

STRETCHING YOUR OWN SCREEN FRAME

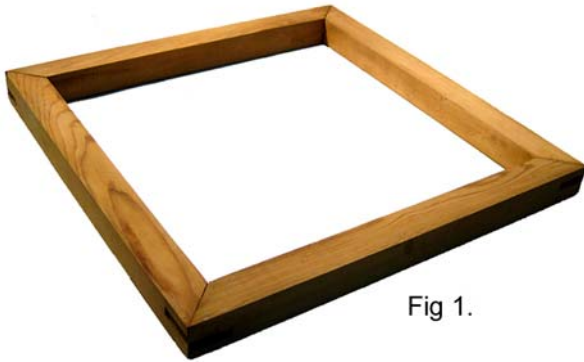


Fig 1.

If you intend to prepare your own screen frame to print with you can make one yourself or you could buy a new frame or obtain a second hand frame. It will be necessary in any case the frame must have strong corner joints. They might be a finger joint or a lapped joint that is glued and screwed. To stretch the screen frame you obtain

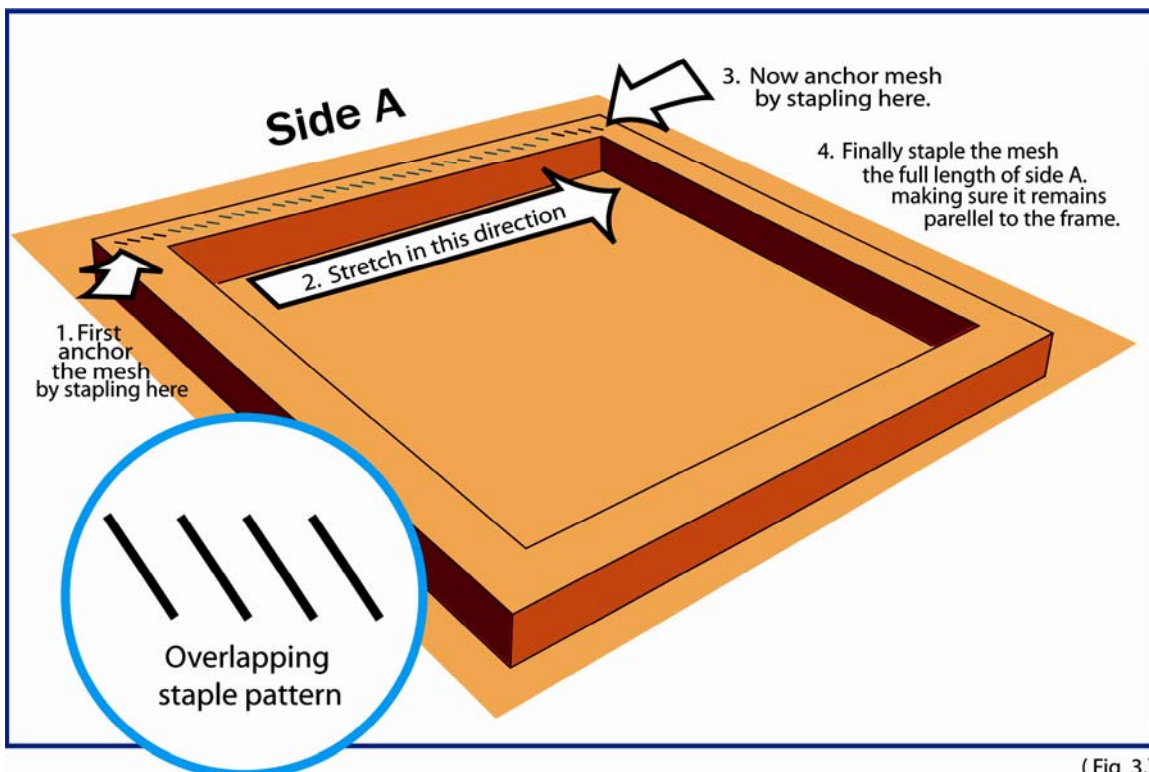
a piece of mesh a little larger than the outside of the frame lets say about 8 cm. on each side, as in fig 2.



