

Hanging pictures and mirrors – For June 06

Last month I illustrated a few different wall fasteners to use around the house on wallboard.

The following two fasteners are also used for hanging pictures or mirrors that are not too heavy.



Use the nylon wall drillers, illustrated on the left, for a pulling force of less than about 20# on a single fastener. Take care to work slowly using firm pressure when screwing them into the wall or you will just create a loose fastener in a large hole.



The nylon toggle wall grip on the right works on the same principal as a Molly screw but is made of plastic and not as strong or durable but will hold up to 40# if installed correctly.

Whatever fasteners you use to hang a picture or mirror, use two to help keep them level. The fasteners



themselves do not need to be exactly level to accomplish this. Try it, you will be amazed

or at least happy with the results. Use picture hanging wire attached to the frame of the picture or mirror and slide the picture sideways on the two fasteners until you are happy with its position and it will stay where you put it.

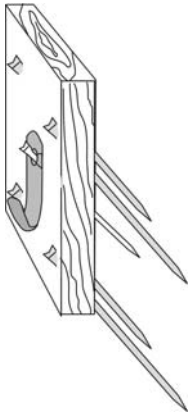
Lighter pictures can be hung on the wall with just an ordinary picture hanger (floreast hook) that comes with



a nail set at 45 degrees. These can be purchased in kits with picture wire and eye hooks as shown on the left, or separately. Again, use two to make leveling easier.

For heavier pictures or mirrors the safest and best way is to find a stud or studs and attach the hangers to them. Even if you have to move a piece of furniture slightly (Heaven forbid!) or place the object off center, it is the best and safest choice. But if the Mrs. won't hear of it, try to find at least one stud and attach a piece of plywood or 1" x 4" to the stud at a right angle with a few screws or nails and nail or screw the hooks to the wood. If you keep the length just less than the frame and paint it the same color as the wall you will not notice it. Finding a stud by rapping the wallboard with your knuckles until it sounds and feels solid is usually the best way although they do sell electronic stud finders that work fairly well. Neither way is foolproof though, so when you think you have located a stud use an old fashioned ice pick and stick it in the wall until you hit the stud. The ice pick makes very small holes that

can be easily filled. No? She's still not happy? She wants it where she wants it? Well there is one more way that I know of.



Cut out a couple of pieces of 3/8" plywood about 3" square. Lay the pieces on your work area or a piece of scrap wood and take four, 6 penny, 1 1/2" or 2" finishing nails. Drive one of the nails into the plywood near each corner at a 45 to 60 degree angle on both pieces. Drive them in until they protrude from the other side about 1/8". Now take your hook and position it just above the center of the piece of plywood and using a nail at least as long as the others, start that in the piece of plywood also. Hold them on the wall where you want them located and gently tap each nail all the way down to the

plywood and through the wallboard. This in effect gives you five nails holding the item but is even stronger because the weight on the hook is pulling the plywood and nails tighter to the wall.

Another way is to screw decorative hooks at the top of the wall where the ceiling meets the wall. There is almost always a stud going horizontal there. Then, using a length of picture hanging wire measured in a loop with the loop where you will hang your picture, sew two closed decorative pieces of fabric about one inch in diameter and four to five times as long as the wire you want to cover. Thread the wire through these pieces and scrunch them up out of the way. The picture should have hooks installed on either side upside down so you can loop them over the wire. Slide the picture on the wire until it is level and release the fabric. You will have to tack or hook the material at the top to keep it from falling. Another way would be to use lighting swag chain and hooks. If the type of chain and hooks you buy match your décor, leave it exposed, or if not, cover it with material as described above.

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