



## The Painting Cave

Art Space Solutions #004

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# Make Your Own Canvas Board

Need a good but inexpensive surface to practice on?



by [Jacqui Simpson](#) on October 7, 2019

Buying canvas boards or canvas on frames can be quite expensive, especially if you paint a lot. Canvas boards are nice to use to paint smaller pieces for practice and pleasure and can be easily slipped into a frame if they are standard size boards, or stored flat on top of each other using less room than canvas frames. The only drawback in using canvas board is that you cannot hang them unless they have been framed; although they can look pretty cool propped up against walls and on bookcases.

This is a simple, cheap way to make your own canvas board at a fraction of the price. Your shapes and sizes are determined by the size and shape of the board and if you are handy with an electrical saw, you can have fun.

Many Timber stores have offcuts of Masonite that they will sell you, and for a few extra Rand, they will cut your board for you, into the sizes that you need.

Canvas can be bought at most material shops. It comes in different grades and thicknesses. Find canvas that has a good cross weave and that is smooth (no cotton bubbles on it) and that is relatively strong. Off-cuts are great too because they are cheaper to buy. Little A5 size canvas boards are great to travel with.

## You will need:

- White Acrylic wall PVA paint
- Wood glue
- 2 x plastic rulers
- Scissors
- Masking/packaging tape
- Canvas sheeting (calico or cotton)
- Masonite board
- Sponge paintbrush
- Sponge Sander

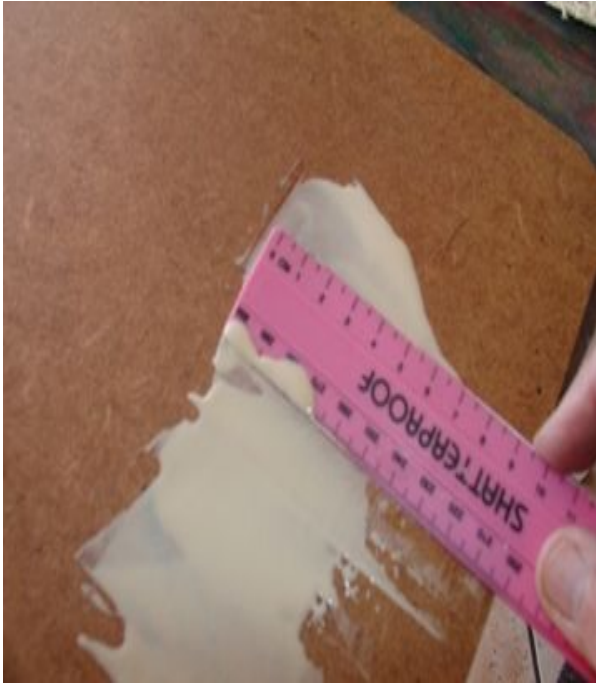


This is the **FRONT SIDE** of the masonite and the **CORRECT** side to put the canvas on.



This is the **BACK SIDE** of the masonite. It is porous and the **WRONG** side to put the canvas on

Cut your canvas approximately 4cm wider and longer than your board and make sure that you cut the edges of the canvas straight.



Pour the glue onto the masonite (I like to write my name onto the board with the glue so that it is all over the board and I don't need to move the glue too far to cover the whole board)

Using your plastic ruler as a scraper, (or a scraper if you have one) scrape the glue onto the board. Ensure that you cover the entire board with an even layer of glue **right up to the edges**

The glue may seep through the canvas a little - this is okay. I always prefer to use too much rather than too little because if you miss a spot on the board, it will leave a bubble on your canvas which is what you don't want.

Once your board is covered with glue,, carefully lay your canvas over the board and ensure that the edges that hang over are more or less the same size all around. **Don't panic, you can move it slightly.**

Once it is in place, take your other plastic ruler and starting at the center, start to scrape the canvas onto the glue, easing out all the creases in your cloth and spreading any thicker patches of glue. Scrape right along to the edges. If the glue starts to seep out of the edges of the board, this is okay as you are going to use it when you do the reverse side of the board.





