

WALL HANGING DEVICE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a wall hanging device for use in hanging wall-supported objects, such as pictures, mirrors, paintings, and the like. More particularly, the invention relates to a device for hanging such objects quickly, efficiently, and in level or other desired orientation.

The invention will be described herein in relation to pictures in order to simplify the description thereof. It is to be understood, however, that the term "picture" is used generally to include any object required to be hung or mounted on a wall or other substantially vertical surface, such as a painting, photograph, clock, plate, mobile phone, calculator or the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

For many people, the task of hanging a picture at a desired height and distance from other pictures, or other objects, is anything but a simple task or chore. Whilst the act of driving a nail into a wall or affixing a picture hook to a wall, is in itself simple, a certain mystique seems to surround the proper placement of the nail on a wall to ensure that the picture will be disposed at the proper height and attitude to the wall when suspended from the hook.

All too often an individual will resort to the trial and error method, that while eventually producing the desired result, invariably also results in numerous holes being punched into the wall surface. This procedure obviously is not the most desirable, either from an

aesthetic or practical viewpoint, and many solutions have been proposed to overcome the inherent deficiencies of this practice.

See for example US Patent Nos. 4, 645,165; 4, 455, 756; 5, 520 318; 5, 437, 429 and 3, 945, 599 to mention a few.

US Patent 2, 530, 892 (Mayo) discloses a picture hanger which consists of two components – one securable to a wall, the other to a picture frame – including coplanar members having interfitting arcuate contact faces in one plane only and with limited rotational ability and limited frictional engagement between the two components.

German Patent Publication DE 3632819A (Biener) discloses a two component picture hanger comprising a tapered lug on one component which fits into a corresponding receiving frame on the other component. Whilst the lug and the receiving frame are interfitting, there is no rotational ability to allow adjustment of one of the components relative to the other.

French Patent Publication FR 2422369A (Profliver) discloses a tapered interfitting two component picture hanger, which again has no rotational ability to allow adjustment of one of the two components relative to the other to facilitate subsequent ease of levelling the picture after it has been mounted on the wall. Likewise, US Patent 4, 340, 195 (Brock) discloses a picture hanger having two pieces engageable and slidable with respect to each other, but with no rotational adjustment possible.

Australian Petty Patent AU 718053 (Klaesi) discloses a two-part picture hanging device, one part for attachment to a wall, and a second part for attachment to a picture or other object to be mounted on the wall, the first and second parts including co-planar members having interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of two axially spaced apart parallel

planes, allowing limited rotational adjustment – left or right – of one of said parts (and of the attached picture) relative to the other part, and relative to the wall. However, the degree or extent of rotation is limited to no more than about 90° (and in practical terms no more than about 70°) left or right.

The hanging of a picture generally involves a person using his hands to support a picture on a wall to check the desired picture position, and placing a pencil mark or the like on a wall to indicate the desired position. Then a hook position is estimated at which a hook can be mounted which will support the picture wire loosely strung across the back of the picture, so that the picture will lie at, or close to, the desired picture position. Next a nail or screw, or a hook device comprising a hook and fastener such as a nail or staple, is mounted on the wall as by hammering the fastener to the wall. Finally the picture is placed near the wall and manipulated so that the picture wire moves down and engages the hook device. These several steps can be time consuming for amateurs and professionals alike, especially when a large number of pictures are to be hung. Thus picture hanging can be a very labour intensive and expensive exercise.

A further problem is that the pictures do not always lie at the desired position due to the difficulty in estimating the effect of the picture wire bending, and the cantilevering of the picture as it stands out from the wall at the top edge.

Pictures are commonly hung to the wall by means of a cord, wire or the like strung from across the back of the picture between fastener eyes on opposite sides of the picture frame, the cord or wire being suspended on one or more picture hooks embedded in a wall. Difficulty may be experienced in attaching a cord or wire to the back of the picture, particularly in a neat, unobtrusive and secure manner, and difficulty may also be encountered by moving the cord or wire along the hook.

A picture hanging device which requires only a single positioning of the picture to hang it, would be useful, especially where a large number of pictures are to be hung and where the picture hanging expertise or skills of the user are limited. For hanging other objects, a greater capability for rotation of the hanging device relative to the wall would be highly desirable.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of this invention to provide a wall hanging device, and especially a picture hanging device, which goes at least some way towards overcoming or at least minimizing the problems or limitations outlined above, or at least for providing a clear alternative choice for consumers.

