a hammer. This will expand the Stretchers and tighten the Canvas.



Step 8: Priming your Canvas

Paint the Gesso on to the Canvas with horizontal strokes with your Long Handle Brush. Allow that to dry and apply a second coat using vertical strokes. Your canvas is now ready to paint.

*Keep on
Painting*