

## Cutting and Fastening Gripper Strips

**Safety First: Gripper strips are designed to hold rug hooking foundation fabric and other fabric materials in position when the strips are attached to a frame, hence the wire points are very sharp. To avoid injury, care must be exercised when handling the gripper strips. Wear gloves and safety goggles when cutting and fastening.**

Tools you will need to cut the strips: a pencil, small carpenters' square or tri-square, tweezers or needle-nose pliers, tape measure, a sharp box cutter and cutting board (or tin snips).

1. Place the gripper strip on your work table or bench with the points facing down. If using your dining room table, make sure you put some protection on the table first.
2. Measure and mark where you want to cut the strips using your pencil and tape measure. Next place your square on the pencil mark and draw a straight line at right angles (90°) to the long edge of the gripper strip.
3. Using your pencil, tape measure and square draw two more lines, one on each side of the first line approximately 1/8" from the original. The distance between each outside line should be about 1/4". Do this for each cutting point.
4. Carefully pry up and remove the wire staples between the two outside lines using your tweezers or needle-nose pliers (a small flat blade screw driver will also work). This will leave enough space to cut the gripper strip.
5. Using the box cutter and cutting board, or tin snips, cut the strip along the center line – remember, measure twice and cut once.
6. Please note that the gripper strips hold in one direction only. The slight bend in the wire field must face to the outside of the frame in order to hold your backing in place.

When fastening the gripper strips to your wood frame, use non-waterbased contact cement and staples for the strongest placement. Staples should be placed at approximately 1" intervals. **Observe all safety precautions when using contact cement and staplers.**

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