

These instructions are for stretching inkjet prints on canvas that can be easily reproduced - not originals, limited editions or paintings with financial or sentimental value. Browse our website and read our current trade catalogue for details of our wide range of specialist materials, accessories, equipment and tools that will speed up and give consistency to the task. For a demonstration, come and see us in Birmingham.



There are four basic stages to stretching an inkjet printed canvas:

- A Preparing the canvas
- B Assembling stretcher bars
- C Stretching the canvas
- D Finishing the job professionally

Tools

- Soft faced hammer
- Measuring tape
- Stretcher pliers
- Staple gun
- Safety knife
- Screwdriver
- Alignment gauge

Materials

- Canvas protection
 - Liquid coatings
 - Hot over laminate
- Stretcher Bars
- Self-adh brown tape
- CWH hangers
- Bumpers



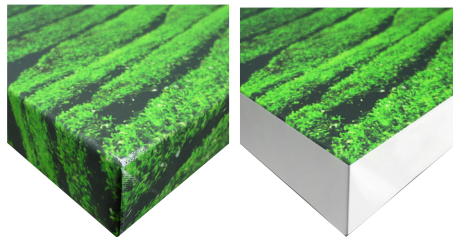
A Preparing the canvas

Make sure the canvas is large enough to be stretched around the back of the stretcher bars.

You will need to allow at least 75mm of canvas all around the back of the frame to allow you to stretch and staple it to the back of the stretcher bars.



Whether the printed image is wrapped around the edges of the stretcher bars, Gallery Wrap style, or has white borders around the edges, Traditional Style, depends on the composition of the printed image and the customers preference.



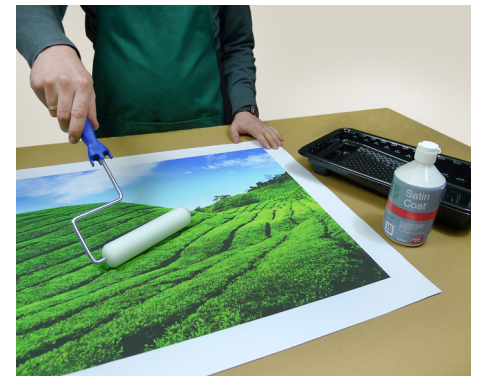
Gallery Wrap style *Traditional style*

Inkjet prints on canvas are best protected by a laminate or coating.

This helps protect the ink from scratches and cracking on the edges. Some also

add an element of UV protection and can enhance the image with a matt, satin or gloss effect.

Depending on the equipment you have available and the type of work you do the laminate protection can be a hot over-laminate, applied with a heated press.

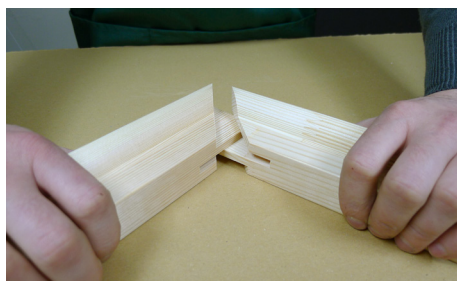


B Assembling stretcher bars

Stretcher bars have special jointed corners that allow them to be slotted together.

Wooden wedges are supplied with Lion stretcher bars. Over time, if the canvas sags, the wedges can be tapped further into the joints, opening them slightly and re-tensioning the canvas.

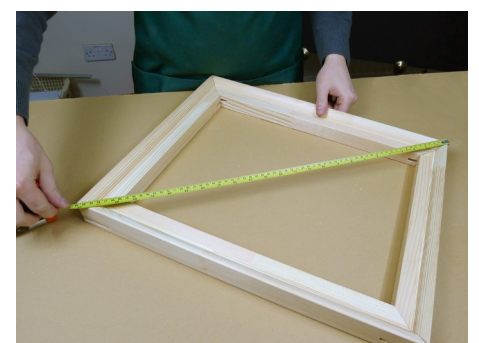
Stretcher bars are supplied in pairs. For a frame that is 406mm x 508mm / 16" x 20" you would order one pair of 406mm and one pair of 508mm bars. See current Lion Trade catalogue.



Slot the bars together loosely by hand and use a soft faced hammer to knock them fully together.

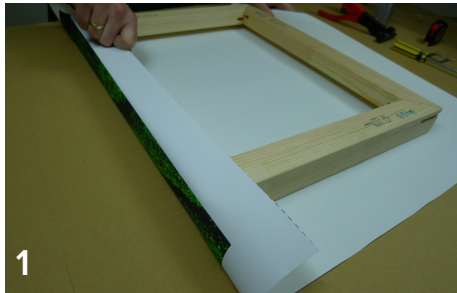
Check the frame is square by measuring the distance between opposite corners. If you are assembling stretcher bars on a regular basis a 90° angle jig on your workbench will save time.

