

Almost Everything You should Know about Your
Pictures and Prints

Getting rid of your "Hang - Ups"



MAC



printsforyourhome.com

“GETTING RID OF YOUR HANG-UPS”

ALMOST EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR PICTURES AND PRINTS

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

INTRODUCTION.

I'm terrible. I'll probably get arrested. Every time I go past someone's house, I peer into their front room. It's none of my business but I'm surprised at how many homes either have no pictures on their walls or if they do, they tend to be tired old faded commercial prints in a variety of mismatched frames.

"You really should re-think your interior decor" I say to myself, since just one strategically placed modern art print would totally transform your room.

Firstly. What is Art and Is It Important?

Let's say, it's an intangible spiritual force that appeals at a deep emotional level and when you place a piece of art on your wall, it speaks to you in many ways that continue to bring pleasure for years to come.

Though we all have different tastes, there are some subjects that we love to revisit time and again. Sunsets, landscapes, coastal views and wildlife are good examples.

Pictures bring back memories of places we've visited. They can calm us as well as being joyful or challenging. They can help make sense of our lives.

Thousands visit art galleries for inspiration and gaze in wonder at amazingly skilful masterpieces, many of which document our history and social history.

Equally, pictures of our friends family and pets are good examples of the powerful 'emotional pull' that art can exert in our lives.

Ok. Let's now consider some practical issues.

Best Way to Hang Pictures



- SINGLY
- GROUP THEM TOGETHER
- CREATE PATTERNS OR SHAPES ON YOUR WALL

How High Do I Hang my Pictures ?

The Picture centre should be about five feet from the ground when seated in your living room. If you are straining your neck by either looking up or down that's not good.

They say, about one hand width above the sofa is a comfortable height.

This does depend on the picture size and furniture you're working around. The golden rule is; if it looks comfortable to you, then all's well.

Believe it or not, there is a formula for hanging a picture at 'average' eye level.

The Formula is as follows;

Position the picture centre 57 to 60 inches from the floor. Divide the height of the frame by two. From that number subtract the distance from the top of the frame to the hanging hardware; add this number to 57, 58, 59, or 60 This final sum is the height (measured from the floor) at which the hangers should be put on the wall.

Don't get too hung up over this though (pun intended)
(courtesy of <http://marthastewart.com/>)

PICTURE ARRANGEMENT

Where you spend most of your time is really the best place to hang your favourite pictures. For me that will be the front room where the telly is;

Don't forget the kitchen. If you have wall space it's a great place for prints and posters and they don't necessarily need to be food or drink related though I do like the champagne print below which you'll find on the website

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General Rule

LARGE pictures in small spaces don't look too good. Conversely, small ones in large spaces are ... literally, a waste of space.

A THEME FOR EACH ROOM

In my front room I have five framed seashore photo prints in various sizes featuring local beach scenes; predominantly rocks, groins and breakers on the beach. The prints support each other by telling a story, and emphasise the wild ruggedness of our local coastline. The theme here is beach art.

FAMILY GALLERY?

Why not have a series of high -end family portraits taken by a professional photographer and then group them in a pattern as below.

Also remember don't be afraid to mix colour with black and white prints.

Two Picture Placement Ideas

One 10" x 10"
Two 20" x 20"
Three 10" x 20"



One 40"x30"
Two 30"x 20"
Two 20"x16"



Want more Picture Placement ideas?

For further picture hanging ideas check out Pinterest ...

[“Ways to hang pictures on a wall”](#) or go online and google

“Images of wall art galleries “

Bedroom

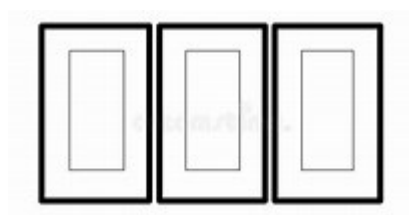
I don't like the idea of hanging anything too dark or sombre in the bedroom. When I go to bed I want to relax. Cheerful light pastel colours, and gentle shades are more conducive for a good night's sleep.

Dining Room

Here you can hang more thoughtful pictures. Perhaps you've acquired a family heirloom or something you saw in an antique shop or purchased at auction? If it's a statement piece it needs to take pride of place, perhaps above a fire- place for example.

Stairway

The sloping nature of stairways lend themselves to some interesting diagonal groupings or even a tryptic arrangement (three pictures on a similar theme)



Space permitting, a large feature picture can also look great on a stairway.

Hall or Atrium

If you have plenty of wall space why not feature a large bold canvas of a picture you love. Anything from 36" x 24" upwards is a good bet.

FRAMING AND MOUNTING YOUR PICTURES

If you don't care for DIY, visit your local art shop or high street framer. This will open up a host of possibilities. You'll get advice on a suitable frame and they'll do a professional job for you.

But if you want to dip your feet in the water and save money, buy off the shelf frames in standard sizes such as

12 x 16, 16 x 20 and 24 x 20. Popular 8 x 10, A4 and A3 sizes should also be available. I print out my photos on A3+ paper (19" x 13"). This is a great size for display purposes. Unfortunately, this is not a standard size and frames have to be specially made.

Shop bought frames often come with saw tooth attachments fixed onto the brown backing board. These attach to the pin or hook you put on your wall.

Aim for a “Look” or “Identity” and SIMPLIFY

Much depends on what you are framing. With so many different styles and colours to choose from it can become confusing.

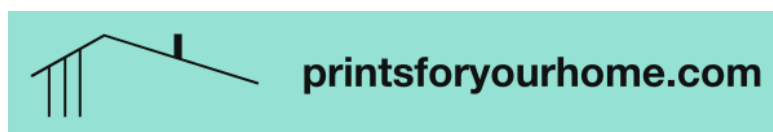
I would recommend that you simplify. I always choose a **neutral white frame** (and white mount or mat) in order to achieve a consistent identity as shown here in my 'Monet style' poppy wall art print below .





