

Mastering Mounting

by Chris A. Paschke, CPF, GCF



Gallery Hanging Systems

Many frame shops offer delivery and installation as part of their service. In many instances, this may involve installing an entire hanging system, whether it's for a museum, gallery, office, or home. Hanging systems offer a professional, clean installation without requiring holes in the wall, and they are especially suitable for settings where framed art is likely to be changed from time to time. These hanging systems go well beyond the basic hook-and-wire hangers and include a track or rail that is



Multiple pieces of art are hung from single or double wires, not to exceed weight limitations. These are single wires. The customer opted for a horizontal rail rather than cathedral rail placement.

For professional, clean art installations without holes in the wall, gallery-style hanging systems are the way to go

firmly affixed to the ceiling or wall, often behind specially designed crown mouldings. Cables, rods, or suspenders hang vertically down from these tracks, and hooks or hangers are connected,

threaded, or otherwise clipped onto them to support and hold the framed art.

Weight Distribution

Choosing the right system starts with the hanging capacity. All system parts have a manufacturer calibrated rating for three times the weight of the framed art. If a rail, cable, or hook is listed as having a weight limit of 100 pounds, it will most likely hold 300 pounds. If multiple frames are to be hung on the same wire, then all must add up to less than the weight rating. Takiya heavy duty rails, for example, will support up to 150 pounds of art weight.

Medium weight rail hold 65 to 110 pounds, and lightweight rails support up to 33 pounds. It is important to follow these weight recommendations when selecting a system.

If the safe load of a single rail, hook, and wire is 100 pounds, two wires may be able to hold twice that. However, if the load were to become unbalanced during installation or if all the weight would be applied to one wire, it could exceed the safe load and might not hold. Never exceed the maximum load of a single wire; opting for two wires also improves balance and reduces art sway.

Display

Once a hanging system has been installed, the placement of framed art on the cables is an aesthetic decision. The beauty of a non-invasive hanging system lies in its flexibility. On a narrow, horizontal wall above a shelf of small art pieces, a display of several hanging artworks may either be staggered or hung in a com-



This small studio/gallery was installed in 2010 for Walker-Strahan Gallery, Redding, CA, using an Arakawa rail, cable, and hanger system.



Vertical common line placement on single wires with horizontal common line for the three rows.

mon line. A bottom common line might also be used to visually showcase smaller works, like encaustic panels on small easels on a bookcase, creating visual continuity.

In a sparsely set gallery, consistency of common line may be important—either top, bottom, or midline—but in a studio gallery display, each wall may be designed independently to accommodate the art. In another part of the gallery, there might also be two walls with cathedral ceilings where height allows multiple frames per wire. Even then, the arrangement can vary with, say, stacked 16”x20” pastels per wire on one wall and a combination of vertical common lines on each side of a 22”x28” focal piece.

Here, alphabetically, are the primary gallery systems now on the market.

Arakawa

Arakawa’s Picture Hanging System is composed of an aluminum rail, rail clip, cable, and hanger (gripper). It features innovative hanging displays using quick-release cable grippers that integrate wall or ceiling-mounted rails with stainless steel cables, allowing maximum horizontal and

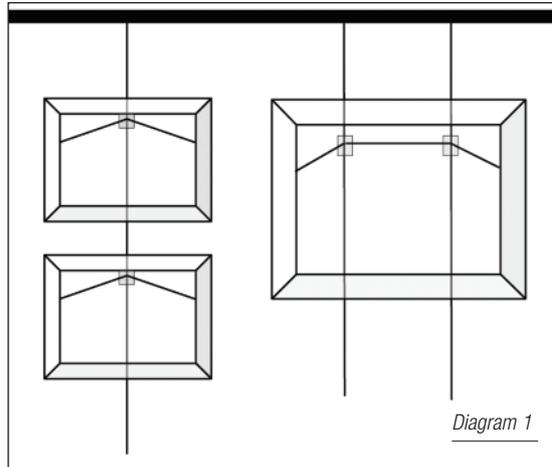


Diagram 1

vertical flexibility. Grippers are available as a normal type hook, carabiner hooks designed for more secure earthquake zones, key type with anti-theft with screw-lock closure, and anti-theft hanger with alarm function. The hardware is designed to be minimal and unobtrusive to feature the art, not the hardware.

AS Hanging Display Systems

AS Hanging offers a full line of specialty hanging systems. Click Rail is a wall track for business and residential



Takiya MuSE safety hooks on heavy steel wire.

use with a track load of 78 pounds. Tracks may be mounted behind finish carpentry, moldings, or trim so the track is hidden among architectural details. Cables may be inserted or removed along the entire length of the wall track. The Cable System is for more commercial strength and public spaces with

an open-faced wall or ceiling track, which has a maximum track load of 300 pounds. The transparent nylon or steel cables are perfect for art displays in galleries and museums.

