BEST art products have been proudly made in the USA since 1981.

**Why BEST bars?**

Jack Richeson & Co. offers the finest stretcher bars. We are dedicated to ensuring you receive a consistent, quality product that is always in stock with on-time shipments and superior customer service.

Museum-quality bars:
* Made from only the finest raw materials
* Bars must be free from knots and completely straight
* All bars are designed so that the canvas surface is a full ½" from the bar flat
* Profile eliminates “ghosting” on the canvas
* Rounded back edges reduce surface friction for a smoother, tighter draw of the canvas

**Accessories**

**Professional Canvas Pliers**

Strong! Durable! Lightweight!
This large professional canvas pliers has 4½” wide jaws with rubberized inside grip to hold canvas firmly without marring it.

Number 400302

**Canvas Pliers**

Great for smaller canvases! These durable stretching pliers have serrated jaws for a secure grip to create an even, uniform stretching.

Number 400300 Cast Iron Pliers
Number 400301 Chrome Finish Pliers

**Hardboard Corners**

A simple but worthwhile accessory. These corners are a precise 90° angle to ensure that frame corners will remain square. They feature pre-drilled holes for easy mounting. To use, screw one hardboard panel to each of the four corners of the frame. Sold in packs of 4 corners.

*Screws not included.

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<tr>
<td>895008-04</td>
<td>12” Corners (large paintings)</td>
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**CONTACT US!**

- richesonart.com
- 800.233.2404
  920.738.0744
- 800.233.2545
  920.738.9156
- Jack Richeson & Co.
  JRC BEST Bars
- Jack Richeson
- @StretcherTeam

---

Jack Richeson & Co.
JRC BEST Bars
What you need to know

when ordering custom BEST stretcher bars

What is a “Custom” Order?

A custom order is any stretcher bar order requiring these item numbers:

* SPE (Special): Any stretcher bars/cross braces not listed in the JRC Price List. (Example: 59¼” x 62” exact)
* #894500 (Bar Cut Charge) per bar for SPE.
* #894501 (Bar Notch Charge) per bar. Notching of cross braces where braces intersect.
* SK (Splice Kit): Allows two aluminum bars to be joined together for longer-than-stock length and ease of shipping long lengths. 1 Kit required per splice.
* SKBR (Lap Joint): Allows cross braces to be joined for long lengths and shipping ease.
* SET (Set Up): Pre-drilling holes, assembly instructions & cross brace bracket mounting.

Custom Bars

* Order stretcher bars in fractional inches. Example of custom size: 56½” exact by 72½” exact
* Allow 3 working days in factory on custom orders of 1 - 5 frames.
* Allow 5 working days in factory on 6 frames and up.
* Jack Richeson & Co., Inc. recommends a cross brace every 36". See guide on back page.

*Designs with overlapping cross braces require notching of the bars at each intersection (see C and D at right). A notching charge applies to each groove cut – Item #894501. Contact the JRC sales department for a quote at 800.233.2404.

Note: All Custom Bar Orders must have a sketch attached to show cross braces (example below). Manufacturer will determine placement of splicing and lap-joint; however, it must be noted on the order. Layouts that include splices or lap-joints must have an even number of cross braces. Refer to back cover.

Questions? Contact our sales team for help on placing an order.

BEST Stretcher Bar Displays

* Perfect for stores and galleries with limited space
* Place two displays back to back and offer your customers more options
* Bars are held firmly in place in specially designed egg crate openings

**Number**  | **Description**
-------------|-----------------
890993       | Light-Duty Rolling Bar Assortment
890994       | Medium-Duty Rolling Bar Assortment
890995       | Heavy-Duty Rolling Bar Assortment

**Empty Displays**

**Number**  | **Description**
-------------|-----------------
890996       | Empty Light-Duty Rolling Display
890997       | Empty Medium-Duty Rolling Bar Display
890998       | Empty Heavy-Duty Rolling Bar Display

Please call 800.233.2404 for assortment contents.
**Linear Stock**

**Strainer vs. Stretcher**

A Strainer Bar frame is a permanently joined, rigid frame that has no method of expansion. Many companies will use this method of mitering the ends and v-nailing or gluing the frame together as it is more cost effective. The drawback is that—should the canvas slacken due to environmental conditions—the canvas will have to be removed and re-stretched with the potential of damaging the canvas.

