



A Guide to Assembling a HM Canvases Stretcher Frame

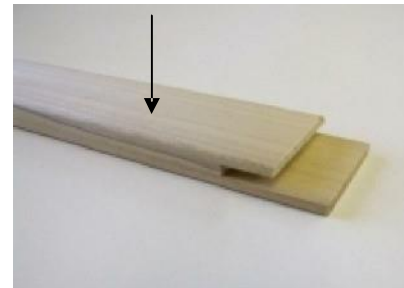
1. Putting Together Cross Braces

If your frame is over 90cm (36") you may have purchased Cross Braces for additional support, if you have no Cross Braces, or only a Single Brace then please move onto step 2.

Notched Cross Braces should be put together first. On a sturdy table or workbench fit the two lap joints together. The joint can be fixed with counter sunk screws or with staples.



Make sure your fixings are on the side of the cross bars with the rebated ends, so they are not visible from the back of the canvas when the frame is assembled.



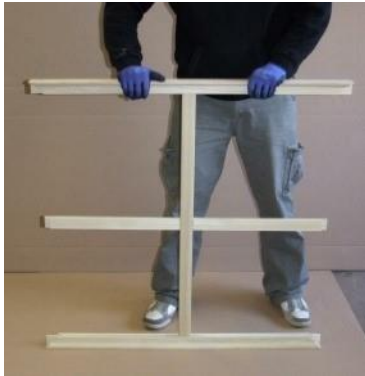
2. Putting together your frame.

Lay your stretcher bars on the table or floor with the centre slots facing upwards. Arrange the bars with the two longest lengths nearest to you if your frame is rectangular.



Insert your assembled double cross bar into the first bar, if your frame is rectangular make sure the short cross bar is inserted into one of the long stretcher bars and the rebated side of the cross-bar end is facing towards the profiled edge of the stretcher bar.





Pick up the assembled part of the frame and turn 180 degrees then push the frame firmly into the 2nd long stretcher bar.

Pick up the frame again and turn 90 degrees left or right. Carefully align the stretcher bars and the cross bars to the slots on the stretcher bar and push in firmly, you may need the rubber mallet at this point to tap the joints into place.

Pick up the remaining stretcher bar and push into place on top of the frame, use the rubber mallet to knock the joints securely together.

3. Squaring your frame

Before stretching you need to ensure that your frame is properly squared. This is achieved most accurately by ensuring the distance from the opposite corners of the frame are identical. Lay your frame face down on the table or floor. Check again that the four corner joints are butted neatly together. Check that the cross bars are centred in their slots and that the rebated edge of the cross-bar end is in contact with stretcher bar.



With the frame in front of you hook the end of the tape measure over the back left corner of the frame and measure to the front right corner. Make a note of the length and repeat the process from the back right to the front left corner. Mark the difference between the two distances and hook the tape measure over the two corners with the longest distance between them, adjust the distance by gently tapping with the mallet then check both distances again to make sure your frame is properly square.