AS Hanging’s Classic System is the most heavy-duty of all the line, being based on rods where strength, anti-theft, and convenience are optimized. Rods are available in various lengths and colors and suspend from an open-faced wall or ceiling track, which avoids putting holes in walls. The Contempo System is the most versatile design of wall track, with a maximum load of 78 pounds, and it adapts to curved and straight walls equally well. It uses rods, cables, and cords and is mounted from small standoffs, making it perfect for hard to fit areas.

Resources

<http://www.omegamoulding.com/>
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<http://staspicturehanging.com>
<http://picturehangingsystems.com>
<http://arthangingsystems.com>
<http://ashanging.com/en/products/>
<http://galleriesystem.com/>
<http://arakawagrip.com/>
<http://larsonjuhl.com>
<http://www.walkerdisplay.com>

Items

Takiya (USA), MuSE, Koreder
 Takiya, STAS systems UK, Newly, J-Rail
 STAS systems
 STAS systems
 STAS systems
 AS Hanging Display System
 The Gallery System Concept
 Arakawa
 Arakawa
 Walker



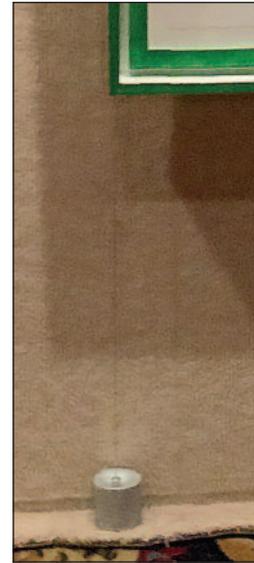
Takiya Line Pro medium weights are designed to stabilize their hanging cables to prevent art sway.



The Omega Moulding booth featured Takiya Hanging Systems at the 2015 WCAF Expo.

and steel cable will each support up to 20 kg (44 pounds), but ratings need to be chosen for the hooks and cables.

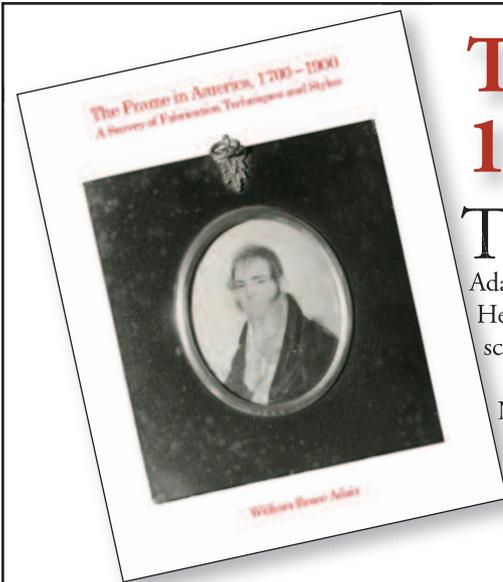
Newly has a wide assortment of variations, including squeeze adjustable, self-locking, screw-locking, solo hangers, and sloping stoppers. Push the top of the hook down to slide, then release to firmly relock in place. Twister suspenders and squeeze hooks are rated at 20 kg, and



Two-wire installation with safety hangers and Takiya Line Pro medium weights to stabilize the hanging cables and prevent art sway.

Newly

Newly is a system with specially designed Twister suspender rails. The Twister head fits into Click Rails, then twists down to lock, leaving the barrel inside the rail. Rails are available to support 20, 30, or 50 kg (44, 66, or 110 pounds), Twister perlon



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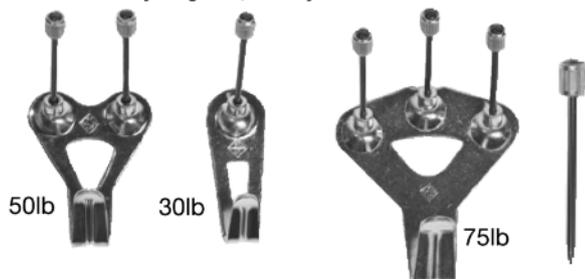
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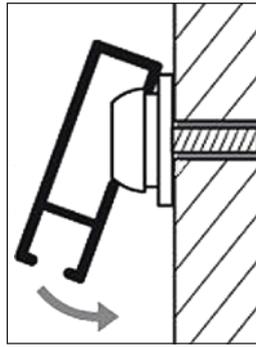
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Newly's Squeeze Adjustable Hook H100S has a security clip and is rated at 44 pounds. Squeeze down on the top, slide to locate, and release to lock in place.



The aluminum STAS Cliprail snaps onto buttons screwed into the wall and will support 55 pounds per meter.



The STAS Zipper on STAS Cobra cable will support 33 pounds and is easy to install and adjust as needed. Perlon and Zipper only support 22 pounds.



