



Many sign makers and people involved in other creative industries often wonder how ImagePerfect™ 2310, 2311, 2319, 2320 or 2323 (as digitally-printed canvas products) can be applied to a wooden stretcher. Is it difficult? What options are there and what can I do?

It's actually easier than you think!

The classic stretcher is made of pre-prepared slats which slot together, as per the diagram below

The stretcher is held together by small wooden wedges that are inserted into pre-prepared slots on the back of the stretcher.



Classic Method

Stretchers can be bought in standard or individual formats from many artist-supply shops. Good quality stretchers are made of dried, knotless, well-seasoned spruce/fir which does not buckle. You can also build your own stretcher out of teak or beach slats. The slats are mitred, bolted and glued such that all four corners of the stretcher have a perfect right angle. During construction, the wooden wedges are inserted, the angle of the joint is adjusted and the glue is left to harden.

The corners can then be further strengthened with staples. A powerful staple gun, especially an electronic version, will even penetrate hardwoods.

For even more process security, the corners can be strengthened with steel corner plates. This is particularly useful with larger format stretchers.



Fixing Canvas Prints to a Wooden Stretcher

Stretching and Fixing



1. Put the stretcher on a table on which you have already spread a blanket. Align the print, firmly grasp the stretcher and canvas with your hands and turn the whole thing over.



2. Staple the canvas once on one of the short sides in the middle of the stretcher.



3. Then turn the stretcher upside down and pull the canvas taut over the stretcher using canvas pliers (illustrated). Staple the canvas once in the centre of the stretcher. In most cases, this can be achieved manually, without needing a clamp. Repeat this process on the other two sides, as shown in the above image. The canvas is now temporarily stretched.



4. Continue stapling along one of the short sides. The distance between the staples should be approximately 30mm. Now confirm that the canvas has been stretched tight and is not loose or baggy. If it does need adjusting, this is no problem. Simply remove the relevant staples with a screwdriver, re-stretch the canvas and re-staple.



5. What about the corners? Take the overlapping canvas and fold inwards. Then secure the canvas by stapling it on both sides.



6. Invariably, each stretched canvas needs a hanger. For medium and larger sized stretchers (larger than A3), two hooks should be fixed to opposite sides of the stretcher, as shown in the picture. As a general rule, the distance between the hooks should be a quarter of the total length measured from the upper frame.



7. A fine wire should now be threaded through the hooks. Adjust the length of the wire so that it is not exposed above the stretcher. The stretched canvas is now ready to be hung on the wall.



8. Often the stretched canvas is inserted into a standard picture frame. If the stretcher is a standard size, there will normally be a standard frame to support it. Otherwise the frame would be custom made.



9. The frame would be attached to the stretcher with either steel pins and a hammer or staples and a staple gun.



10. Finished wooden stretcher

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