

How to almost effortlessly hang your artwork



By Jim Hurley

Congratulations! You're moving into your new residence and hanging your artwork on the walls. Unless you have an original René Magritte, you might want to do this yourself. Grab your tools: A hammer, a level, a power screwdriver, and a drill. Get a good tape measure. Your sewing tape or 12-inch ruler will not suffice. I prefer a 25-foot measuring tape that stays rigid for a good reach. Also, a helper is very useful, if your artwork is large.

And you'll need hooks. What kind of hooks? Hanging methods vary from piece to piece. Some frames come with eyelets and wire, some with loops on each side, and some have little clips like saw blades that grip on to matching clips on the wall. Of course, in California, we should not forget about earthquake protection and there are clips especially for that too.

Picture hangers are rated by capacity, that is, the limit of weight they can hold. Pick up the piece you want to hang. Does it weigh



Photos Jim Hurley

more than a five-pound sack of sugar? Maybe it feels more like a 10-pound bag of flour? If it is heavier than that, you should probably pick it up and step on the bathroom scale. Then set it down and weigh yourself. Subtract your weight (alone) from the first weight and you know exactly how much it weighs.

... continued on Page D8

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