

## Overview

- Frames must be strong enough to carry the weight of the painting: when the painting is held up by the upper edge of the frame there should be no distortion.
- If you use a clip style frame there must be sufficient clips to hold the back of the painting in place and the hanging wire must be attached to the frame itself.
- Frames and matts should be clean and undamaged (no chips or loose joints) and if glass is used it should be clean and intact.
- Use simple, neutral coloured frames
- Paintings must have a hanging wire that is secured to the painting by D hooks/D rings that are screwed into the frame or the stretcher bars. The hooks should be attached 1/3 of the distance from the top of the painting.
- Hanging wire should have a little give so it can be easily hung, but the centre of the wire should be no less than 3" from the top of painting, or the gallery hanging hooks will show.
- Bare wire ends must be taped unless the wire is plastic coated.
- Paintings should have bumpers or spacers at least on the bottom corners of the painting, they allow the painting to breathe and protect the wall from damage.
- If you are not using a frame for your painting it is recommended that you use thicker stretcher bars and

either paint the edges a solid colour, extend the image onto the edges or use framers tape applied evenly with no wrinkles or puckers.

- Canvases with staples on the edges must be framed.

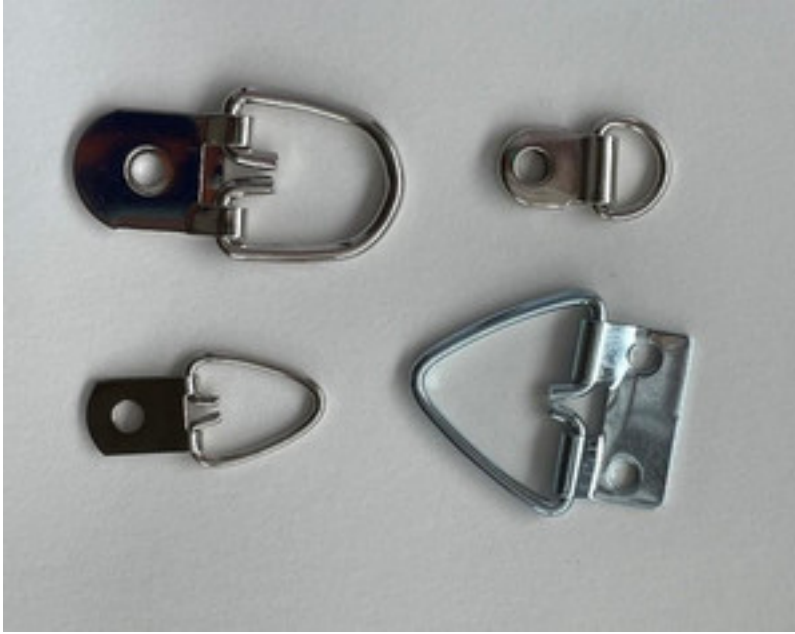
## Preparing Painting for Hanging

### Hanging Hardware:

**D-hooks (D rings) are required.** They are safe and effective and can be purchased at Canadian Tire, Opus and Sublime as well as online. These should be attached with the D hook facing the centre of the painting.

**NOT ACCEPTABLE:** Eye hooks, Sawtooth-hangers or staples

D hooks (D rings) sit flat and will not damage gallery walls and are available in several sizes. Use heavy weight D rings on larger and heavier paintings.



*Figure 1: D Hook/D Ring Samples*

## **Picture Wire:**

If possible, please use plastic coated picture wire, injuries can result from handling non coated wire. If you are using non-coated-wire you must tape the ends.

**NOT ACCEPTABLE: String, fishing line, jewelry wire**

## **Attaching hardware and wire to painting:**

**Caution:** if you screw the D ring into the stretcher bar or frame too close to the edge there is a risk of the wood splitting, the screw pulling away and the painting falling to the floor.

**The D hooks should be attached a third of the way down the painting with the d hook facing the inside of the painting.**

**The wire should be attached to the D ring so that it is secure and does not slip.** Screw D-rings into each side of the back of the frame (or stretcher bars on non frames canvases) then, wrap the picture wire around the D-rings and tie a slip knot or a cow hitch, or other flat locking knot, at each end before wrapping the wire around itself.



*Figure 2: D Hook/D Ring with Slip Knot*  
*Ring with Cow Hitch*



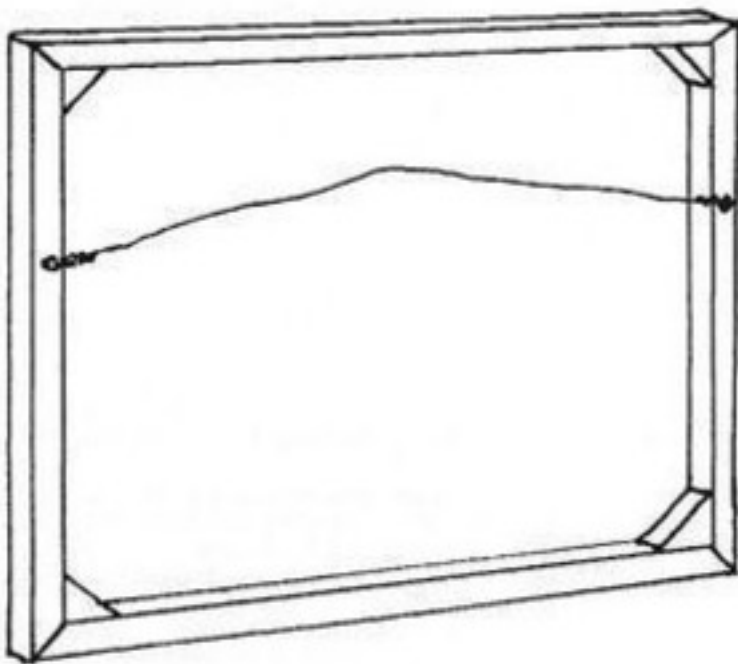
*Figure 3: D Hook/D*

The wire should have some give, especially for heavy or large paintings, but not be loose enough that the gallery hook shows when the picture is hung. The

centre of the wire should be 3" or more from the top of the painting. See wiring illustrations below.

## Wiring Illustrations

**Acrylic or Oil Paintings** need some slack in the wire so the person hanging them can get their hand in behind the painting. Make sure the wire does not show above the top of the painting when hung on the gallery hanger. If in doubt, try it out!



**Watercolour Paintings** framed with heavy glass need the wire to be taut. The weight of the glass will pull the wire and the downward pressure will create enough

give in the wire so no slack is needed. Too much give in the wire will probably result in the wire showing above the top of the frame.