Fig. 2

To start stretching the mesh you use a staple gun that will drive the staples firmly into the wood. The mesh has to be stretched as tight as possible without leaving any loose sections. You first staple one corner of the mesh onto a corner of the frame as indicated in fig 3. This is to anchor the mesh to be stretching. We will call this side of the frame (A). You will need to leave some overhang mesh. As

shown in fig 2. Now you stretch towards the next corner of the frame and anchor

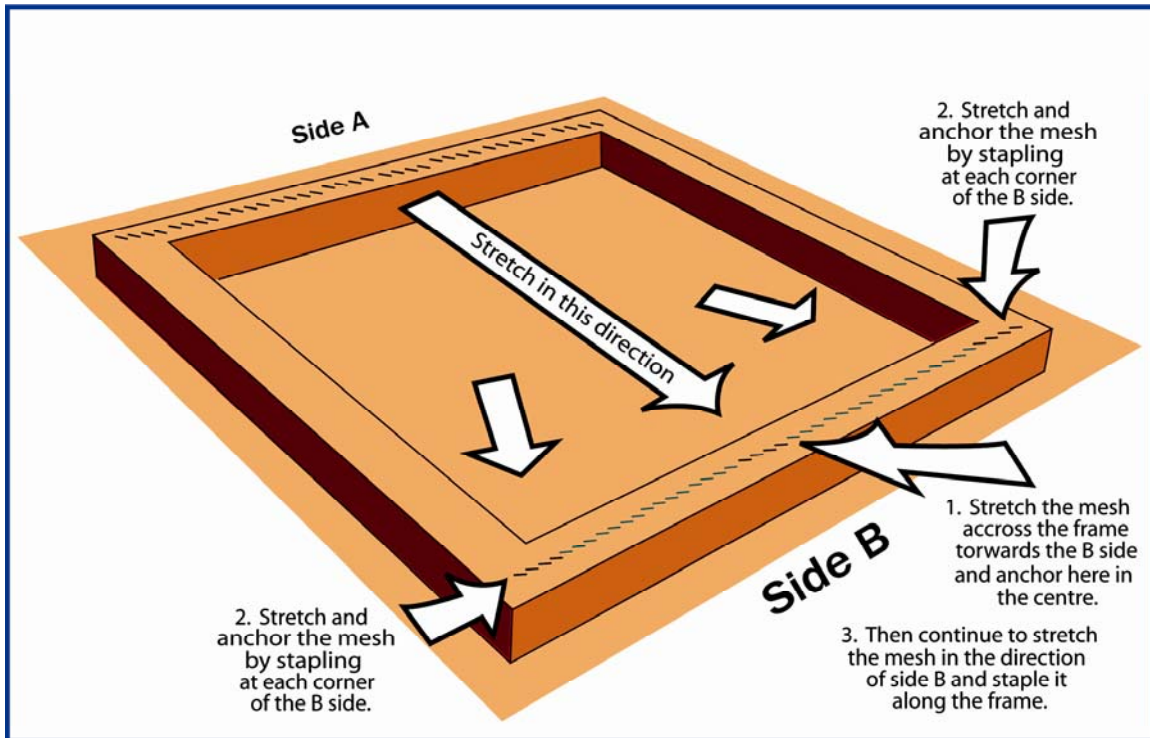


(Fig 3.)

the mesh to that corner there by stapling, you must keep the mesh under tension until it is stapled and fixed firmly.

Next staple along the stretched section of the (A) side, it is advisable to place the staples at an angle with each staple overlapping the last staple a little, (see the insert in fig 3.) Depending on how hard the wood is that the frame is made of, it might be sometimes necessary to tap the staples with a hammer to be sure they have gripped the mesh securely.

The next position to stretch from is the opposite side of the frame.

