

Mastering Mounting



by Chris A. Paschke, CPF, GCF

Hardware: Level, Flush, and Secure

In the retail world, a sawtooth hanger is considered a self-leveling hanger. Though a sawtooth allows framed pictures to be shifted left or right to adjust alignment, it actually is more of a center balance tool than a self leveler. And when two sawtooth hangers are used, there is stability—but perfect level must be achieved during installation. There are tools available to assist in the hanging and leveling of pictures both with wires across the back and with two-point hangers such as D-rings. Sometimes these tools target the do-it-yourself picture hanger, but some are well suited to custom installations.

Hang It Perfect™ by Innovative Tools is an installation tool designed to assist in hanging pictures, mirrors, and shelves. It is available 24" and 36" wide, has instructions printed directly on the tool, a bubble level, location pins, and horizontal measurements printed on a crossbar to control spacing between hangings. It is marketed for use with D-rings and no wire, but multiple hangers with wire would be adaptable. And it is a consumer-driven product available online and at home improvement stores. There's also the patented Hangman Picture Placer hanging tool designed for wired art that marks the wall with small indentations to indicate the exact location for the wall hook. It locks to the frame with a temporary ratcheting system for perfect alignment and is good for assisting in placement of wall groupings and vertical or horizontal alignment.

Leveling Hangers

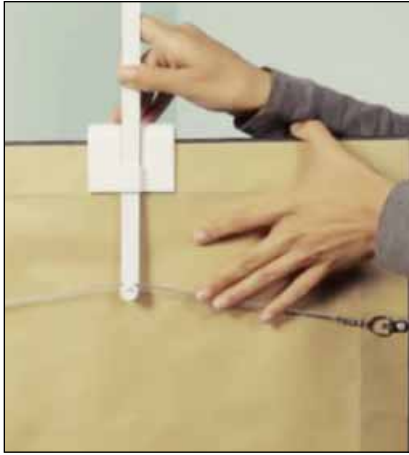
Hangman Heavy Duty Picture & Mirror Hangers consist of two interlocking aluminum brackets modeled after the French cleat but also have built-in



Hang It Perfect tool for leveling, alignment and marking.

bubble levels. The aluminum brackets are non-corrosive and may be used indoors or outdoors on all surfaces. Sizes range from 5" to 30" and holding power ranges from 40 to 300 pounds. The similarly made Hangman Canvas Hangers conform to the recessed nature of open back frames and gallery wraps also making them flush mounts. Hangers are available as 5" for maximum 20 pounds and 12" for maximum 30 pounds. The Hangman Aluminum Frame Hanger is a one-piece bracket designed to hook into standard aluminum frames with an undercut. Install the wall bracket and hook the aluminum frame over the track; then it is suited for drywall or wood studs. It comes in 5" lengths with a 40-pound weight limit and 12" lengths with an 80-pound weight limit.

Patented as Picture Perfect, the Fletcher No-Wire Hanging System eliminates the use of traditional hanging hardware including D-rings and wire by replacing them with a double keyhole wall locator/hanger and bubble level. The Fletcher system holds artwork, signage, mirrors, framed prints, or can-



Hangman Picture Placer helps align and mark the wall for hanger location.

vas art up to 50 pounds, fits most wood and metal frames at least 5/8" wide, and mounts flush to the wall. Framers can purchase this item for in-shop installation of the brackets only, with a DIY kit for the customer that can be easily attached to back of frame. Simply attach the metal hangers to the back of the frame, insert the plastic markers, attach the bubble level to top of the frame, verify location, and press firmly to mark the wall. Remove the markers and nail hangers in the location of the wall mark, align the frame onto the brackets, and pull it down to lock into place. The two-pack retail blister package also makes a great point-of-sale display for generating additional revenue.

Hook-Ups! are wireless adjustable picture frame hangers available from numerous industry suppliers as manual leveling systems with screw adjustments at each side plate. Metal plates are 2" long, suitable for both wood and metal frames, and they support up to 100 pounds per frame. The patented design allows artwork to be easily leveled with a one-finger adjustment without removing the item from the wall. They are also available as T-lock secu-

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Hangman Self-leveling Flush Mount systems are available for heavy, open-backed canvases, and closed back frames.

rity hangers using a standard T-lock screw and requiring the same wrench for installation and removal.