A Stretcher Bar frame is constructed for expandable, keyable corners using wooden keys or BEST Corner Keys. Retensioning is easily done should the canvas become loosely wrinkled. This is the desired method for those working with fine art or giclées.

**Shipping Tip:** UPS can handle up to 96” lengths (8 feet). Lengths 97” and longer may require truck shipment.
**BEST Stretcher Bars**

*museum-quality stretcher bars for the professional*

---

**Heavy-Duty Stretcher Bars**
The Heavy-Duty bar is made of pine that has been finger spliced. Finger splicing is a method of bonding pieces of lumber together to form a very long, straight bar. As the spliced joints are actually stronger than the natural wood, we can now get longer, stronger and straighter bars. First designed for the construction industry, this high tech method yields better bars than ever before. Perfect for gallery wraps.

**Medium-Duty and Light-Duty Stretcher Bars**
Light-Duty bars are ideal for small paintings and can fit within the rabbets of most decorative picture frames. The Medium-Duty is a nice alternative for a gallery wrap and larger paintings.

### Heavy-Duty Bars (Box of 6)
Stock sizes available in 1" increments from 8" - 144"
- HD Stretcher Bars #8900XX
- HD Cross Braces #891XXX

### Medium-Duty Bars (Box of 12)
Stock sizes available in 1" increments from 8" - 72"
- MD Stretcher Bars #8901XX
- MD Cross Braces #892XXX

### Light-Duty Bars (Box of 12)
Stock sizes available in 1" increments from 8" - 60"
- LD Stretcher Bars #894XXX
- LD Cross Braces #8970XX

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See the Jack Richeson & Co. Price List for lengths & item numbers

*Note: All BEST Stretcher Bars are cut ¼" shorter than the measurement listed for industry standards. This is to ensure that the assembled frame with canvas will fit into a picture frame. If exact measurements are required, please call 800.233.2404.*

Don't forget cross braces for frames over 36" in length. See back page for recommended layouts.
BEST Aluminum Bars

Aluminum Pro Stretcher Bar (Box of 6)
Kiln-dried pine is connected to a specially milled \( \frac{3}{32} \)" aluminum bar. Paintings will never twist, warp, bend or change due to dryness or humidity. The recycled aluminum stock provides a structural frame of total strength and stability. The pine outer bar offers a smooth, rounded edge and a solid surface for stapling. Pro-Bars can be cut to any length and assembled with steel corner inserts.

Alum Pro Stretcher Bars #8930XX
Alum Pro Cross Braces #898XXX

Aluminum Gallery Wrap Stretcher Bars (Box of 6)
Aluminum Gallery Wrap stretcher bars are so beautiful, they don’t even need a canvas! The 2.25" profile gives any canvased picture the depth it needs to come alive on a wall.

*Uneven sizes are available. Fractions are custom cuts. Call for prices and stock numbers.

Alum Gallery Wrap Stretcher Bars #8960XX
Alum Gallery Wrap Cross Braces #8990XX

Aluminum HD Stretcher Bar (Box of 6)
The BEST Aluminum HD Bar offers strength, stability, long length capability and a larger stapling area. Full 1 3/8" area to staple on the back.

We developed the Aluminum HD from our popular Heavy-Duty bar and the Aluminum Pro, hence, the simple name! Keep it simple!
Signature rounded profile allows the canvas to drape over the front eliminating “ghosting.”

Alum HD Stretcher Bars #8840XX

Box Quantity waived for custom/special orders!
Aluminum Bars are available in standard stock in 1" increments from 12" to 144" (and beyond!)

Need fractional or exact sizes? Call 800.233.2404 for a quote.

Aluminum Corners*
These steel corner inserts are only to be used with the BEST Aluminum Bars. Use 1 pack (4 corners) for small frames and two packs for heavy pieces or frames over 36" in length. Sold in packs of 4.

*Required for Aluminum Bars

Number 895020-04

Splice Kit
JRC has developed a Splice Kit for aluminum bars that will allow you to have extra long lengths. One complete Splice Kit is needed per splice. The Splice Kit does not affect the integrity of the bar.

Number SK (Splice Kit)

Lap Joints
Lap Joints (SKBR) are used for cross braces. Placement is at the manufacturer’s discretion. You can request that the holes be pre-drilled with assembly instructions for a set up charge (SET). Cost is determined by the size of the frame.