The STAS Zipper Pro security hangers lie flatter against the wall and are easy to install, squeeze to adjust, release to self-lock, as needed.



STAS J-Rail hooks slide onto 4mm square rods that self-lock at desired heights. Basic steel J-hooks are rated for 11 pounds.

the lightweight screw hooks are only 5 kg/11 pounds. Cables are available as perlon--two synthetic polyamide fibers similar to nylon--translucent steel cable, silver steel rod, and white.

STAS

The patented STAS Minirail wall system is the thinnest picture hanging system, with its 16mm wide rail available in white or aluminum. The STAS Cliprail Pro is a heavier rail that is a suspension system for ceilings rated at 45 kg/99 pounds and uses the STAS Cliprail clip and is rated at 25 kg/55 pounds per meter. The aluminum STAS Cliprail snaps onto buttons screwed into the wall.

STAS Cobra is a unique patented wire that can be placed directly in the Cliprail Max and is available as perlon nylon cord or Cobra steel cable in white or black. STAS Cobra suspenders have a specially shaped metal head locked onto the end of the cable, which hooks and locks into any STAS rail. There are a number of Cobra hooks and cords are for loads of 8 pounds, 22 pounds, 33 pounds, and 44 pounds. The perlon

plus Zipper hanger is not as strong, rated at 10 kg/22 pounds, while steel plus Zipper is rated at 15 kg/33 pounds per hook. The Zippers are easy to install, squeeze to adjust, and release to self-lock. It is a flat shape, which allows the frame to hang closer to wall. The patented STAS Zipper pro is equipped with an extra theft-delaying bracket, which also helps hold art if bumped or during earthquakes.

STAS J-Rail Max is designed for heavy paintings, professional displays, and offers a range of security options. Rails are installed using preset countersunk holes about every 10 inches for flathead screws. Steel or aluminum gallery rods are used rather than cables. Hooks vary for required picture weight with small basic steel J-Hooks rated for 5 kg/11 pounds to J-Security Hooks at 40 kg/88 pounds. All slide onto the 4mm square rods and self-lock at desired heights.

Takiya

The Japanese Takiya MuSE--Museum Supporting Equipment--is patented superior quality stainless steel and aluminum hanging hardware designed for museums but is used by galleries around the world. Takiya's rails are firmly attached to walls or ceilings, making these products safe for earthquake prone areas or public installations where art must be secured for safety concerns. There are two basic hook types: the open hook, where the cable is hung onto the hook using an eyelet, and the one-touch hook, where the steel cable is pressed into the bottom of the hook and held by a method that doesn't dent or damage the cable.

The Koreder Line is a high quality system that displays paintings in a safe, flexible, and aesthetically pleasing manner. The system is characterized by the possibilities for either recessed or surface mounted rails in walls and ceilings. For all Takiya products, the indicated load capacity is set at a third of the actual safe tested load. If a rail, cable, or hook reads 100 kg (220 pounds), it is actually safe for 300 kg (660 pounds). If multiple frames are to be hung on the same wire, then all must add up to less than the total weight rating. Rails also have weight bearing limitations.

Heavy duty rails support up to 150 pounds. Medium weight holds up to 66 to 110 pounds. Lightweight rails support up to 33 pounds.

Cable wires are available as 1.2mm and 1.5mm gauge steel wire nylon coated clear, gray, yellow, blue, and brown to blend with assorted wall colors. Heavier 2.5mm cables will handle loads up to 150 pounds. As with any wire or hanger, it is advised that two cables be used for valuable or heavy items, and each should have a load capacity higher than the weight of the frame.

Takiya Line Pro TCW-01 medium weights are designed to stabilize hanging cables placed at the bottom of the cable for ground level support to help to prevent art sway. These are from the Line Pro series and are available for 66, 110, or 150 pounds. The bottom weighted two-wire hanging solution for large art was displayed at the WCAF Expo.

The Gallery System Concept

Like the previous systems, there are three components: tracks (rails), hangers (wire), and hooks. Each component has several options to match all display needs. Tracks are available in white or aluminum and are mounted on the wall, 8' to 15'

feet above the floor. Track sections can be mounted end-to-end to span a long wall or may be cut. Hangers are stainless steel cables inserted into the track that hang close to the wall and slide horizontally along the track to any position. Hooks attach to the hangers and slide up and down to any height. When locked in place, they are ready to securely hold the art.

Final Thoughts

When you're framing with rag mats, Museum Glass, Tyvek dust covers, and premium or angled strap hangers, it stands to reason that other details should also be upgraded, including the wall mount system.

Displaying framed art the way a museum would will provide the right finishing touch to any professional custom framing installation. A gallery-style hanging system can provide the perfect installation solution you're looking for. ■

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 can be contacted via www.designsinkart.com.



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