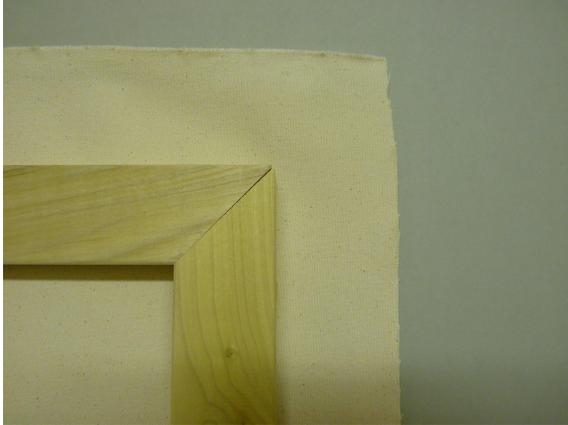
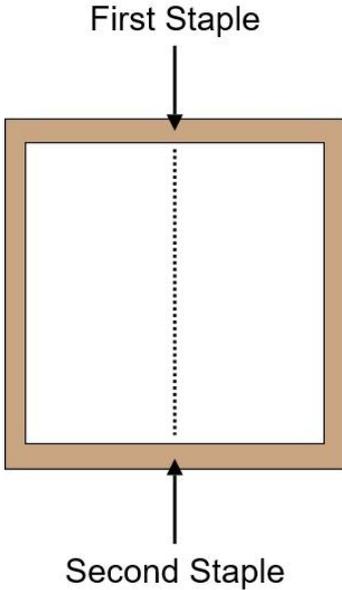
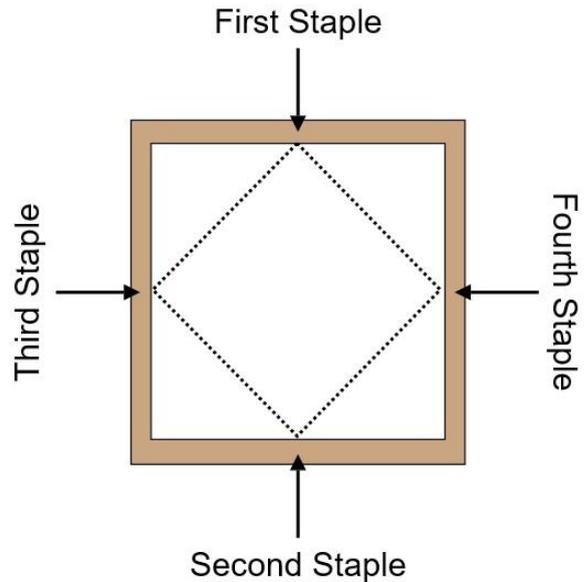


How to Stretch a Canvas - HM Canvases Ltd

<p>Tools Needed: Scissors Staple Gun Stretcher Pliers (optional)</p>	<p>Assemble the Stretcher frame as outlined In the Harris Moore How to Assemble Stretcher Bars Factsheet</p>
<p>Spread the canvas on a clean flat surface, and place your stretcher frame with its front side down.</p> <p>Trim around the frame leaving enough fabric to go up the sides and approx 5cm to fold over onto the back.</p> <p>Eg. on a 45mm Deep Frame you would allow approx 10cm of fabric extra all the way around.</p>	
<p>Now, making sure your frame is placed front side down so the flat surface is facing you, align the frame with the weave of the fabric in the centre of the fabric you have cut.</p> <p>To start, fold one side of the canvas over a short end of the stretcher (or any side if square), and staple at the centre of the stretcher Bar.</p> <p>With a tight grip on the pliers, pull firmly until a straight crease is formed running from the pliers to the stapled end. Staple while maintaining plier tension at the top of the crease.</p>	

Move to an adjacent side and follow the same procedure, pulling firmly and stapling canvas to the stretcher at the centre, creating first a triangle crease and then a diamond crease in the canvas with the fourth staple, at the opposite long side.



Work out from the centre of the long sides. Move the pliers about 50mm / 2" to one side, pull tightly, and staple to the frame. Repeat in both directions from the centre, then move to the opposite long side and continue the process.

On smaller canvases, an the entire side can be stapled at one time.

On larger ones, the canvas should be rotated several times, stapling individual sections in turn, moving out to the corners.

A linen primed canvas or printed canvas will normally require more closely spaced staples as there is limited stretch to the fabric.



For a neat finish on the back of canvas wrap, neatly fold over the surplus canvas and secure with a second row of staples.

Repeat this procedure on two opposing sides, stapling up to the edge.



It is important to get a neat finish at the corners. First start by folding in and pulling up on the first of the unfolded sides so that the folded edge is vertical and in line with the corner of the frame.



Fold over as if you are making a hospital corner, and insert a staple right in the corner. At this point you may also want to trim out the excess triangle of fabric underneath the fold.

Repeat this process on the remaining three corners.



Finally fold over the fabric on the last two edges and staple for a neat finish.