On larger frames, single or cross braces can be used with Premium or Gallery stretcher bar profiles.



C Stretching the canvas

Place the stretcher frame on the back of the canvas. Make sure the canvas is lined up correctly, especially important if you are stretching to have white sides, traditional style. Remember that the canvas will stretch slightly.



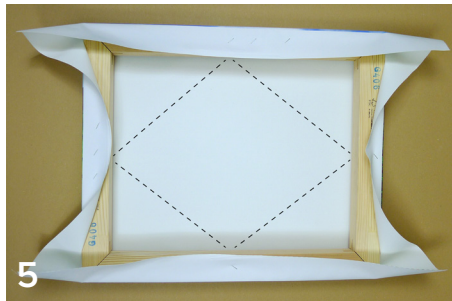
1
Staple the canvas in the middle of one of the long sides.



2
Using the stretcher pliers, pull the canvas tight across the opposite side and staple. Stretcher pliers have specially shaped jaws to act as a lever to get good, even tension. How taught you get the canvas will depend a little on the canvas and is something you'll get used to with experience.

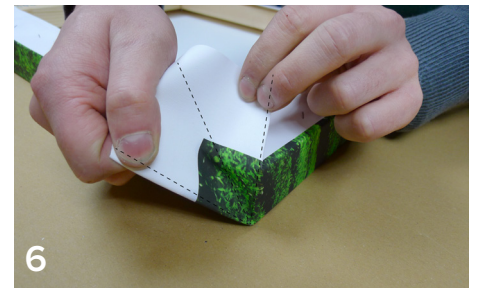


3
4
Do the same on the two short sides. On larger canvases you will end up with a diamond crease where the canvas has been stretched.



5
Using the stretcher pliers, work around the canvas. Always staple opposite sides of the canvas to keep the tension even. Do not staple the last 4" / 100mm to the corners.

To keep the corner neat you need a double fold. This takes a little practice but is easy when you get used to it.



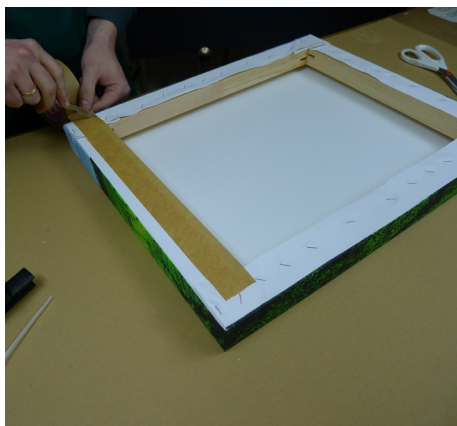
6
7
If the canvas is quite thick the excess on the corner can be trimmed off to stop it looking too bulky.

Staple the corners, taking care not to staple over the join of the stretcher bars.



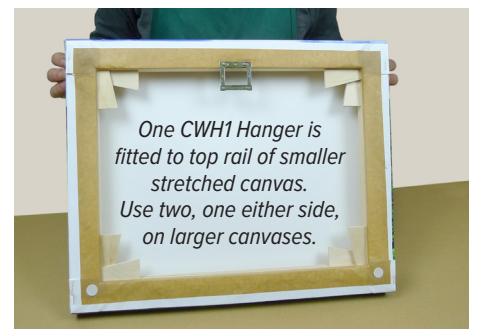
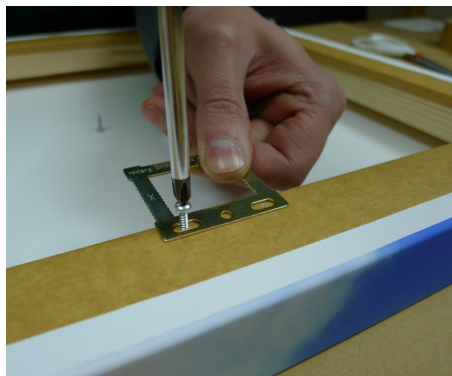
D Finishing the job professionally

Trim away the excess canvas and use brown self-adhesive tape or white fabric tape to make the back neat and tidy, covering staples and folded corners.



Add CWH1 Hangers. Depending on the shape and size of the frame, use one at the top of the frame, or two, one on either side of the frame, for extra stability.

Felt bumpers on the bottom corners are a neat finishing touch. The wooden wedges can be pushed into the corners, or supplied separately in a bag.



LION Picture Framing Supplies Ltd

148 Garrison Street, Birmingham B9 4BN

Tel: 0121 773 1230 Fax: 0121 771 2540

Open 08-45 - 17.00 Monday to Friday

lionpic.co.uk

info@lionpic.co.uk

Any prices quoted are correct as at June 2017. Please check before ordering.

