

## Stretched Canvas

Miniatures West Club Project by Nikki Donahue • Photographed and edited by Monin Dreebin

### TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Wood: 1/16" x 1/8" x 10" and 1/64"x1/4" x 3" for each stretcher frame
- Bleached Muslin, 200 thread count
- Small piece of cardboard
- Sandpaper or emery board
- T-pins
- Tacky glue
- Sharpie pen: brown fine tip
- Paint: white, bronze.



### 1. Wooden Stretcher Frames:

Stretcher frames come in many sizes, both in thickness and in height and width. Make your own variations to fit your needs. To make a stretcher frame that is 18" x 24" in real life, say, use the 1/16" x 1/8" wood and cut 2 pieces each 2 inches long and 2 pieces each 1-3/8" long. Form a rectangle

with the 1/16" sides on a flat surface and glue the 2 shorter pieces inside of the 2 longer pieces, flush at both ends.

Before the glue has set completely, check that it is square by placing on the graph paper. If you are not going to paint on your canvas, you may want a cross support in the middle. Cut a 3rd piece 1-3/8" long and glue in place after the basic frame has dried completely. If you plan to paint on the canvas, you should omit this step, as the middle support can create a crease that will interfere with the painting.

### 2. Canvas covering:

Check your fabric for creases. Iron them out. Paint the fabric with white paint. Use only enough paint to cover the surface, but not to saturate the fabric. Any paint that soaks through will show when the canvas is stretched. Stretch and pin the painted canvas to a drying board and let it dry thoroughly.

Glue the dried canvas, painted side out, to the surface of the stretcher frame. Make it as taut as possible. Before gluing to the sides, remove some of the excess fabric,



diagonally and slightly away from the wood at the corners. Glue the canvas to the sides of the frame. When thoroughly dry, trim excess fabric and "paint" nails along the side edges, using the brown marker.

### 3. Corners:

From the 1/64" x 1/4" wood, cut triangles that are 1/4" on two sides. Cut more than you need. Select the best ones and set aside. Glue the remaining triangles to the piece of cardboard for practice in painting on the "nails". First make a pencil mark where you want each "nail". Then use a t-pin, dipped in bronze paint, to paint them on the triangles.

Once you are confident, glue the perfect triangles on the back corners of the frame and paint the nails.



Photo showing the pieces and steps for the stretched canvas