

How to Stretch Your Needlework – Pinning Method

- 1) This method is particularly useful for needlework being framed in an oval or circle-shaped frame and any needlework with a border or irregular tension. It allows for the needlework's tension to be precisely controlled.
- 2) Cut a piece of archival foam core board to stretch your needlework onto. The size of the board should be 25mm bigger than the opening in the matboard. For example, if the area of needlework you want to see is 200mm x 150mm, that is the size of the matboard opening. For a piece that size, cut the board to stretch the needlework onto 225mm x 175mm.
- 3) If the needlework is not having a matboard, cut the archival foam core board to the size of the needlework, plus 10mm (approximately) to allow for some stretch. Fabrics will vary.
- 4) Centre your needlework onto the board.
Using stainless steel pins only, pin all the way around into the edges of the foam core board, 10mm apart, stretching gently as you go. The pins can be removed and adjusted many times until you are completely happy with the result.
- 5) For needlework with a border, a template or a very clean ruler can be butterfly-clipped to the face of the fabric to use as a straight guide.
- 6) Leave the pins in place.





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