TrackMaster® Picture Hangers are made of polycarbonate resin with a bubble level for hanging pictures. The hanger supports 50 pounds because the large, flat surface and nail angles generate a load vector directed into the wall, allowing it to supports



The Fletcher-Terry No-Wire hanging system.

more weight. The heavier the load on the hanger, the tighter it hugs the wall. These are universal in application and may be used with or without security locks. Designed for use with wood or metal frames, they are available two sizes, small for up to 36" and large for over 36". The bubble level snaps into place once the triangular hanger is mounted at the apex to the wall and the adjustment is made. Then, additional nails are



Hook-Ups! have adjustable side screws and are available with T-lock security screws.

placed. There are optional bottom rail supports for earthquake and bump resistance.

WallBuddies claim to be self-leveling, flush mounting, and secure. All models are attached to frame back at the top corners. The small size works for wood frames up to 24"x30"x6" wide with a maximum of 15 pounds weight, and the large size is for those

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Flush Mount hardware is available from Rockler, Hillman, AMS, and Hangman.

over 24"x30" with a maximum of 30 pounds weight. Though the manufacturer states maximum weights are 30 pounds and 60 pounds, keep in mind that hangers should be selected at four times the actual weight of the frame. For installation, place frame face down and install the hangers on the back at the top, making certain that the left and right hangers are on proper corners. Always use two designated WallBuddies wall hooks 1-1/2" down from the top edge of the frame and suspend them so that the sawtooth edges rest on the exposed shank of the nail inside the special wall hooks. Then lightly slide the frame left and right to level it. When you add one or two T-lock screw sets at the bottom, this becomes a security hanger. Slide-In WallBuddies Hangers for metal frames require frames to be at least 11" wide and require partial disassembly to install the hangers, which will support up to 15 pounds. Each set comes with

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two special wall hooks that catch and hold the sawtooth edges of the Wall Buddies Hangers, holding the frame tight to the wall.

Flush Mount Hangers

Another type of hanger, mentioned in the last Mastering Mounting, is the CWH hanger. These are an alternative hardware for horizontal attachments as well as sawtooth hangers for top leg attachments that allow art to lie flush against the wall. CWH hangers are a



CWH hangers from Lion offer alternative flush wall mounting sawtooth hanging from the side or top frame mount.

complete all-in-one wire/hardware attachment, and their unique cutout shape allows them to fit onto almost any type wall hanger. They are mostly adjustable after installation and mount to wood, polymer, or aluminum frames and support up to 32 pounds. Hangers are individually designed for canvas art on stretchers, frames with hollow back, frames with flat or papered backs, and aluminum frames with a channel. Manufactured



FrameSecure set

by Lion Picture Framing Supplies, they are available in the U.S. from M&M Distributors and Inmes-USA.

Thin Flush Mount hangers are zinc-plated steel available 1"x1" and 1-1/2"x1-3/4" from Rockler, Hillman, AMS, and Hangman as an interlocking hanger bracket for vanity cases, wall units, heavy frames, and

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mirrors. One piece fits into the other to form a solid, streamlined, interlocking mount that is 1/8" thick, making it not exactly flush to the wall but very solid. These hangers can be used individually for small hangings. For wide wall hangings, multiple mounts may be used and are recommended. They hold up to 100 pounds when mounted on a stud and 30 pounds on drywall. A package includes two flush-mount hangers, two mounting screws, and two double-headed screws. Somewhat like individual square cleats, the AMS Flush Mount hangers are great for heavy frames and mirrors and consist of two parts: one half attached to the wall with the security spring clip facing upward and the other half attached to the frame. These two pieces interlock when the frame is hung on the wall, which ensures a strong hold with a security mechanism for heavy frames

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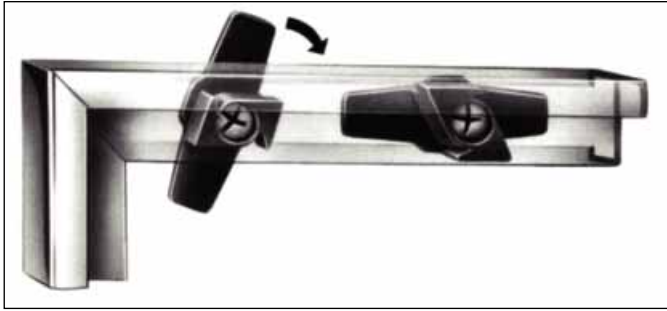


Diagram of Frame Secured used with metal frames.