It is another object of this invention to provide a wall hanging device which facilitates the securement and subsequent levelling of a picture, or other object with little or no need for taking detailed or complex measurements, wherein the initial securement of the picture or object to the wall is facilitated due to the possibility of subsequent ease of levelling the picture or object, and wherein no levelling or measuring devices need be used in the securement of the device upon the wall or other vertical surface.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a picture hanging device which will greatly simplify the chore or task of positioning a picture hook at the proper/required location to support a picture or the like.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a two-part wall hanging device which allows attachment of either component to the picture or to the wall in substantially the exact location they will assume when the picture is attached to the wall.

It is yet a further object of the invention to provide a two-part wall hanging device which is designed such that when used, a picture or object will hang parallel to a wall and will not touch or rest against the wall at any point. This greatly reduces discolouration of the wall that usually results from the use of conventional type hanging devices.

It is yet again a further object of this invention to provide a two-part wall hanging device which includes a full 360° rotational capability of one part relative to the other, to increase the flexibility or versatility of the device in attachment of objects to the wall or other surface in a variety of spatial configurations or positions.

It is yet a again another object of this invention to provide a two-part wall hanging device which is relatively simple in construction and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

With the above objects in view, the present invention resides in certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of elements or integers as will be hereinafter described in detail in the specification, particularly defined in the appended claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided a two-part or two component wall hanging device comprising a first part adapted for attachment to a wall, and a second part adapted for attachment to a picture or object to be mounted on the wall, said first and second parts including coplanar members having interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two axially spaced apart parallel planes allowing adjustment of one of said parts relative to the other of said parts about a common horizontal axis of the interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two planes.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a two-part or two component wall hanging device comprising a first part adapted for attachment to a wall, and a second part adapted for attachment to a picture or object to be mounted on the wall, said first and second parts including coplanar members having interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two axially spaced apart parallel planes allowing adjustment of one of said parts relative to the other of said parts about a common horizontal axis of the interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two planes, characterised in that the coplanar member of the second part is a circular disc which comprises one of the arcuate contact faces of the second part which co-operates with one of the interfitting contact faces of the first part, allowing for a full 360° rotation of the disc of the second part (and of the attached picture or object) relative to its interfitting arcuate contact face on the first part, which is affixed to the wall.

Preferably, the first part adapted for attachment to the wall includes a front cover plate forward of the coplanar member of the first part, and most preferably includes both front and rear cover plates for the coplanar member, wherein the rear cover plate is adapted for attachment to the wall. In those embodiments having only a front cover plate, the underlying wall surface to which the first part is attached may serve the same function as the rear cover plate. In effect, a receiving space or pocket is formed between the front and rear cover plates of the first part, having an opening to said receiving space or pocket along at least the nominal upper edge of the first part.

The second part adapted for attachment to the picture or object also includes a rear plate spaced axially from the disc, wherein the rear plate is adapted for attachment to the rear surface of the picture or other object to be mounted on the wall, whereby when said first part and said second part are mated or conjoined together, an arcuate portion of the disc of the second part is received and housed for rotation within the pocket of the first part, to thereby secure the picture to the wall.

As indicated above, the first and second parts include coplanar members having interfitting arcuate faces in each of two axially spaced apart parallel planes, allowing adjustment of one of the said parts relative to the other of said parts about a common horizontal axis of the interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two planes. The horizontal axes are concentric for the contact faces in both planes which provides for smooth rotational adjustment to either side of the nominal vertical axis, and through a full 360° rotation if required.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a two-part or two component wall hanging device comprising a first part adapted for attachment to a wall, and a second part adapted for attachment to a picture or object to be mounted on the wall, said first and second parts including coplanar members having interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two axially spaced apart parallel planes allowing adjustment of one of said parts relative to the other of said parts about a common horizontal axis of the interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two planes, and wherein said first and second parts are identical and interchangeable.

As indicated above, the first and second parts include coplanar members having interfitting arcuate faces in each of two axially spaced apart parallel planes, allowing adjustment of one of the said parts relative to the other of said parts about a common horizontal axis of the interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two planes. The horizontal axes are concentric for the contact faces in both planes which provides for smooth rotational adjustment to either side of the nominal vertical axis.