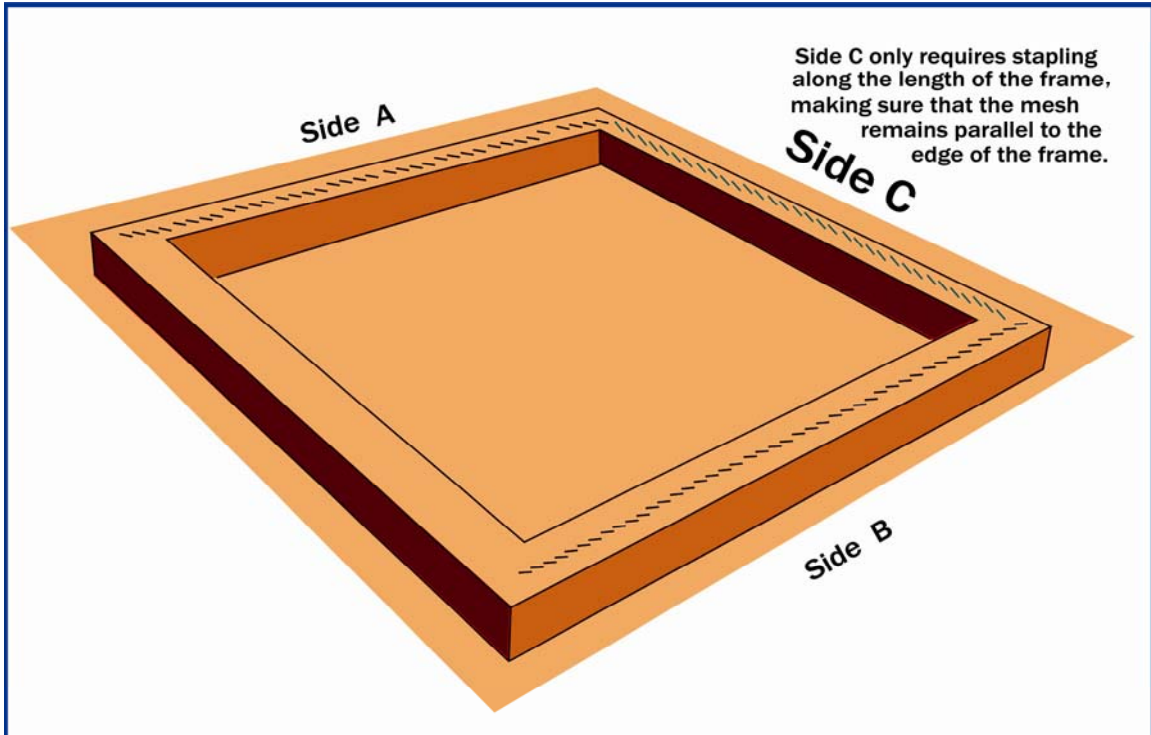


(Fig 4.)

