

Framing Up the Freedom Frame

(Note: Fabric should be prepped prior to starting these instructions. For more information see "Prepping Fabric" at artfulfox.co)



1. Begin by placing the first roller bar closest to your body, with the slot up and open to you and with the fabric laid out just above the roller. Note the center line on the roller. This will be used to center your fabric.



2. Using both hands, gently insert the ironed crease of your fabric into the slot on the roller bar. Align the marked center on your fabric with the center line of the roller bar.



3. Making sure the fabric remains tucked into the bar, expose the trough you have created in the fabric by gently parting the fabric. This will be where you will be positioning the dowel to secure the fabric to the frame.

4. Holding the fabric with your non-dominant hand, use the tuck card to work the crease to the bottom of the roller bar slot. After the fabric is completely tucked, make sure the center lines still line up and adjust if necessary.

5. Using your other hand, slowly and gently insert the tapered end of the dowel into the slot of the bar; as you are sliding in the dowel, make sure to lift slightly upwards to ensure the tapered end of the dowel is above your fabric edge.



6. Continuing to hold the fabric in place with the tuck card, gently slide the dowel into the slot over your fabric until it is about 2/3 of the way in. At this point you can remove the tuck card and use it to finish pushing the dowel into the bar.



7. This is what a correctly positioned dowel should look like.



Note: If you push the dowel too far, no problem. Our suggestion is to remove the dowel and start again, as opposed to trying to reverse the dowel. Reversing will most likely move you fabric off center.



8. Flip the dressed roller so the unframed bottom of the fabric is in position to load into the second roller.



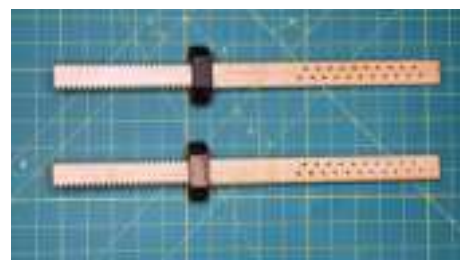
9. Repeat steps two through seven, to secure your fabric in the second roller bar.



10. Once your fabric has been loaded into both roller bars, roll your fabric around the bars to achieve desired fabric length you would like for the project.



11. Prior to inserting the slats, make sure both nuts have been screwed onto the slats all the way to the top of the threaded area of each slat. This is what the slats should look like prior to inserting into the bars.



12. Insert the smooth end of the slats into each side of one of the roller bars far enough to allow you to slide the threaded end of the slats into each side of the other roller bar.



13. At the smooth end of the slats, insert your cotter pins where you would like them to go, making sure the position of the pins is the same on both slats and that they sit just below the roller bars, as seen here.



Note: Fabric tension on this frame will be gained but adjusting the nuts. So you will need to place your cotter pins high enough to allow room for tightening the nuts.

14. Moving to the threaded end of the slats, tighten the nut beginning with your hands and finishing with the wrench. Making sure to turn the nuts evenly on both slats until desired tension is reached. Your fabric should now be drum tight. You will want to make sure that the nuts are positioned the same on both the slats. An easy way to do this is to measure the length of each slat extending below the lower roller bar, they should be equal. Also the nuts should be resting the same way, either flat or on edge. If not matching, adjust accordingly.



Note: Because tension is allowed to be increased in microincrements, you are able to fine tune the exact amount of tension you feel is appropriate for your project. It is possible to tighten too far, achieving more tension than necessary. One sign of over tension will be the slat bending slightly forming a arc between the upper and lower roller bars. If this is the case, the tension is too high and some should be released.

18. The Freedom Frame is now dressed and ready for your first stitch.



Questions? Comments? Feedback?
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support@artfulfox.co