For Oversized Pieces, contact your sales representative for more details.
Aluminum Bar Assembly

#893998 Aluminum Pro Assembly Kit
Kit Contains:
- 8 - Aluminum Corners
- 8 - (16mm) 5/8" Screws
- 4 - Corner Keys

Required Tools
- Drill with 3/32" drill bit
- Phillips screwdriver
- ½" wrench

Recommended Tools
- Rubber Mallet
- Square
- Awl
- Hardboard Corners

Insert aluminum corners into slots in aluminum bar (two per corner). At this point assemble three of the bars.

Once three of the bars are assembled, put remaining four aluminum corners in the remaining bar. Align corners with slots and insert into the assembled bars.

Cross braces are recommended for any bar 36" or longer. If vertical and horizontal cross braces are needed, the braces will come notched to allow for a criss-crossing of the braces.

Attach criss-crossed braces in the center using a screw. Single cross braces will simply attach to the bar frame using screws.

Cross braces are attached to the stretcher bar using the Best Cross Brace Bracket. Drill pilot hole in the stretcher bar and attach cross brace bracket and cross brace as shown.

Check out our helpful videos on YouTube! Search for Jack Richeson or BEST Aluminum Pro.
Cross Brace System

Exclusive BEST Cross Brace Bracket
- State-of-the-art design works with all sizes of stretcher bars
- Slotted design allows for finest adjustment of canvas tension
- Allows bar frame to sit flat against a wall
- We recommend cross braces for any canvas over 36”
- Contains 2 brackets and 6 screws
- One unit ships with each cross brace at no charge. Additional brackets available for extra cost.

Number 895015

How to assemble the Cross Brace Bracket
1. Assemble your stretcher bar frame (A).
2. Lay your cross braces into position.
3. Place your Richeson Cross Brace Bracket (C) at the end of your cross braces (B).
4. Attach Bracket (C) to brace (B) with 1 to 3 screws (D) as desired. Do not overtighten.
5. Attach Bracket (C) to pre-assembled frame from step 1 with 2 screws (E).
6. After canvas is tightly stretched, apply light pressure to brace and secure screw (D).

Ordering BEST Cross Braces
- Match up Cross Brace with same style Stretcher Bar (Example: Light-Duty Bars with Light-Duty Cross Braces to make a full Light-Duty Frame).
- Length of cross brace must match length of the stretcher bar.
- See back page for a helpful Cross Brace Chart.

Call 800.233.2404 for pricing information and assistance

BEST Corner Keys
A BEST Exclusive! Each pack contains a set of four keys that can be used on wood stretcher bar frames and Aluminum Pro Bars. Mount keys by using the pre-drilled holes on the Aluminum Pro Bars or by making your own with a \( \frac{3}{32} \) drill bit. The BEST keys are an essential tool for adjusting the tension of the canvas material just by the turn of a nut!

Number 890048 *Required for Aluminum Bars

Corner Keys shown in use
Canvas Stretching 101

**Helpful Tools & Parts**
- Rubber Mallet
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Canvas pliers
- Awl
- Screwdriver
- Recommended: Hardboard Corners
- Recommended: BEST Corner Keys

1. Start by stapling the middle of one side of stretcher bar; repeat on opposite side, pulling taut. Do the same for the other sides, always pulling the canvas taut.

2. Continue stapling - working from the center to the corners making sure the staple spacing is even.

3. Please note: Do not staple the canvas to the end of corners because you need enough room to manipulate the canvas for tucking the corners. Leave about 1”-2”.

4. Trim the corners of excess canvas to eliminate bumps when you make a corner. Cut the “dog ear” on an angle.

4. **ALTERNATIVE CUT**

   Alt: cut out a square.

5. Begin your corner by folding the canvas straight along the front; fold the side canvas over the top.

6. Bend the first fold over the top of the side fold. Make sure corner lines are neat.

7. Optional: You can use canvas pliers to get the corner tight and flat.

8. Finish stapling the center.

(The following steps are optional.)

Wood keys are tapped into the interior corner slots to adjust the tension of the canvas. Place a dab of wood glue on the end to hold in place. Take care not to damage the canvas.

Some companies staple the corners. If you have a canvas back that is sagging, you can use our BEST Corner Keys to remedy the problem. It’s as easy as a turn of a nut! The Corner Key can be used on standard stretcher bars and our exclusive Aluminum Bars. If you staple, underpin or glue your corners, this will break the seal to open the corners (up to 1⁄2”). Saves time and money by not having to re-stretch the canvas!
Italian Caravaggio Canvas

* Milled in Varese, Italy for over 30 years
* Available in Acrylic Primed (clear or white), Oil Primed or Raw
* State of the art priming method delivers consistency
* Cotton, Linen, Jute, Polycotton, Cotton Linen, 100% Polyester
* Extra Fine, Fine, Medium, Rough, Extra Rough
* 61x190/390, 63x190/390, 83x190/390, 84x190/390
* Outstanding value!