POPPIES AND CORNFLOWERS IN A FIELD " Monet Style"

See



Try this trick

Another option that often works well is to 'pull a colour' from your picture and use this as the colour for your frame. See the Aboriginal art print below.

Let's say you have a landscape print using differing shades of green. Pick one of those shades to use as the main colour for your frame. This would emphasise the rural nature of the subject matter. But, remember, if it doesn't look right, don't do it!

With a skilled eye you can mix different coloured frames and even different styles, just be careful to avoid a dreadful conflict or clash. Too many random and unrelated choices just looks messy.

And now we need to consider Mounting and framing techniques in some detail.



HOW I FRAME MY PRINTS

Method 1 (The Traditional method)

Using Standard size frames e.g. 10 x 8, 16 x12, 20x16, 20 x 20, 24 x20 with a MOUNT (OR MAT) / Glass/ Backing Board/ framers points/ D rings and Cord

Equipment you'll need

- Acid free linen framer's sealing tape
- Spirit level
- Pliers





- Hammer
- Flexigun driver and framer's points
- Pencil & rubber
- Drill (not pictured)



Backing board (Figure 1)



Frame with glass (Figure 2)

THE MOUNT OR MAT

Mounts around a frame pull you into the picture by focusing your attention on the central subject.

White or cream mounts are my preferences. 'Bang in your face' bright coloured mounts should only be used occasionally if the subject matter demands it.

A Word about the Print, the Mount and the Frame.

Please bear in mind that print, mount and frame sizes are not equal This is best illustrated by the picture below. (Figure 3)



The print pictured above is 10.5" x 8". The cream mount is 2 inches on the sides and 2.75" at the bottom. The frame dimensions are 16 x 14"

The slightly larger mount area at the bottom raises the picture higher in the frame which is a commonly used visual device to give it more impact.

Ensure that your mount doesn't overwhelm the picture. It should generally be no more than half the picture width.

Hinging the Art Work

Hinge the art work to the white mount with backing tape. Use the framer's sealing tape (rear view)



Figure 4



Figure 5

- **Figure 5 shows the front of the print hinged to the white mount board.**

NEXT >>

- Wearing gloves clean the frame's glass (figure 2) to remove marks or fingerprints.
- Place the mounted print in the frame (figure 2)
- Now place the brown backing board (figure 1) on top of the mount

Firing the Framers's points to secure the backing board.



Figure 6

Fire enough framing points into the four sides of the backing board to secure it firmly in place.

Roughly between six to eight on each side depending on the size of your picture.

Attaching the Framer's Tape

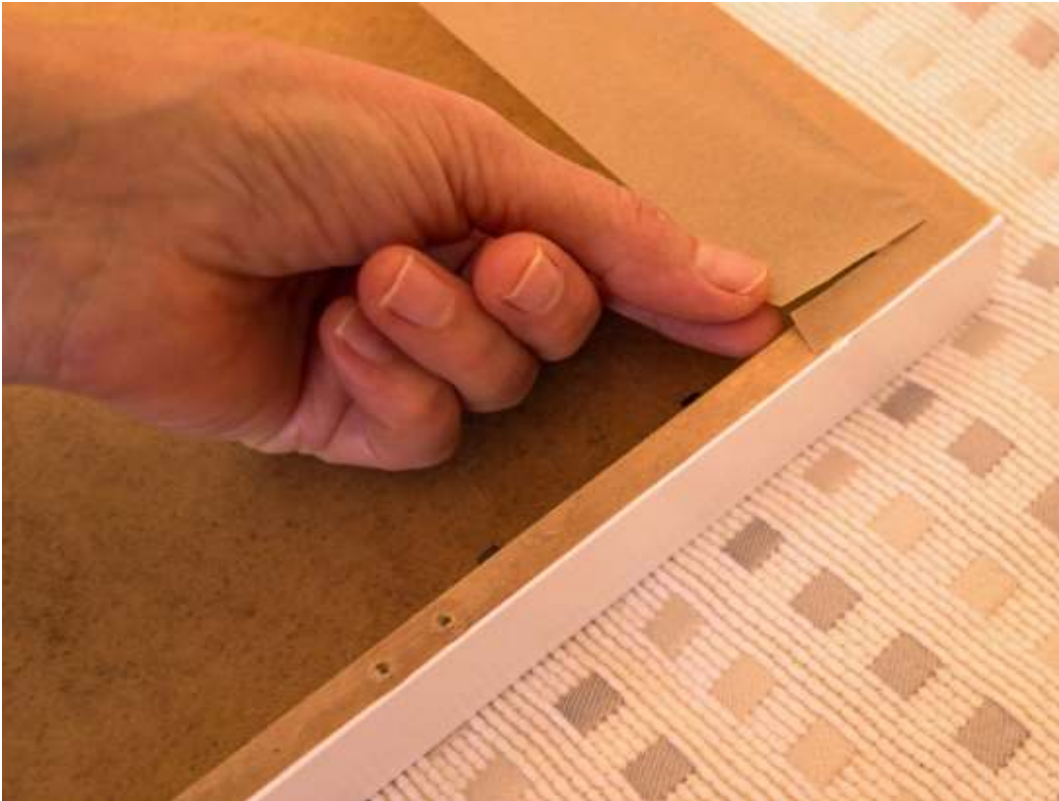


Figure 7

1. On the back of the frame, stretch the framer's sealing tape from one side of the frame to the other along the narrow edge just shy of the corner (so tape doesn't show over the sides.) Pull the roll of tape tight.
2. Make scissor cuts at both ends and fold the tape down at right angles onto backing board ensuring tape is pressed right into the edge and corners.
3. Remove any wrinkles by running your finger **smoothly and slowly** along the backing board. This needs practice and may take several attempts to get a seamless look.
4. When you've secured the sealing tape along all four sides it's time to add the hanging mechanism.