Lock-In Security Hanger for wood frame security.

and mirrors. AMS recommends F1309 #8x1" screws with AMS #555-3A for wall anchors and AMS F1418 or F1417 #6 x 5/8" or 1/2" with countersunk head for the frame.

Security Hangers and Locks

Security hangers using T-screws include: T-lock, locking picture hangers, art lock, T-screw locking, ArtRight T-lock security hangers, Safeguard T-Security Hangers, and more. The T-lock system, which uses a T-shaped screw, has been used in hotels, institutions, and public facilities for years. T-screw Security Hangers provide a relatively quick and inexpensive way to deter theft and tampering when installing art in public places. These hangers are the most commonly used security hanging system, can be used on both wood and metal frames, and have built-in leveling adjustments. The basic system for wood includes three plates that mount to the wood frame—with the provided screws—which are installed two at the top and one at the bottom and two brackets that are secured to the wall with screws and drywall anchors if necessary. Aluminum frame hardware comes with only the two top plates, and the T-screws turn into the bottom channel. The head of the T-screw inserts into the bottom bracket or bottom channel of an aluminum frame and is turned 90 degrees using a special wrench to lock it in place. T-Locks are strong enough for frames up to 30"

wide and 25 pounds, but additional brackets may be used for heavier and wider frames.

Hook-Ups! are another version of the T-lock, but this one has screw adjustments at each side plate. As with T-security hangers, these also aid in the protection from earthquakes and unexpected disruptions. Each assembly supports frames up to 100 pounds, fits the standard T-lock screw, and requires the same wrench for installation and removal.

Lock-In Security Hangers are another T-lock multipoint locking system for extra security; these require some precision during installation for

proper alignment. Metal frames do not need any hardware to be placed on the frame itself—the channel on the back accepts Lock-In wall hardware.

The FrameLoc® system security hardware by Frameware is ideal for heavy pictures and mirrors that need to be flush mounted to the wall. The Frameloc System has metal brackets—like cleats—available 6" and 18" in length for metal or 6" and 24" for

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Items

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 Frameloc
 WallBuddies
 FrameSecure
 Trackmaster Hangers
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 Hook-Ups! 100, 200, 300
 Trackmaster Hangers
 WallBuddies, Lock-In Security, T-Lock
 Hangman Flushmount, Security, CWH Hangers
 Hangman Flushmount, Security Hangers
 Hangers
 CWH Hangers

wood. The installation kit comes with hardware, brackets, tool, and bubble level.

FrameSecure® by FrameTek is a security hanging system for aluminum frames. Its unique marking system accurately locates hole locations for four corners, anchoring the frame to the wall without needing special tools for installation or removal. Align the marking pin into the metal track, depress it to indent alignment on the wall, attach hangers to the wall, and lock it into place. FrameSecure attaches to any wall including brick and concrete, with 125 pounds pull out resistance for theft protection. FrameSecure may also be used with TrackMaster® for metal frames as a security hanger.

Securz-It is a vertical fastener for use on wood and metal frames, mirrors, small wall cabinets, bulletin

boards, and chalkboards. Screw in from the top and the frame is secured to the wall. Mounted items are solid until unscrewed. They are secure from theft and will never shift after they are properly installed. Similar to Securz-It is the Hangman Security Lock—a slip-and-lock system that includes a security key, mounting screws, and template, which help prevent hanging failure and damage from earthquakes, theft, and accidents. The Hangman Walldog Safety Hanger is an extruded aluminum track with a security lip to prevent picture wire from slipping out, but it is limited to 40 pounds weight. And as mentioned in the last column, Ziabicki also offers a Floreat Security Hanger that comes with a slip clamp that may not be the choice for aggressive security theft prevention but would be a good

option for securing art in earthquake zones. Available in 30- and 75-pound sizes, these hangers should be installed two per frame for stability, weight distribution, and balance.

There is always room to sell these innovative pieces of hardware to customers because—who doesn't love a better mousetrap? ■

Chris A. Paschke, CPF, GCF, CMG, mounting editor, owns Designs Ink in Tehachapi, CA, featuring custom framing, fine art/graphic design, and consulting. Specializing in mounting, matting, design, and fine art, she teaches at The National Conference. She has written four books on mounting including *The Mounting and Laminating Handbook* (third edition) and *Creative Mounting, Wrapping, and Laminating*, available from PFM PubCo. She may be contacted through www.designsinkart.com.

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