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Art Canvas Rolls

* Triple-Primed with High-Quality Acrylic Gesso
* Extra Fine, Fine and Medium Surface
* Cotton Duck and Linen options
* Perfect high quality for professionals at a price even a student can afford!
* Made in India

Cotton Art Canvas Rolls

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<td>332305210</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>83&quot;x5m / half roll</td>
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<tr>
<td>332310210</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>83&quot;x10m / full roll</td>
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*Triple-Primed with High-Quality Acrylic Gesso
* Extra Fine, Fine and Medium Surface
* Cotton Duck and Linen options
Furniture

**Richeson Ambrosia Print Rack**
* Base width/depth: 37" × 22" / Rack height: 32"
* Gusset: 6½"
* Box dimensions: 36" × 33" × 4"
* Shipping weight: 28 lbs. - OS
* Ships UPS; assembly required
#886011

**Small Galestio**
* Base width/depth: 20" × 15½"
* Rack height: 31"
* Box Dimensions: 39" × 25" × 3"
* Shipping Weight: 12 lbs.
* Ships by UPS
* Assembly Required
#886010

**Medium Galestio**
* Base width/depth: 23¾" × 16½"
* Rack height: 33½"
* Box Dimensions: 39" × 25" × 3"
* Shipping Weight: 13 lbs.
* Ships by UPS
* Assembly Required
#886016

**Large Galestio**
* Base width/depth: 37" × 17"
* Rack height: 37"
* Box Dimensions: 44" × 38" × 3"
* Shipping Weight: 19 lbs.
* Ships by UPS - OS
* Assembly Required
#886019

**Black Steel Print Rack**
* Base width/depth: 34" × 18"
* Rack height: 32"
* Gusset: 6"
* Box dimensions: 35" × 23" × 4"
* Shipping weight: 18 lbs.
* Ships by UPS
* Assembly required
#696070

**Canvas Print Racks**
These great print racks are lightweight and fold flat for easy storage! Support bed of black canvas is sewn on to a sturdy, black 1” aluminum tube frame. Rubber feet and hand holes for carrying. Great way to display or store prints and paintings!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>692042</td>
<td>Small - 15'(w) × 18'(h); Gusset 4”</td>
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<tr>
<td>692043</td>
<td>Medium - 20'(w) × 36'(h); Gusset 6”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>692044</td>
<td>Large - 32'(w) × 36'(h); Gusset 6”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Optional Casters sold separately**

**Classic Dulce**
Standard American studio easel designed to provide the artist with the most stable unit at a low price. Sturdy H-frame construction and laminated quad base offer superior strength and stability. Adjusts easily to a variety of custom settings.
* Maximum canvas height: 77"
* Base width/depth: 24” × 21½”
* Compact easel height: 51¼”
* Extended easel height: 89½”
* Folds flat for easy storage
* Adjustable sliding mast moves independent of canvas tray
* Wide bottom canvas holder with utility tray
* Base is pre-drilled for opt. casters
* Shipping weight: 34 lbs.
* Box dimensions: 47" × 24" × 6¼" OS
* Ships partially assembled by UPS
#880200

To see the complete furniture catalog, visit products.richesonart.com
Cross Brace Configuration

Use this chart to determine cross braces needed

After beginning the BEST stretcher bar production in our plant, we created this basic cross brace layout plan that can help you plan for any size canvas.

- Always divide the gaps between the cross braces equally
- To find where the center of each cross brace should be:
  \[
  \text{Total inches of the frame} \div \text{Number of cross braces used}
  \]
- NOTE: Any bar requiring a splice kit must have an even number of cross braces.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>144&quot;</th>
<th>132&quot;</th>
<th>120&quot;</th>
<th>108&quot;</th>
<th>96&quot;</th>
<th>84&quot;</th>
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Jack Richeson & Co. understands the importance of forest stewardship. We have traveled the world to ensure that the wood used in manufacturing BEST Stretcher Bars is from well-managed forests. Our supplier of wood is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Accredited and SCS (Scientific Certification Systems) Certified Forest Conservation Program.