

How to Stretch Watercolor Paper

© Doris Ettlinger 2012



1 Cut paper, trim deckle.



2 Measure 3/4" border on all sides. Draw with ruler for art work.



3 Draw image or trace from a sketch on a light table.



4 Trace edge of paper on board. I use 1/2" birch plywood.



5 Measure and cut gummed paper tape about an inch longer than the paper in each dimension.



6 If using 3" tape, cut in half lengthwise.



7 Cut plastic wrap to fit within the rectangle drawn on board. Secure with small pieces of art tape. This protects the paper.



8 Soak paper in a basin or run under a faucet for 1-3 min. Drain excess water. Use pencil guides to position paper on board.



9 Wet paper tape in bowl of water, using index and middle fingers as a squeegee. Use ring finger to press tape into water.



10 Position wet tape on penciled rule (on the wc paper). Smooth down with hands and then with a paper towel.



11 Repeat on the other three sides. Use thumbnail or bone folder or burnisher to seal tape to board and paper.



12 If gaps still appear after firm pressure has been applied, use a staple gun. Staple through the tape and wc paper.