

Preparing Fabric for the Freedom Frame

While there are numerous fabric options for hand embroidery, these instructions will focus on the two most commonly used types of fabric, cotton and linen. For other types of fabric (with the exception of silk & other delicate fabrics that require mounting onto a backing fabric), we recommend following these instructions to properly dress your frame. For fabrics requiring mounting, follow these instructions to dress the frame with the backing fabric & then mount the delicate fabric onto the backing fabric as directed for your project.

Preparing Linen:

1. Select the piece of linen you intend to use, keeping in mind the working area of the slate frame you plan to dress. (i.e. for a 15" frame the fabric should be no wider than 15")
2. If the linen requires cutting, do so along the grain of the fabric.
3. Once cut you'll want to make sure your fabric is square by removing warp (vertical) or weft (horizontal) threads from all four sides of your linen until you are able to pull one full warp or weft thread from each side of the fabric. (a "full" thread is one which runs the entire length or width of the fabric without breaking) Trim the frayed edges from each side as close to the fabric as you can without cutting the newly squared edge.
4. Once cut to your desired size, make sure that the side you've chosen as the right side of the linen is facing up. (In the case of flax linen, the right side of the fabric is the one in which the raised diagonal lines should run from the bottom left to the top right of the fabric.)
5. The linen, positioned in the proper orientation, will allow you to define the top and bottom of your workpiece.
6. You are now ready to create a firm crease across the top and bottom of your linen necessary for loading the fabric into the Freedom Frame
7. Begin on the top left, marking the side of the linen at least 1 ½ inches from the top of the fabric.
8. Starting where you have placed the mark, follow the grain to the opposite side of the linen and make a second mark. Your fabric should now have two marks on either side of the fabric, 1.5" down from the top.
9. Begin creating a fold at the marks, by finger creasing the top of the fabric over itself, across the length of the linen
10. Firm up the crease with an iron to secure the fold in place.
11. Repeat steps 5-9 on the bottom of your linen
12. Now you need to find the center of your fabric. To do this measure along the top crease to find the center of the top folded edge. Mark it with a light pencil mark or a straight pin. Using a second pin, follow the center grain down to the bottom folded edge & mark this point with light pencil or another straight pin.
13. The linen is now prepped for the Freedom Frame.

Preparing Cotton:

1. Select the piece of cotton you intend to use, keeping in mind the working area of the slate frame you plan to dress. (i.e. for a 15" frame the fabric should be no wider than 15")
2. If the cotton requires cutting, be sure to use a straight edge & to cut along the grain of the fabric.
3. Once cut to your desired size, make sure that the right side of the cotton is facing up.
4. The fabric, positioned in the proper orientation, will allow you to define the top and bottom of your workpiece.
5. You are now ready to create a firm crease across the top and bottom of your cotton necessary for loading the fabric into the Freedom Frame
6. Begin on the top left, marking the side of the cotton at least 1 ½ inches from the top of the fabric.
7. Starting where you have placed the mark, follow the grain to the opposite side of the cotton, and make a second mark. Your fabric should now have two marks on either side of the fabric, 1.5" down from the top.
8. Begin creating a fold at the marks, by finger creasing the top of the fabric over itself, across the length of the cotton.
9. Firm up the crease with an iron to secure the fold in place.
10. Repeat steps 5-9 on the bottom of your fabric
11. Now you need to find the center of your fabric. To do this measure along the top crease to find the center of the top folded edge and mark with a light pencil mark or straight pin. Repeat along the bottom crease to find the center of the bottom folded edge.
12. The cotton workpiece is now prepped for the Freedom Frame.