Fixing the D- rings and the Cord



Figure 8

- Measure the picture frame sides and place the D rings one third of the way down from the top of the frame on both sides (e.g. if your side measure 20" both D rings should be placed say 6 ½ inches from the top.) The D rings must of course face inwards. Mark both points with a pencil.
- With a small screw driver secure the D rings with the screws provided. Ensure that the ring is in the centre of the narrow edge otherwise it may be visible when you hang the picture.
- Remember if you are hanging a heavy or large picture buy the double D rings.

Threading the cord

With the D rings now attached to the picture frame as in figure 8

- Take a long piece of cord greater than the width of the picture so you have plenty of spare.
- Double up the cord to make a loop and pass the loop through one D ring.
- Pull the two loose ends of the cord to the loop and pass them through it as in figure 9. Pull tight and you've secured one D ring.
- Take the other end of the cord up to the opposite D ring. Hold the cord tight with one hand (to eliminate slack) and pass it through the D ring and tie off several knots to hold the cord in place.
- Cut off any excess cord.

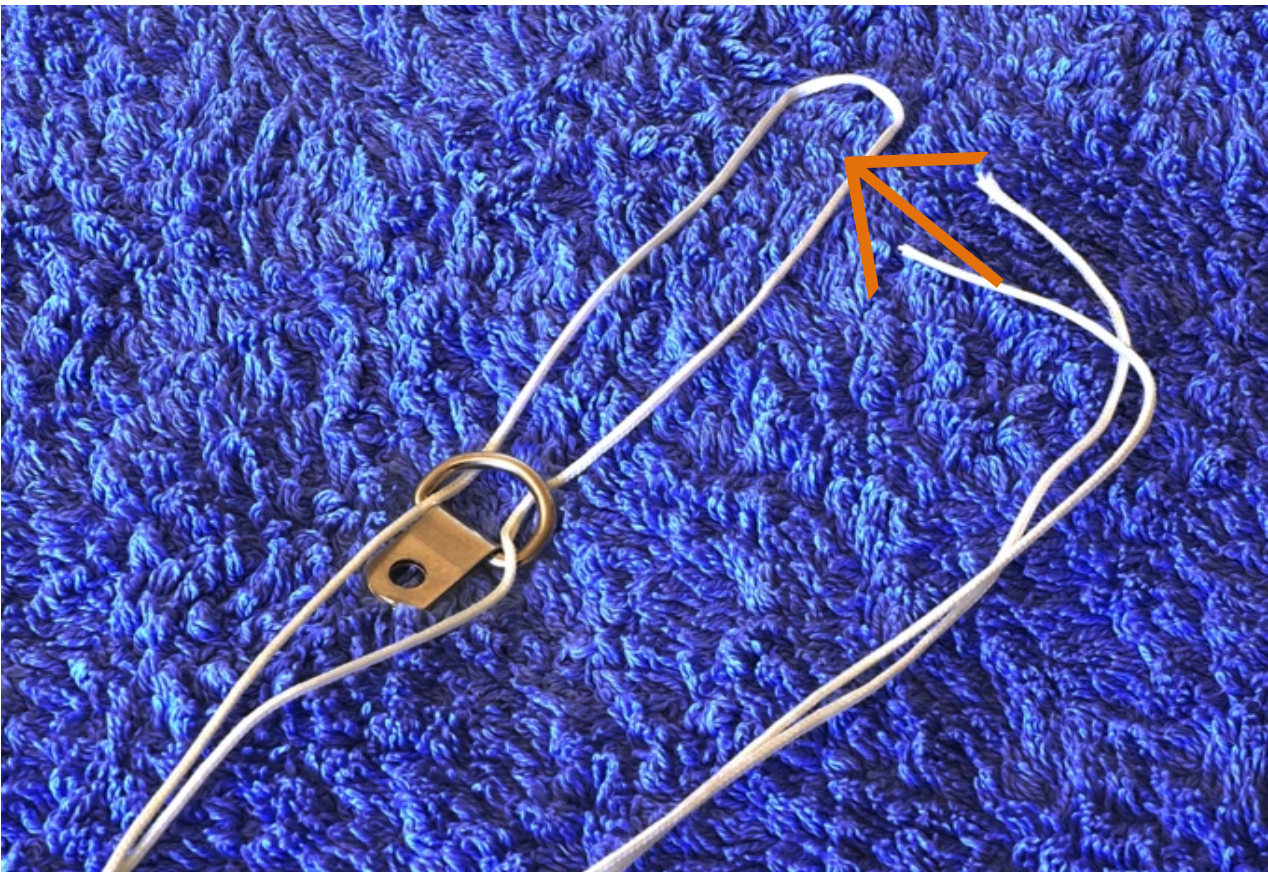


Figure 9

Now you have completed framing, mounting, and attaching the hanging mechanism, it should look something like figure 10 below.

