

HOW TO WIRE ARTWORK FOR HANGING

(Most text by Marion Boddy-Evans; updated Sept 29, 2018)

Wire and D-rings are the best hardware for hanging a picture because they're not only strong, they're easy to install and adjust. There are three types of picture wire. Choosing the right kind depends on how big your picture is.

- **Braided:** As the name implies, this is made from strands of galvanized steel that have been braided together. Braided wire is easy to cut and tie. It is sold in a variety of thicknesses. The thicker the wire, the heavier the picture it can support—up to a maximum of 36 pounds.
- **Stainless steel:** Made from strands of steel that have been twisted together under tension, this picture wire is stronger than braided wire but less flexible. It's best for hanging very large, heavy frames up to 100 pounds.
- **Vinyl-coated:** This is stainless steel picture wire with a soft outer layer of vinyl applied. It's gentler on hands and delicate hanging surfaces, but almost as strong as stainless. It can hang pictures up to 60 pounds.

D-rings look a little like a belt buckle attached to a strip of metal with screw holes. They're designed to be mounted flush against the back of the picture frame. The rings themselves face inward to connect the length of picture wire. Like picture wire, D-rings are available in a variety of sizes; the heavier your artwork, the larger the rings.

Gather Your Supplies

Obtain the appropriate picture wire and D-rings. And you'll need a few simple tools to hang your artwork:

- Mini long-nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Screwdriver (regular or Phillips, depending on screw type)
- Ruler or tape measure
- Pencil
- Picture hooks for hanging
- Hammer

You may also want to wear safety goggles as an added layer of protection against debris while hammering.

Attach the D-Rings

Decide how far from the top you want to position the D-rings. Aim for about a quarter or third of the way down from the top of the painting. Measure the distance, mark it with a pencil, and then repeat on the other side. Angle the D-rings so they're pointing upward at about 45 degrees, but don't screw them in pointing directly toward one another. Be sure you attach the D-rings at the same distance from the top edge. The wire should not show above the top edge of the painting, nor should the painting lean away from the wall when hung.

Attach the Picture Wire

Before you attach your picture wire to the D-rings, you'll need to measure and cut an appropriate length. Begin by measuring a length of picture wire that's double the width of the frame you're hanging. You'll trim the excess when done.

Insert about 5 inches of picture wire through one of the D-rings from below. Once through the D-ring, pull this end underneath the wire that will go across the picture, then put it through the D-ring again from above. Pull the wire up through the loop, and that is the finished knot. Pull slightly taut but do not secure. Next, stretch the picture wire across to the other D-ring, but don't knot it yet.

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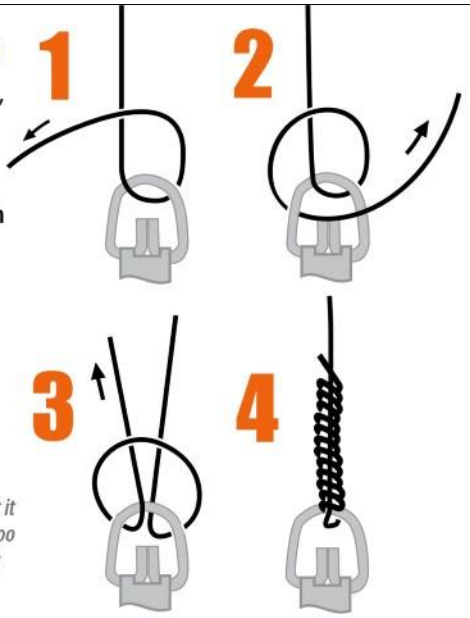
Tying Wire

Cut a piece of wire 4- 6" wider than the frame.

Loop one end of wire about 2 inches through D-Ring and follow wire tying steps 1-4.

Repeat on the other D-Ring leaving a small amount of slack in the wire.

TIP: If the wire is too tight it decreases its strength, if too loose the art will tilt away from the wall.



Measure and Cut the Wire

Find the middle of the frame and pull the picture wire up gently until you reach a point about 2 inches from the top. This is where you want your wire to hang once it is mounted on the wall. Measure the picture wire 5 inches through the eyelet and trim.

Now repeat the same process of looping and knotting the picture wire to the D-ring that you did on the other side, leaving 5 inches of excess wire. Trim with your wire cutters, being careful not to poke yourself with the sharp metal.

Once you've knotted the wire, it's a good idea to make sure all of the hanging hardware is attached securely.