

## Using Sheet Canvas & Preparing Your Panels & More

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A good reason for using canvas from the roll is because it's less expensive than canvas already on stretcher bars or fixed to panels (which are usually just cardboard). Also you can make your canvas any size you want.

Having sheet canvas is great for practice and Plein air painting. Plus it's a bonus if the painting turns out to be good enough to frame—you can then put it on stretcher bars or fix it to wood panels or cradled wood panels.

If you need a ridged surface to do a painting that requires aggressive work such as a lot of scrubbing, thick mediums or palette knife work, you can permanently fix your canvas piece to a wood panel before painting.

Use any leftover irregular sized pieces for practicing techniques or small quick studies. No point in wasting any of your canvas.

A great way to use sheet canvas is to spread Scotch re-stickable adhesive to a foam core panel and then place your sheet canvas over it spreading out from the centre. When you lift your canvas off the panel it will be perfectly clean on the backside (no sticky residue). When you are not using your panel, you can cover it with a sheet of glassine paper or tracing paper to retain its adhesive quality.

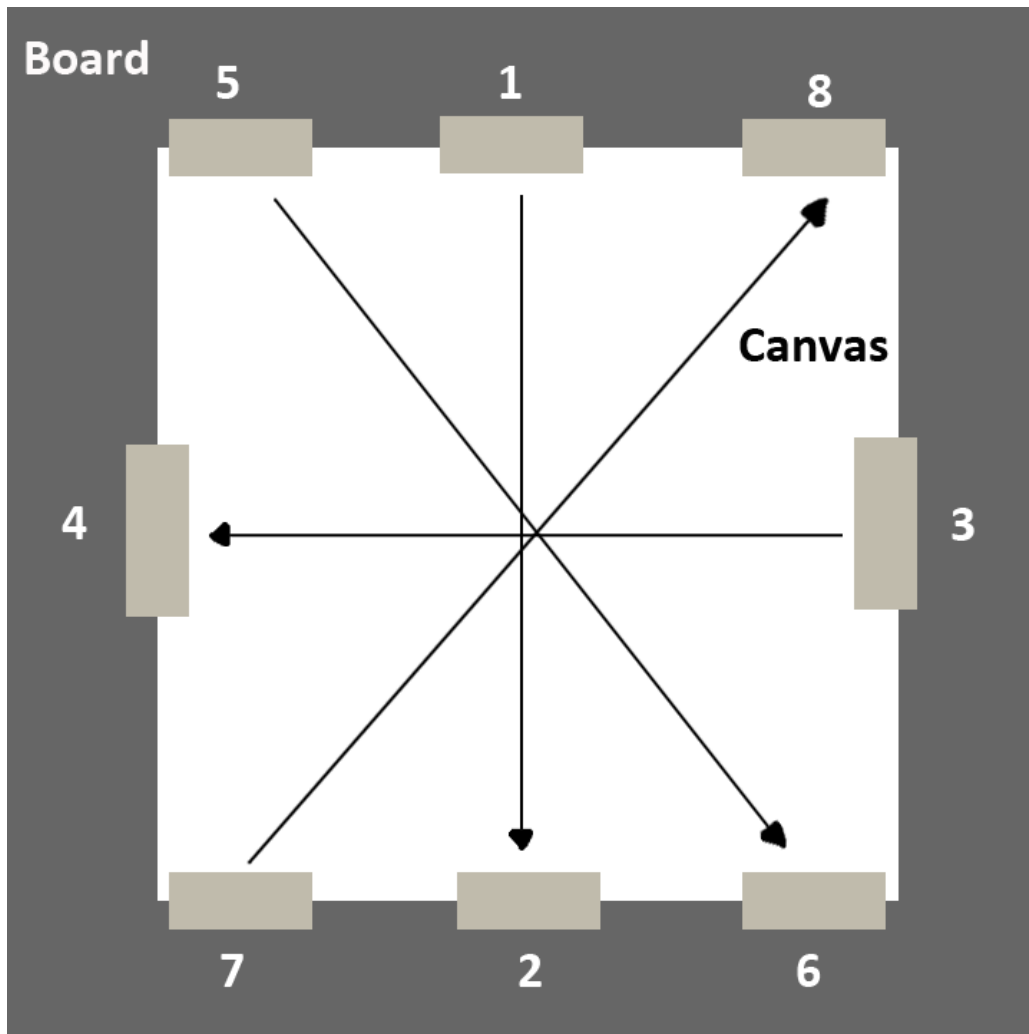
This method makes for a light weight painting substrate. Since Plein air painting is generally used for doing studies, the pieces tend to be 5 x 7, 8 x 10, 9 x 12 or 11 x 14. It is also useful in the studio when doing small paintings.

When doing larger paintings in the studio, you can stretch the canvas onto a board. This method is helpful if the canvas is going to be on the board for a few days or more. You would create tension and secure your canvas with masking tape.

*Refer to the example on page 2. Start with one of the sides, (my example is #1) securely placing a piece of tape, then using the palm of your hand press in the direction of the arrow to the other side and secure with another piece of tape. Continue until all sides are secured and tension created. For the corners (my example is #5) securely place your tape to the first corner and using your palm press down and towards the opposite corner and secure with another piece of tape. Repeat until all four corners are secured.*

You can now use the masking take to make a border around the whole piece of canvas to create a clean edge for your painting.

**Note:** *Never put the tape on at an angle across the actual corner because this could cause issues when you are painting by eliminating your squared corners.*



If you are planning on putting your finished painting onto stretcher bars, make sure you leave at least a 1 ½” or 2” canvas border to allow for stapling the canvas over the stretcher bars. If you want to do a gallery wrap make sure you have enough canvas for the wrap.

**Note:** you can always put your canvas onto stretcher bars before you paint. There are loads of google videos on how to stretch canvas with stretcher bars.

## **Preparing Your Wood panels, non-gessoed Canvas or Watercolour Paper**

Apply two coats of Gloss Medium to seal your substrate before applying your gesso.

### **Adhering Your Substrate (Canvas or Paper) to Wood Panels**

1. Apply a coat of Soft Gel Gloss Medium to your wood panel and to the back of your gessoed and/or painted substrate. (*Note: your substrate should be at least ½” larger than your panel.*)
2. Lay the substrate on the wood panel and using your fingers or a brayer press out from the centre to the corners and sides; continue to do this until the substrate is nice and flat. Make sure all the corners and sides are glued down flat. Wipe away any excess gel that may appear around the edges.
3. Place a piece of shop towel or lint free cloth on the substrate to cover it completely. Place a board that is larger than your panel on top of it and then heavy books/weights on top of the board. Let dry overnight.
4. The next day you can flip your panel over onto a self-healing cutting board and using an exacto style knife trim off the excess canvas or paper.

#### **Extra tip:**

- Before you varnish your finished painting, apply an isolation coat (2 parts Soft Gel Gloss Medium and 1 part water) because, if the varnish ever needs removing you do not want the removal process to also remove or discolour your painting. Ensure the mixture is well blended before applying to your painting.

*Sheet canvas and preparing panels.docx/pdf*

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