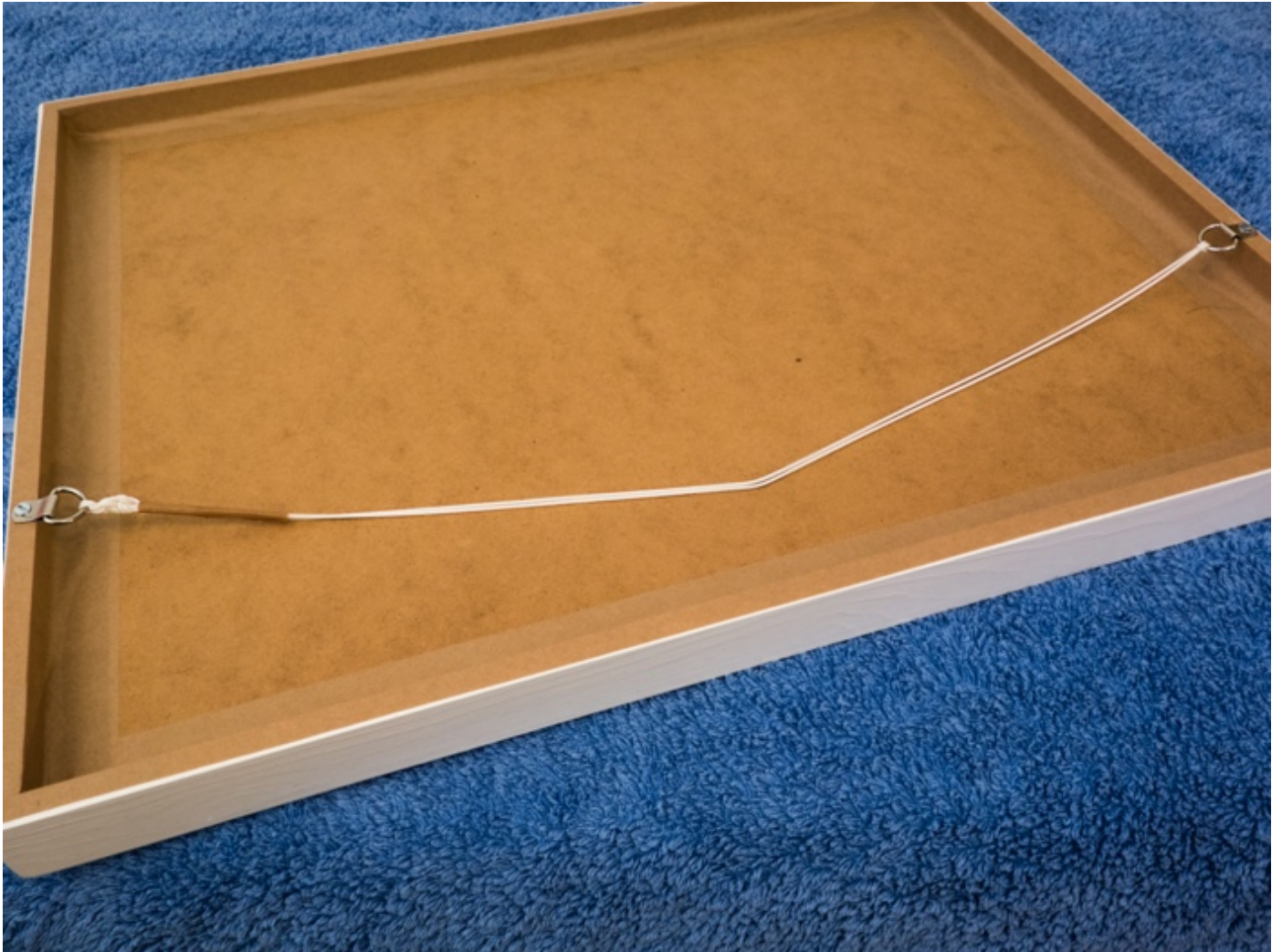


Figure 10

For a neat finish wrap a piece of plastic tape around the knotted end.

Method 2. The Float Mount

This is a lovely slightly advanced framing method and I recommend you google "*Float Mounting an art work.*" There are a number You tube videos available.

At the time of writing I can recommend (Rinaldin) "Conservation Framing" presented by Mal Reynolds

This works well where an art work has textured or detailed edges. "*Floating*" slightly raises the artwork off the mat board producing a **3D illusion**. Shadows might be visible which accentuates this effect.

You'll need to buy.

- a. Stanley knife
- b. Paper hinging tape. Use strong acid free linen adhesive tape.
- c. A steel or good quality plastic rule.
- d. Small paintbrush.

Attaching art work to mat board

Paper hinges are going to be passed through the mat board which will secure your art work to the board.

A First place your art work in the centre of a mat board and mark four light pencil lines on each corner.

B. Take a Stanley knife or sharp cutting blade and with a ruler to guide the cut, cut four horizontal slits through the mat board in each of the marked corners. A good sharp blade will make this much easier.

C. You now have four slots. Cut your Hinging tape into four 6 cm lengths and fold them in half.

D. Pass the hinging tape through the slot and take hold of it from the back pulling each one through one by one. Turn the back part down.

E. Tape off each hinge on the back of the board so they are secure and won't come through when you mount your art work on the other side.

F. place your artwork on the front of the mat board.

G. With a small paint brush, very slightly wet the flat part of the hinge and place your piece of art on the hinges. Its most important you don't wet the hinges too much otherwise the artwork will take up water and may distort.

H. Place a couple of weights on top of the art work. Wait for the adhesive to dry remove the weights and now your picture should be floating.

Method 3 The Box Mount

I have an artist friend who collects all kinds of items from various beaches along the south coast. She re- purposes this 'beach booty' turning them into pieces of art work which are then presented in a small box frame.

Think of this as a collage of any objects that might interest you.

Things you might frame such as tapestry, needlepoint, scrap metal objects, ropes with interesting knots etc.

This type of work has become increasingly popular for people with a creative eye. It's a money-saver, relatively simple and also satisfying to accomplish.