To assist with understanding the invention, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which show three non-limiting examples of the invention.

IN THE DRAWINGS

- Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the second part of a first preferred embodiment of a two-part picture hanging device adapted for attachment to a painting or other object to be mounted on a wall;
- Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the first part of the two-part picture hanging device adapted for attachment to a wall;
- Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of the conjoined or interfitting parts of the picture hanging device depicting two configurations illustrating the rotational adjustment to either side of one part relative to the other;
- Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the second part of a second preferred embodiment of a two-part picture hanging device adapted for attachment to a painting or other object to be mounted on a wall;
- Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the first part of the second preferred embodiment of the two-part picture hanging device adapted for attachment to a wall;
- Fig. 6 is a side elevational view of the first or wall-mounted part of the picture hanging device of Fig 5;
- Fig. 7 is a side elevational view of the second or picture-mounted part of the picture hanging device of Fig. 4;
- Fig. 8 is a side elevational view of the conjoined first and second parts of the picture hanging device comprising the components of Figs, 4 to 7;

- Fig. 9 is a front elevational view of the conjoined or interfitting parts of the picture hanging device depicting the full 360° left and right rotational capability of the second part of the picture hook assembly relative to the first part;
- Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the separated or exploded two-part picture hanging device according to a third preferred embodiment of the invention adapted for attachment to a painting or other object to be mounted on a wall;
- Fig. 11 is a front elevational view of the two-part picture hanging device of Fig. 10, adapted for attachment to a wall, showing the interacting arcuate surfaces of the hanging device;
- Fig. 12 is a front elevational view of the conjoined or interfitting parts of the picture hanging device of Figs. 10 and 11, illustrating the rotational adjustment to either side of one part relative to the other; and
- Fig. 13 is a side elevational view of the conjoined first and second parts of the picture hanging device of Figs. 10-12, illustrating the optional attachment of double sided adhesive mounting tape to either or both component parts.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS AND BEST METHOD OF CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

In the drawings, similar reference numerals designate similar or identical elements and portions referred to in the following description.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the first and second parts of a two component picture hanging device are designated as 1 and 2, respectively, with part 1 adapted for attachment to a wall surface and part 2 adapted for attachment to the back surface of a picture or other object to be mounted on the wall.

The front face or front cover plate 7 of the wall-mounted part 1 is spaced from the back cover plate or wall plate 8 thereof, which is attachable to the wall (not shown) by means of adhesive or double-sided adhesive tape (not shown). Alternatively, part 1 may be affixed to the wall by means of one or more counter-sunk screws passing through the upper end of the wall plate 8.

Similarly, the second part 2 of the picture hanging device is attached to the back surface of a picture or other object to be hung on a wall by means of adhesive or double-sided adhesive tape on the back face of the base plate 4 thereof. Alternatively, the second part 2 may be affixed to the back surface of the picture by one or more counter-sunk screws or rivets passing throughout the front face 3 of the lower end of the base plate 4.

Fig. 3 depicts left and right cooperating rotational configurations of the conjoined first and second parts 1 and 2. The lower end or depending tang 13 of the front cover plate 5 of the second part 2 is arcuate and comprises a contact face 9 (Fig. 1) adapted to fit and coact with an arcuate coplanar contact face 10 on the first part 1. In this embodiment, the contact faces 9 and 10 are coaxial about the same axis. Similarly, the upper end 14 of the front cover plate 7 of the first part 1 is arcuate and comprises a contact face 11 adapted to fit and coact with the arcuate coplanar contact face 6, 12 on the second part 2. In this embodiment, the contact faces 11 and 12 are coaxial about the same axis. In this embodiment all four interfitting contact faces 9, 10, 11 and 12 are concentrically disposed about a common axis. However, in other embodiments (not illustrated) this is not necessarily the case.

Referring to Figs. 4 and 5, the first and second parts 15,16 of a two component picture hanging device are adapted for attachment to a wall surface (Fig 5) and to the back surface of a picture or other object to be mounted on the wall (Fig. 4). The wall surface and the back surface of the picture are not shown, for purposes of clarity of the drawings.

The front face or front cover plate 17 of the wall-mounted part 16 is spaced from the back cover plate or wall plate 18 thereof, which is attachable to the wall (not shown) by means of adhesive or double-sided adhesive tape (not shown). Alternatively, the wall component 16 may be affixed to the wall or to the picture or other object with the aid of screws or other fasteners, e.g. through the countersunk screw holes 19,20 provided.

