

## The JOIN RITE Canvas Stretch'r Story

### Which is better for stretching canvas, pneumatic or mechanical?

Mechanical is better. You have more control over the entire process and it's actually faster than conventional pneumatic machines. One fluid motion of the handle creates two distinct actions, the jaw closes to create tension on the canvas, then the pushers move forward and stretch the canvas onto the wooden frame. You can stop at any time. You can staple on the backside for a gallery wrap or on the sides for a conventional stretch.

Join Rite Canvas Stretch'rs can create a gallery wrap with as little as 3/4" beyond the bottom of the stretcher bar. It can stretch canvas that is wider than the machine, or connect two machines to make a wider unit. This is not possible in other machines.

Because the canvas can start "in front" of the machine edge, it can stretch canvas that is wider than the machine. The fact that the front clamp jaw swings *into* the machine and the handle switches from side to side makes this all possible. A rugged 3/4" shaft with cams runs through the machine, and allows for another machine to be coupled to it, creating a wider machine. For some companies this is desirable, to stretch wider canvases in one pull rather than multiple bites.

A simple coupler that looks similar to the slotted handle joins the two machines together and is supplied free.

It should be noted that the two features mentioned above are not inclusive. That means you cannot stretch a canvas wider than the machine with only 3/4" beyond the bottom of the bar. You can do either/or but not both at the same time.

The unique design of the Join Rite machines allow anyone with a little practice to stretch a canvas in a very short time compared to hand stretching. It also allows you to do "exact positioning" on new digital images using the same technique as stretching wider than the machine, that is, by starting the canvas 1/4"- 1/2" "in front" or ahead of the machine edge. Simply adjust the pusher plates with the stretcher bar in front so the bar starts ahead of the machine face. This is the technique being used in the videos. To start, set the bar on top of the pusher plates to make it easier to insert the tail of the canvas into the jaw. Then lower the frame and canvas by pulling it forward until the frame sits in front of the pusher plates. Closing the jaw starts the stretching process before the canvas even start to move forward. This gentle motion allows you to align the edge of the image to the edge of the frame while stretching, and the manual motion allows you to stop at any time. This is nearly impossible with pneumatic machines.

I have built a pneumatic version of the Join Rite machine. It was always designed to be either/or but I built the mechanical version first. The performance of the mechanical machine led me to believe that a pneumatic one was not necessary. I still believe that. The pneumatic version of our machine is not faster nor is it easier to use. It just costs more to make.