THE FINISHED ART WORK "Beach Booty"

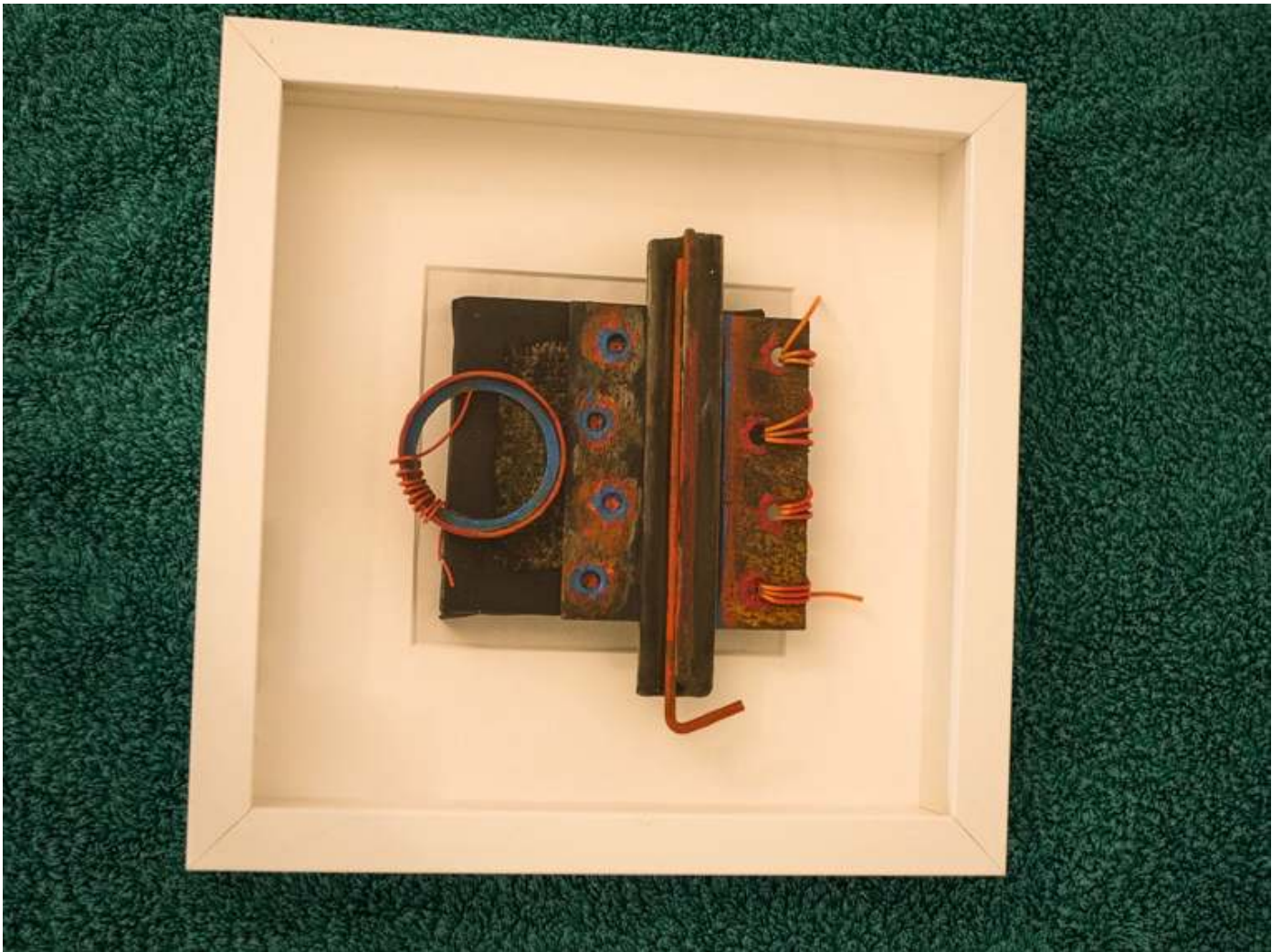


Figure 11



How You Do It



Figure 12

First obtain a box frame from your local supplier or online as in figure 11 above. This frame measures 10 x 10. Other sizes are available.

There are two frames: an outer and an inner. The outer frame houses the front glass or plastic.



Figure 13

One frame sits within the other.

