here is HOW

TO HANG A PICTURE

BY *BRIAN M. JOHN*

Required tools and materials:
drill/bits, driver or screwdriver, d-rings (with screws), wire (optional).

INTRO

If you have a framed piece of art, or a work on canvas on **stretcher bars** (the frame the canvas is wrapped around), you can usually hang it on the wall using d-rings (fig. 1) attached to the back. This requires a little more precision than using wire, but once you get it right, the art will hang on the wall exactly right, and can't be knocked out of **level** by bumping the art.

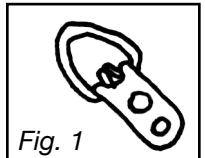
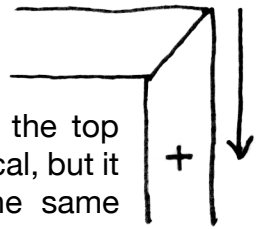


Fig. 1
D-RINGS

The weight rating should be 1-2× the weight of the art, or more.



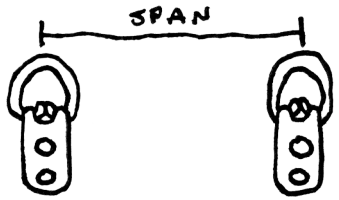
INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLING D-RINGS:

1. **Mark the hanging point:** Measure down from the top corners of the piece. The exact number isn't critical, but it should be like 2 to 4 inches down. Mark the same distance down on both sides (repeat *all* these steps symmetrically on both sides).

2. **Place positioning screw:** In the center of the stretcher bar or frame, pre-drill a hole for one of the little screws that should have come with the d-rings (if not, you want a #4 wood screw, about ½″ or ⅝″ long but less than the thickness of the frame: *don't put a hole through the front of your piece*). Put the screw about halfway in (just the screw, we're not attaching the d-ring itself yet).

3. **Attach the d-rings:** Use that screw to set the height of the d-ring (hang the d-ring off the screw). Line up the hole/s of the d-ring with the same centerline that you used for the first screw. Mark the holes, pre-drill, and screw down the d-ring. ***Now*** you can remove the top/first screw that you can put in, and when you do both, they'll be perfect aligned.

4. **Preparing to hang:** Measure the span between the d-rings (center to center). You'll need this number for hanging the work (write it down).

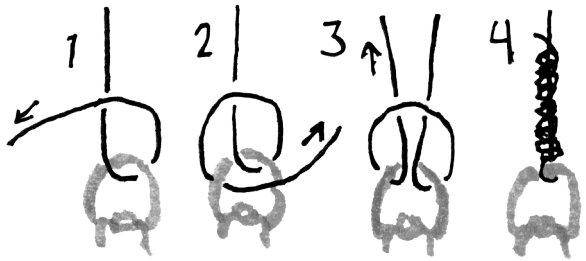


NOTES FOR INSTALLING WIRE:

If using wire, you want the d-ring to be ⅓ of the way down the back of the art. Again, the exact number isn't critical, but it needs to match on both sides.

You can skip step 2 entirely, if you want. Getting the d-rings super precisely even with each other isn't as important when using wire.

The wire should have a couple inches of slack. If it's too tight, it's hard to get on the hooks, but if it's too loose, the top will hang off the wall a lot. Here's how to tie the wire to the d-rings:



The hardware is ready! Hanging instructions are on the next page...

[If there is already hardware on the piece skip to page two.]

Part 2: ***Hanging the Art***

[If there isn't hardware on the piece, go back to page 1.]

INTRO Whatever hardware is on the artwork, the basic process is essentially the same. In order to figure out where to put our hardware, we need to gather a few numbers, and apply them to a simple formula.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANGING ARTWORK:

A **Pick an *eye level*:** the standard in most museums/galleries is 60″, but many people prefer a couple inches lower or higher, especially if you're shorter/taller than average.

B **Measure the *height* of the work:** and then divide by 2 (the number you really need is *half* the height of the work).

C **Mark your *hanging height*:** use the formula below to find the height of your hanging hardware on the wall:

Eye Level + (Artwork Height/2) - Hardware

Step A Step B Step 1 (pg. 1)

D **Mark the *horizontal center* of the work:** maybe the middle of a wall, between two pieces of furniture, etc. Use a level to find the intersection of the horizontal center and the hanging height you found in the last step.

E **Mark your two *hanging points*:** using a level and a tape measure, measure out from the center mark you just made to half the distance between your d-rings (so that the total distance between your two marks is the same as the distance between your d-rings). ***These marks have to be level!***

F **Install hanging hardware:** line up the bottom of the floreat with the mark you just made, and hammer it in (if you're using screws instead, just center them on those marks).

G **HANG THE ART:** hook your two d-rings or the wire over the floreats. Don't forget to check it with a level. You're done!

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BY BRIAN M. JOHN

Required tools and materials: tape measure, level, hammer, painter's tape and/or pencil, floreats (fig. 2) *or* screws.

DIFFERENCES WHEN HANGING ON A WIRE:



Fig. 2 **FLOREAT**

It's a fancy name for picture hangers.

When hanging from picture wire, you still want to use two floreats or screws. This makes it easier to get the art to hang level, and helps keep it from shifting. The formula for hanging is the same, except that instead of using the distance down to the d-rings (part1, step 1), you need the distance down to the wire:

First, pick a distance to place the hooks at. This should be a nice round number that is *about* half the width of the painting. Next, use a tape measure to measure that amount of the wire, roughly centered on the back of the piece. Holding the wire at these two points, measure the distance up to the top of the work. (This is hard to describe, but I can explain it better in person.)