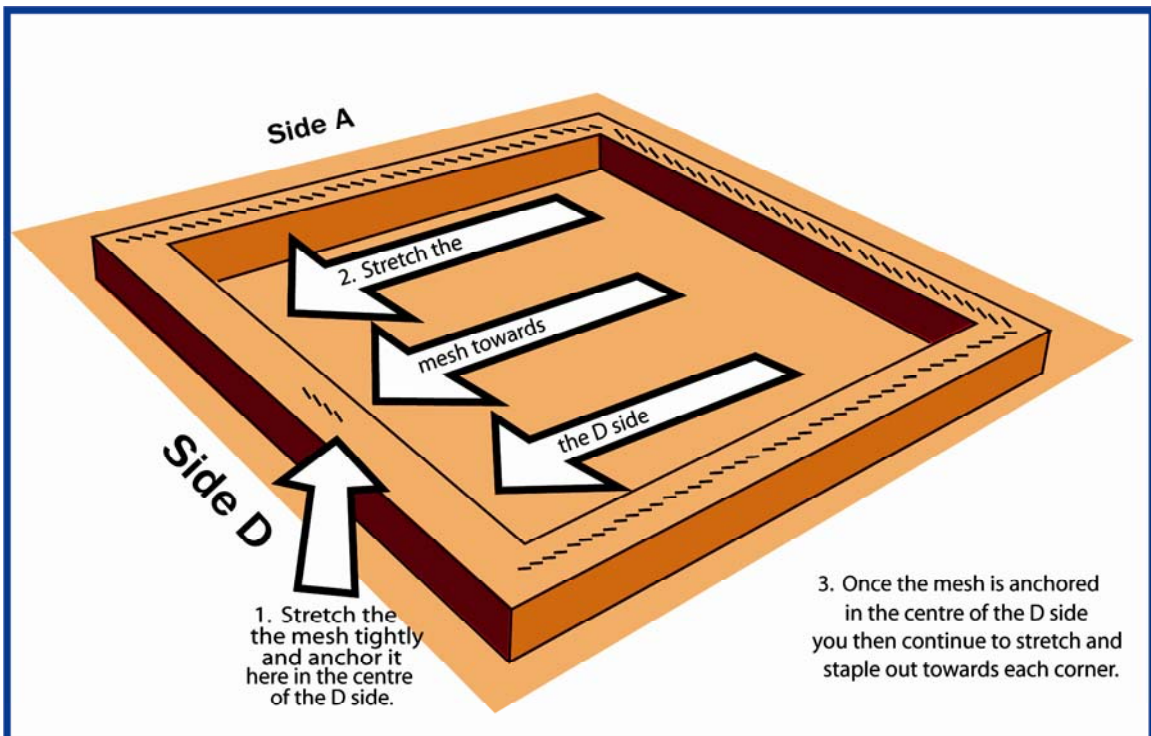
We can call this side (B). You now stretch pulling against the (A) side of the mesh. For an even finish it is advisable to start from the centre and work out towards the corners stapling as you go. You will need to stretch in two directions. First you are stretching using side (A) as the anchor and as you stretch and work out towards the corner you need to stretch away from the centre, See fig 4. This is done in small increments lets say about 2cm. at a time and stapling as you go. The stretching procedure generally requires two people one stretches the mesh while the other does the stapling.

When you have fully stapled the (B) side of the frame you then go to one of the unstapled sides we will call it side (C).

To staple the C. side you do not need to stretch the mesh but only make sure it is parallel to the side of the frame as you staple. Start at the centre again working out towards the corners. When you have finished this side, you can now stretch the last side of your screen frame side (D).



(Fig 5.)



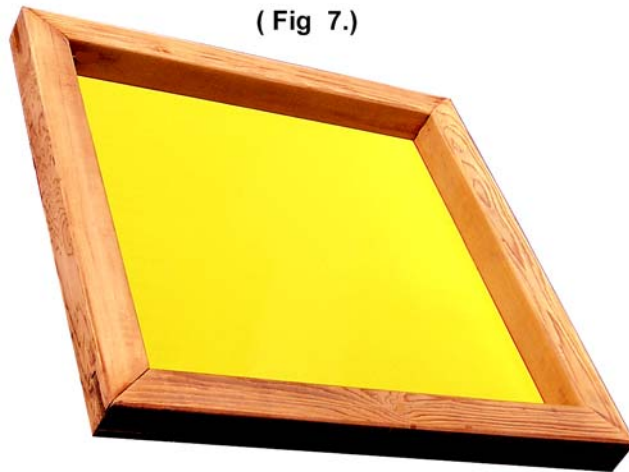
(Fig 6.)

Again start from the centre and work out to the corners. It is necessary on this side to stretch as tight as you can without tearing the mesh off the staples on the opposite

side of the frame. When you finish this side the mesh on the frame should have a tight even feel about it.

The next step is to seal the stapled edge so the mesh doesn't work loose as you print. Some paint it with a lacquer or you could paint it with some PVA paint or glue and let it dry thoroughly. Finally neatly trim the mesh around the outside edge of the frame. Now your meshed frame is ready to use.

(Fig 7.)



Some things that you should understand or do.

The top of the screen is the side the squeegee prints on. The underside, that is the side that has been meshed is generally referred to as the bottom side.

It is generally considered good practice to put some tape neatly around the inside of the frame in the corner where the mesh and wood come together. This will make it easier to clean up the screen after printing.