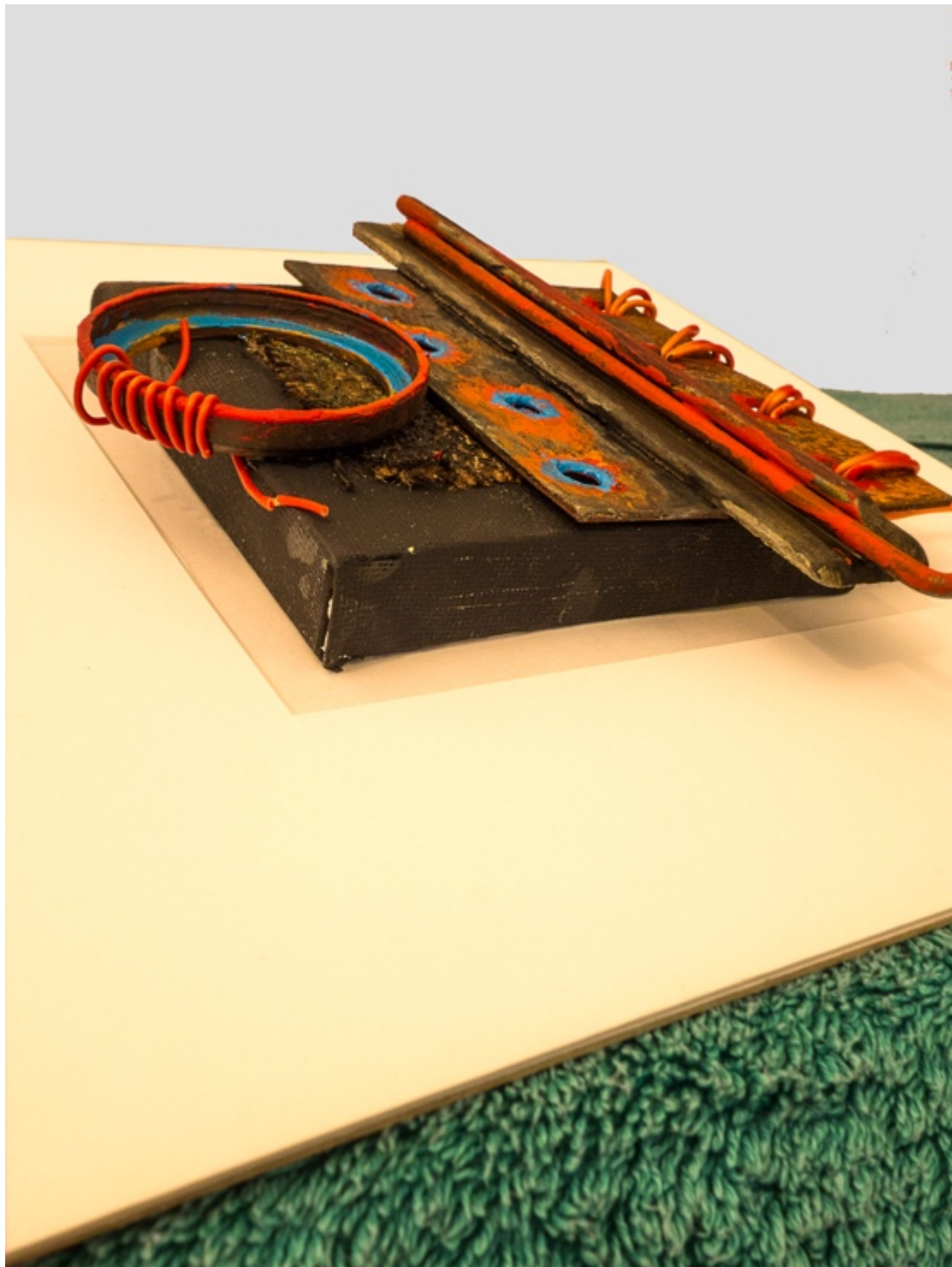


Figure 14

In this case the art work has been fixed with adhesive to the white mat board (mount) provided - within a central 5" square pre-cut aperture.

This raises the object above the mount producing a realistic 3 D offset effect which is very immediate and appealing.

Figure 15



You're now ready to place the mount and artwork into the frame.

