Making a stretcher:

1. Have your measurements ready and get the appropriate amount of stretcher bar.
2. Using the miter saw, cut the bars down to the correct length. Cut out knots and rough or warped areas for a strong stretcher that sits flat on a surface.
3. Using the miter saw, cut your 45 degree angle on each corner (be mindful that the miters are matching on both sides.) *also be mindful of the 12 degree angle on the bar (this is what the canvas will stretch over.)
4. Get corner clamps, glue, 2" brads, brad nailer, and stretcher bar supports (all located on the island.)
5. With your 12 degree angle facing upward, put top/bottom and side stretcher bar into corner brace to form 90 degree angle and glue, then tighten clamp. This should make an “L” shape – once glued then you can brad together – 3 times.
   Place a corner brace in the corner and glue, brad on both sides.
6. Repeat step 5 to form identical “L” shape with your remaining two stretcher bars.
7. Join both sides to form rectangle or square frame – using the corner clamps, glue together, and then brad.

• Note: If making canvas around 48" or over – definitely use a middle brace supporting the sides, top, and bottom. Some large stretchers may also require triangle corners (let a technician know, we can help you with that.)

Stretching canvas on your stretcher:

8. To prepare canvas – place canvas on clean table and place stretcher on top – cut at least 3 -4 inches excess on all sides so that you can properly wrap canvas. Tear to size.
9. Face the canvas down on the table and place the stretcher on top of it with the 12 degree angle facing down onto the canvas.
10. Get a staple gun (from island), load with staples, and then connect to compressed air.
11. Start stretching canvas (by hand) - place staple in the middle on top, then in the middle on each other side (pulling to create tension each time.) *Keep fibers of canvas parallel to sides of stretcher.
   • Note: You can use an awl and pliers to remove unwanted brads/staples.
12. Stretch sides of canvas first (leave room to do corners at the end.) Stretch top and bottom last. Staple as you go – placing staples every two inches or so.
13. Make your corners and fold in direction of top and bottom of the stretcher so they won’t be seen from the side.
14. Clean up and put tools away.