Once you are satisfied that the canvas is nice and flat and bump-free, flip the board over.

Squeeze out a thin line of glue right on the edge of the reverse side of the board and using your fingers, smooth the canvas flat on to the board.

Here again, I allow the glue to ooze out under the cloth and quickly run a strip of masking tape along the edge of the cloth on top of the cloth and the oozing glue and rub, rub rub, till it's flat.

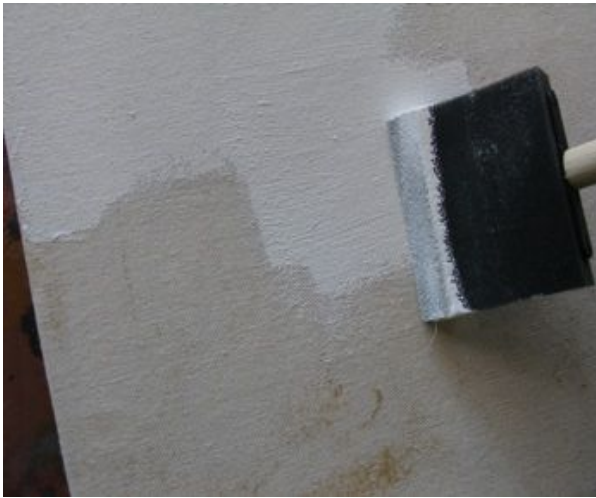
It is important that you cut the corners neatly, cutting off the excess canvas so that you have a flat neat corner.

Leave your board to dry properly (I let it lie overnight to ensure that it is completely dry) on a flat surface. This is important so that it does not bend.



PVA paint will stick on canvas very well. Since your canvas is already glued down, it is not absolutely necessary to use anything else, however, I do know that some artists like to add gel medium to their paint before they apply it to the canvas. Personally, I don't find it necessary.





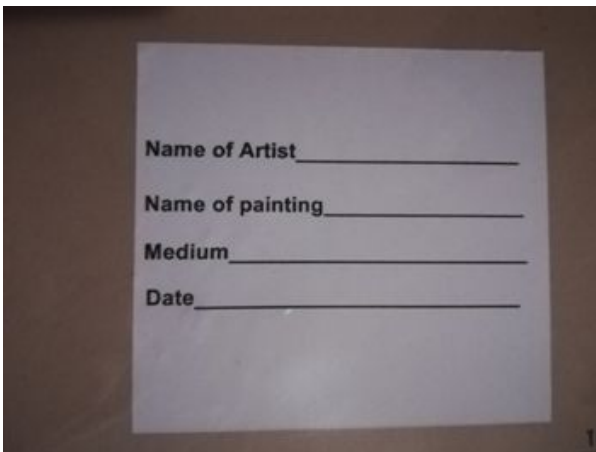
I like to use a sponge brush to apply the PVA. It goes on smoothly and allows you to apply it so that there are no brush marks on the canvas.

Cover the entire canvas and then let it dry completely. Don't forget your edges!

When the first coat is finished and dry, apply a second coat in the opposite direction. Keep checking to ensure that you do not leave gaps. You want a beautiful flat finished surface that is solid paint and completely sealed.

When my board is completely dry, I like to take a sponge sander and give it a good once over to ensure that there are no rough patches on the surface.

If you want to, you can paste a printed sticker on the back for easy recording and also put your beautiful canvasses into a polypropylene bag to keep them clean. Now you're good to go!



Happy painting Artists!



## Who am I?

My name is Jacqui (Jax) Simpson. I am an Artist and teacher and have taught many students over 30 years.

I am passionate about Art and about those who want to learn how to create art.

I will be sending out tips, tricks, and advice to you on a weekly basis.

I am here to help you and I would love to hear from you.

## Stay in touch with us!



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