Similarly, the second part of the picture hanging device 15 can be attached to the back surface of a picture or other object to be hung on a wall by means of adhesive or double-sided adhesive tape on the back face of the base plate 20 thereof. Alternatively, the second part 15 may be affixed to the back surface of the picture by one or more countersunk screws or rivets passing through a countersunk screw hole 20 in the front face of the base plate 20.

In Fig. 9 the top and bottom arrows depict the left and right cooperating rotational configurations of the conjoined first and second parts 15 and 16 with full 360° rotational capability if required. The peripheral rim of the circular disc 21 comprises a contact face 24 adapted to coact with an arcuate coplanar contact face 25 in the receiving pocket 23 of the wall component 16. Similarly, the annular hub 26 of the disc 21 of the first part 15 is coaxial with the arcuate rim 27 of the front cover plate 17 of the second part 16. In this embodiment the contact faces 26 and 27 are coaxial about the same axis. Thus all interfitting four contact faces 24,25, 26 and 27 are concentrically disposed about a common axis.

The side-elevational and phantom view of the separated and conjoined first and second parts in Figs. 6 to 8 illustrate the interfitting and coacting arcuate contact faces in two separate planes. With reference to Figs. 8 and 9 it will be clear that the two component parts of the picture hanging device are kept in secure but infinitely adjustable coplanar relationship by frictional engagement in five separate horizontal and vertical planes throughout the full 360° of rotational engagement.

Note that in Figs 8 and 9, gaps or spaces between the interfitting conjoined first and second parts are shown for the sake of clarity only. In practice, the closely juxtaposed surfaces are in frictional but rotational engagement. In some embodiments, the frictional contact between the front face of the disc 21 and the cover plate or wall plate 18 can be achieved by moulding an annular bead, rim or rib onto the front face of the disc 21 (not shown).

Referring to Figs. 10 to 13, the first and second parts of a two component picture hanging device are designated as 28 and 29, respectively, with part 28 adapted for attachment to a wall surface and part 29 adapted for attachment to the back surface of a picture or other object to be mounted on the wall.

The two-component parts are identical, and have a dog-legged profile, with one section of each component part attachable either to a wall or to the back of a picture or other object to be hung or mounted on the wall. The component 28 which is attached to the wall comprises a first section 30 attachable to the wall, with a second section or portion 31 extending upwardly in a plane substantially parallel to, but spaced from the wall. Similarly, the other component 29 which is attached to the back of the picture or other object to be mounted on the wall, comprises a first section or portion 32 attachable to the back of the picture or object, with a second section or portion 33 depending downwardly

in a plane substantially parallel to but spaced from the back surface of the picture or object. The downwardly depending portion or tang 33 of the picture component engages the upwardly extending portion of tang 31 of the wall component, and is adapted for limited rotation in relation thereto via arcuate contact faces 34 and 35, and 36 with 37, for adjustment of the picture or object on the wall. The wall component 28 is attachable to the wall (not shown) by means of adhesive or double-sided adhesive tape 38 (see Fig. 13). Alternatively, the wall component 28 may be affixed to the wall by means of one or more counter-sunk screws passing through the first section thereof which is adjacent to the wall. (not shown)

Similarly, the second component part 29 of the picture hanging device is attached to the back surface of a picture or other object to be hung on a wall (not shown) by means of adhesive or double-sided adhesive tape 39 on the back face of the base plate 32 thereof. Alternatively, the second component 29 may be affixed to the back surface of the picture by one or more counter-sunk screws or rivets passing throughout the front face of first section or portion 32 of the second component (not shown) which is adjacent to the back of the picture.

Fig. 12 depicts the left and right cooperating rotational engagement of the conjoined first and second parts or components 28 and 29. The lower end or depending tang 33 of the picture-mounted component is arcuate and comprises a contact face 32 adapted to fit and frictionally but rotatably coact with an arcuate coplanar contact face 36 on the wall-mounted component 28. In this embodiment, the contact faces are coaxial about the same axis. Similarly, the upper end 31 of the wall mounted component is arcuate and comprises a contact face 34 adapted to fit and frictionally coact with the arcuate coplanar contact face 35 on the picture-mounted component 29. In this embodiment, the contact faces 34, 35 are coaxial about the same axis. In this embodiment all four interfitting contact faces 34, 35, 36 and 37 are concentrically disposed about a common axis.

