

## Instructions for stretching water color paper

Full or half sheets

1. Thoroughly wet both sides of watercolor paper with CLEAN water using a brush or sponge or soaking paper in a tub of cool water until the paper is limp.
2. Drain excess water off.
3. Hold the paper at opposite corners and position it squarely on the artist's board (board can be either "gator board" or any wood or masonite board that has been sealed and is impervious to water.) Smooth out and gently remove trapped air bubbles.
4. Using an ordinary office type stapler to attach the paper to the board, place a staple in the center of one of the long sides of the paper. Rotate the board and place a second staple in the center of the second long side of the paper. Rotate the board again and next place a staple in the center of one of the short sides of the paper. Rotate board and place a staple in the center of the opposite side. Repeat these steps until the paper is evenly stapled, at 1" intervals, all around the edges of the paper.
5. Allow the paper to dry overnight. Leave it attached to the board while you paint. Water can be applied to the paper generously and repeatedly. Your painting will dry smooth and tight after each work session.
6. To apply a white border on your painting, apply artist's tape directly over the staples.
7. To remove the staples, insert a thin dull knife ( like a butter or palette knife ) under each staple , placing the blade between the paper and the board's surface and lift up. Once a corner of the staple has lifted up you can pull the entire staple carefully out with your fingers!

Note : The product known as "Gator board" is the recommended surface for working on. It is lightweight, portable and last a long time even with repeated usage.