

5. Using The Templates

Introduction To The Templates.

As said in early documents, picture frame making is a precise process that requires accuracy with a steel tape measure and precise cutting tools. To make measuring the picture easier I have produced a set of accurately cut templates to help you measure accurate sizes for the frames you need. These templates have been made from spare moulding that I have in stock, and are NOT made from the moulding that will make the frames that I provide you.

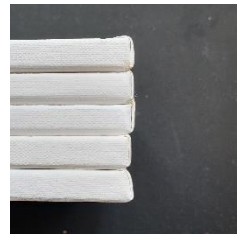
You send me the size of your canvases as stated on the manufacturer's label, and I will send you back a set of 5, or sometimes 6 templates for each length. If your normal canvas is say 400mm x 500mm then you will receive templates that are clearly marked as 396mm, 398mm, 400mm, 402mm and 404mm. You will have similar sizes based around a 500mm side. If you need additional smaller or larger template then tell me and I will cut one and get it to you.

The aim is to find the smallest template that the sides of the canvases will fit in to. You don't need to measure all of your canvases, just a few. It takes about 10 minutes.

Initial Visual Check of Canvases



Get a selection of canvases out of their boxes and stack them carefully so 2 sides line up with each other – a longer side will rest on the floor, and a shorter side might rest against a door. Have a look at them and remove any canvases that seem overly “wonky”. It would be best to remove any cellophane protection that they have. These seem to be fine visually.



Using The Templates

I am using a canvas that is supposedly 400mm x 500mm, and I am going to start by measuring this supposedly 500 mm side using a 498mm wide template. Note here, at the corner, that the canvas has been layered over itself to form the corner and there is a clear thickening at the corner. Being canvas it can be compressed with some finger pressure on it. Take the template and lay it on a flat surface with the rebate side up.





So, the 498mm template is laid flat, and a corner of the canvas is pushed into the corner of the template – see right. The other corner of the canvas though will not go into the corner of the template - see left. The template is too small for the canvas, the 500mm template is also too small for the canvas.



If we go to the 504mm template, the canvas lays loosely in the 504mm template and can move around in it – the template is slightly too big. See how misshapen this canvas is (see left)? The irregular size of the gap between the canvas and the template has come about as a result of the tension in the middle of the canvas pulling, or bowing, in the middle of the canvas stretcher. The canvas is a bit narrower in the middle than at the ends.



If we go to the 502mm template we find that the template is still a little bit small for the canvas, BUT, because the corner has been thickened by some layers of canvas, I can push the layers of canvas in with my finger and use some gentle pressure to force the whole canvas into the template. It's a bit tight, but it fits. The other 500mm side also just fits the 502mm template. This means that the longest sides of the canvas are both

502mm.

Now to do the same thing to the 400 mm sides, I find that one side fits the 402mm template – it needs a gentle push in because of the canvas thickening at the corner. The 402mm template though, is too large for the other side of the canvas – the canvas can move a little within the template. The 400mm template though is too small for this side of the canvas. So I will say that the measurement for this other 400mm side is “402mm – “(402mm minus).

The measurements that I need to know then are 502mm, 502mm, 402mm and 402-mm.

Do this procedure for just 4 or 5 canvases out of a batch please and let me have the template sizes. I will then add about 3 or 4 mm to the lengths you give me, cut the frame mouldings and make the frames. This method should ensure that most of the frames I provide you will be large enough to fit most of your canvases, with the canvases having some movement within the frame. It wouldn't do you any harm though to check the occasional canvas using the templates – start with the templates that fit.

Russell Collins. 07976 912550. Russell@simplysimpleframes.com
www.simplysimpleframes.com

You should do this procedure every time you buy a fresh batch of canvases.

If you change canvas sizes then you will need some additional templates. Incidentally, a 12inch by 16inch canvas is not by the way, 300mm x 400mm, but 305mm x 406mm. Call me about the new canvas size and I will get you some more templates on the way.

Frames That Don't Fit.

The law of averages will state that once in a while you will get (rogue) canvases in a batch that are a little too small or large for the frames you have. This means that you cannot temporarily sell the frames you have, you should be able to sell them eventually, but not just yet. If this happens then let me know and I can do one of a number of things:

1. Let me know the size of the rogue canvases and I can cut some more frames to fit the rogue size for you. I won't charge you for delivery and I will wait a bit longer for payment.
2. If you, after a while, realise you can't sell the earlier batch of frames then I can replace them on a one for one basis at no cost whatever to you. I will include in the delivery box of the replacement canvases a return address label. You can put the original frames into the packaging, stick on the new label and send them back to me. You will have to take them to a drop-off point and I should be able to tell you where that is. I am sure that I will be able to use the frames myself in some way.