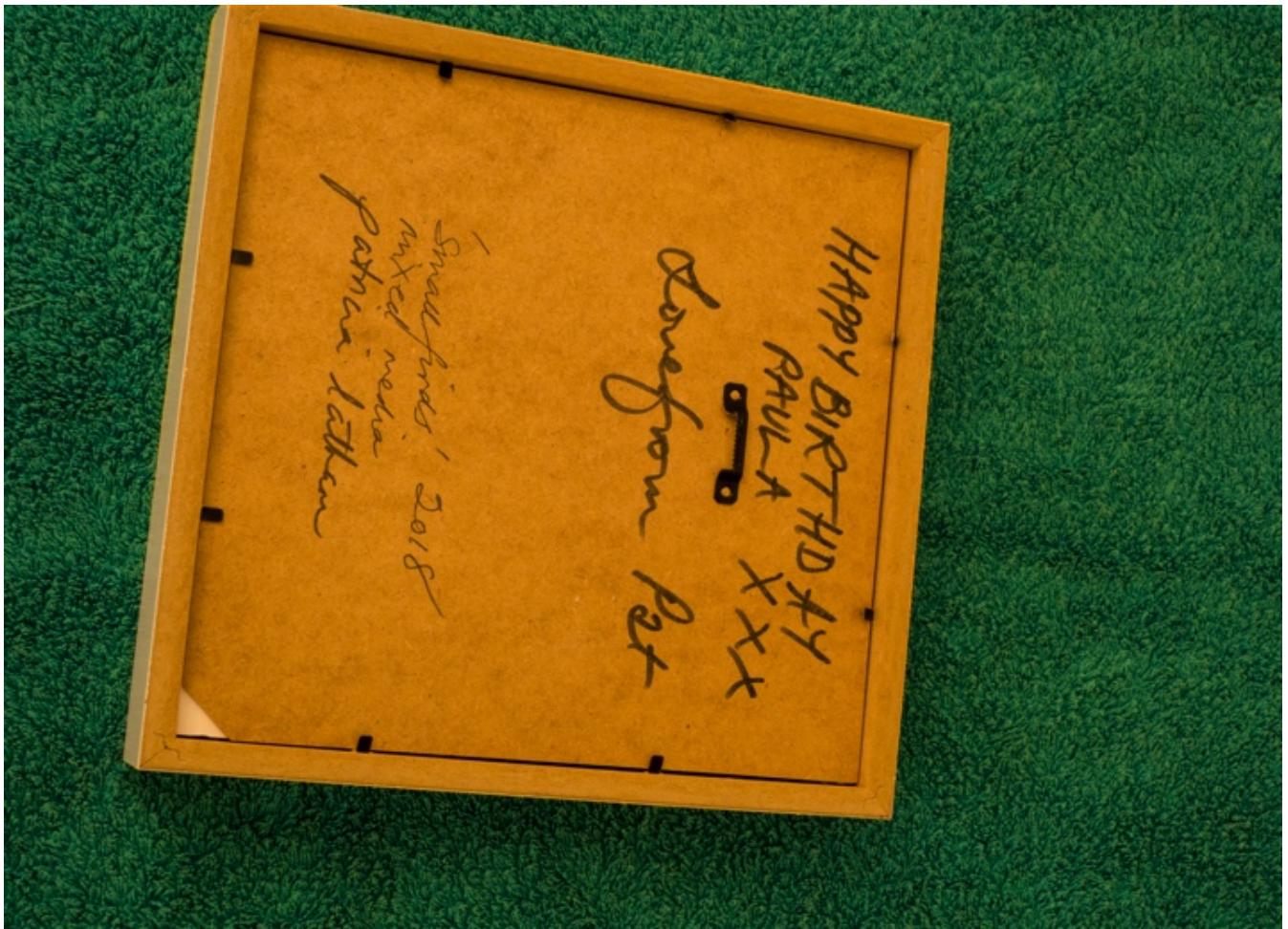


Figure 16

Finally place the backing board into the rear of the frame and 'fire' enough framing points onto each side of the board to secure it. The backing board should come with a hanging mechanism.

Method 4 The self- adhesive board

Professional photographers love a black frame with a white mount. This has always been very popular and is another alternative to consider.

Where a flat image is required some photographers have their prints placed over a self- adhesive board.

The print is firmly pressed down so that any irregularities or bubbles are smoothed out.

Professional Techniques

Dry Mounting

Using heat and a vacuum for a permanent flawless bond with no ripples

A print or poster is placed on a mounting board. This depends on heat to bind the artwork to the board. The mounting board is covered with an adhesive layer.

Method 5

The Ingenious Command Strip

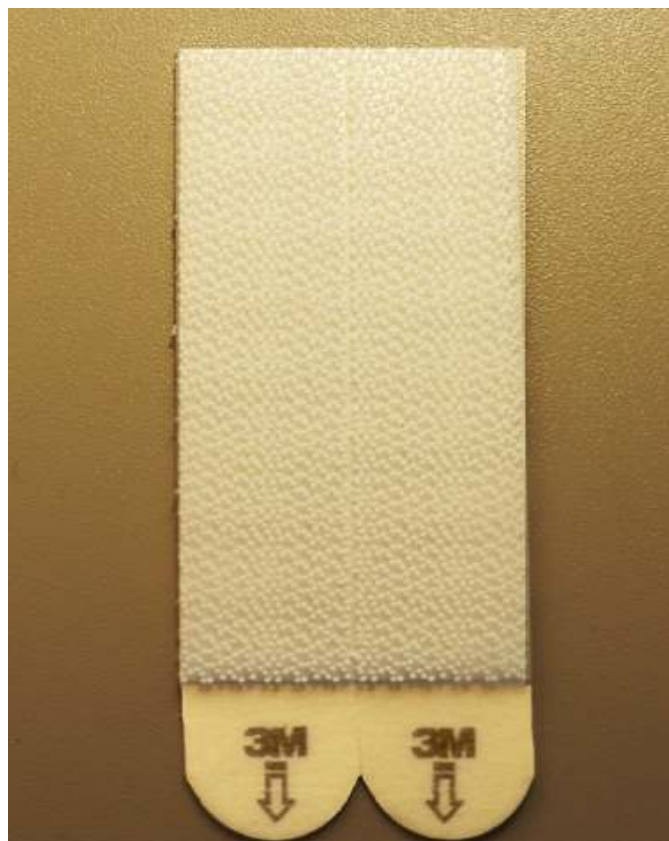


Figure 17

If you can't be bothered attaching D rings and hanging mechanisms, then a brilliant way to get your framed prints and canvases on the wall is to use command strips.

These strips come in small, medium and large size packs.

Important Do's and `Dont's

Only use indoors / Don't hang valuable items /Don't hang over beds/
Don't apply strips to paper fabric or soft surfaces /Don't hang on wall paper /
Remove any previous hangers from back of picture/ Wait 7 days after painting /

Attaching the strips

- First clean wall with spirit or rubbing alcohol
- Separate the strips by tearing apart. Don't fold, just click the two together
- Remove one liner with the logo on it.
- Stick the strips on each corner of your frame and also halfway down on large pictures.
- Remove the remaining liner.
- Offer you picture up to the wall and press firmly on the top strips for 30 seconds and then a further press for 30 seconds on the other sets.
- Next remove the frame from wall and you should see four (or more) strips remaining on the wall. Press these firmly for 30 seconds.
- Now wait for 1 Hour to let the adhesive bond to the wall.
- Align the strips on the frame back with those on the wall and your picture will click into place.
- Press quite hard to ensure a firm bond.

Getting Your Pictures up on the Wall -Traditional Method

Steps for hanging a picture:

1. Decide the height of your picture - as a general rule your eye line should be two thirds up the picture.
2. Use a pipe and cable detector to check for pipes and cables in the wall.
3. Hold your picture in the position you would like it to hang and mark the centre position at the top of the frame.
4. Measure the distance on the back of the frame between the hanging mechanisms and the top of the frame (if it's hanging from a cord, make sure to pull the cord tight when you measure the drop).



Figure 18

- Mark your fixing position using this drop measurement and adjusting it a little higher to allow the top of the picture frame to cover the original centre position pencil mark.

The type of wall you're fixing the picture to and the weight of the picture will determine which fixing mechanism you will need to use.

Plaster Walls

For light weight pictures you can use pinned picture hooks. Simply line the hook, (not the nail) up to the fixing mark and use a hammer to gently tap in the nail.



**Figure 19. Left to right.
Two pinned picture hooks. One hard wall hook.**

Masonry Walls:

Masonry walls can accept pin hooks but for heavier pictures you'll need to drill, insert wall plugs and use screw fixing to secure the picture:

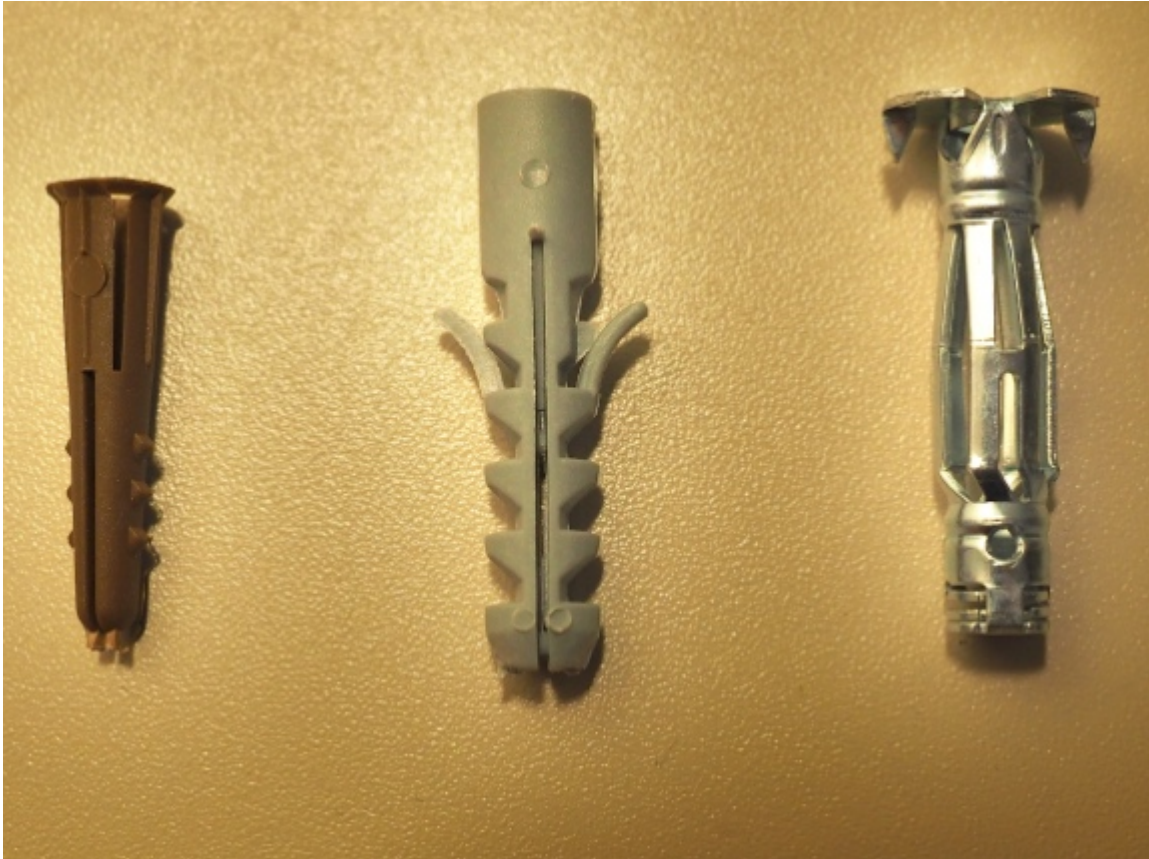


Figure 20

1. Mark the depth of the wall plugs with a little tape on your drill bit and drill into the wall on the fixing mark.
2. Push in your wall plug and if necessary tap lightly with a hammer.
3. Insert and tighten the screw making sure you leave the head protruding by a few millimetres to hang the picture.

Getting rid of Your Hang-Ups. Almost Everything you should know about Your Pictures and Prints.

To support heavier pictures on stud walls you'll need to.....

1. Locate the stud using a stud detector.
2. Insert a carpenter's awl to check whether there's a stud in the exact location you have marked. If there is a stud you can simply screw into the wall but again, remember to leave a part of the screw protruding so you can hang the picture.

Hollow Walls:

If it's over a hollow part of the wall you will need to use special fixing mechanisms such as a spiral fixing plug or a hollow wall anchor. Spiral fixing plugs are screwed into your plaster board and then a screw can be inserted into the mechanisms to secure your picture. Hollow wall anchors are pushed into a pre-drilled hole, the screw is then tightened to expand the fixing behind the partition. Finally hang your picture on the hook or screw and use a spirit level to ensure that the picture is level.

Source: You tube "How to hang a picture" with Wickes

CANVAS PRINTS FOR YOUR LIVING ROOM WALL?

Family portraits and weddings are the main source of income for many photographers and having your high – end family photos displayed on canvas is also very popular. The photo studio usually offers a canvas alternative to the framed print. This is often part of a package deal.

The framed print might be considered more suitable for a traditional home whilst the canvas alternative better for contemporary accommodation.

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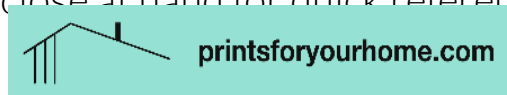
Whether or not to have your print or picture in a frame or canvas might depend on the subject matter. A very modern abstract would better suit a canvas, whilst a traditional rural landscape would probably cry out for a vintage gold- swept frame.

There is no right or wrong here and once again everything comes down to personal preference.

Other popular printing media include metal Alumini and Acrylic surfaces.

Don't forget. If you're artistic and into painting, ready-made canvases of all sizes are available from art shops and hobby craft centres.

I hope I've been able to answer some of your questions. Videos are great but It's always handy to have some written content close at hand for quick reference.



Now don't "hang around" go take a look at;
I'm sure you'll discover something fresh and original to refresh your walls!

Meanwhile here's wishing you the very best!

Mark Halpern (Mac)