The side-elevational view of the conjoined first and second parts in Fig. 13 illustrates the interfitting and coacting arcuate contact 34, 35 and 36, 37 faces in two parallel spaced-apart vertical planes. With reference to Fig. 13 it will be clear that the two-component parts of the picture hanging device are kept in secure but infinitely adjustable coplanar relationship by frictional engagement in five separate horizontal and vertical planes, including the planes which include the wall surface and the back of the picture (or other object), respectively.

The invention allows for simplified placement and mounting of pictures and other objects to a wall surface, at the required height and attitude or orientation, without the need for time-consuming measurements and without the aid of levelling or measuring devices. As such, the hanging device of the present invention is useful in a variety of applications in the home, office, commercial premises, galleries, to mention but a few applications.

The fact that the hanging device of the present invention allows pictures or other objects to be mounted on a wall surface without the picture or object actually touching the wall surface, greatly reduces discolouration of the wall by virtue of the increased air and light circulation which results from the use of hanging devices according to the invention.

Use of the hanging devices according to the invention allows for convenient rearrangement of pictures or other objects from one wall mounted position to another. This facility is very beneficial to galleries where pictures need to be moved from storage to display positions for exhibitions or the like. This facility is also a convenience factor in decorating homes or offices, or for simple rearrangement of pictures when and as may be required.

The back surface of the two component parts are backed with double-sided adhesive tape or the like, wherein one side of the tape is affixed to the back surface of the first or second component, respectively, with the outer surface of the double-sided tape being covered by a release sheet until such time as the user wishes to attach the first or second component to the wall or to the picture, respectively.

In some embodiments, either component may also have one or more holes for nails or screw to provide extra strength in the attachment of either component to the wall or to the picture.

Ideally, the double-sided tape is of a type such as that provided by '3M' or the like, which facilitates attachment to or removal from the wall/picture when required without leaving holes or blemishes. In a preferred form of the invention, the double sided adhesive tape includes finger-grip releases tabs – such as those supplied by '3M' under the trade mark 'COMMAND' adhesive.

The first and second parts of the picture hanging device can be fabricated from any suitable material, but are ideally made from plastics material, such as from sheet plastic in multi-layered laminated or sandwich construction using suitable adhesives, or by injection moulding. The product can be conveniently packaged as a single unit, two component device or in multiple unit packs. The individual components may also be packaged/supplied separately.

The operation of this invention will be clearly understood from a consideration of the above description, especially with reference to the accompanying drawings, taken in connection with the above described objects of the invention.

It will be appreciated that although primarily designed as a two-component picture hanging device, it is possible for either of the two components, if mounted on a vertical wall, to function similar to a conventional hook with a picture frame fitted with picture wire or string in the usual manner on the back or reverse side of the picture or object. In this regard the picture wire is supported broadly along a portion of its length by the picture hook component which is affixed to the wall, and the picture or other object so mounted can be easily adjusted to a level position on the wall by manual manipulation.

Although exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be apparent to those having ordinary skills in the art that a number of changes, modifications or alterations to the invention described may be made, one of which depart from the spirit of the present invention. All such changes and modifications and alterations should therefor be seen as being within the scope of the present invention.

It should be appreciated that the present invention provides a substantial advance in wall hanging devices, providing all of the herein- described advantages without incurring any relative disadvantages.

**CLAIMS**

1. A wall hanging device comprising a first part adapted for attachment to a wall, and a second part adapted for attachment to an object to be mounted on the wall, said first and second parts including coplanar members having interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of two axially spaced apart parallel planes allowing adjustment of one said of parts relative to the other said parts about a common horizontal axis of the interfitting contact faces in each of the two planes.
2. A wall hanging device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said horizontal axes are concentric for the contact faces in both planes.
3. A wall hanging device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the first part includes front and rear cover plates for the coplanar member wherein the rear cover plate is adapted for attachment to the wall, forming a receiving space or pocket between the front and rear cover plates, having an opening to said receiving space or pocket along at least a nominal upper edge of the first part, and wherein the second part includes front and rear cover plates for the coplanar member, wherein the rear cover plate is adapted for attachment to the rear surface of the object, and wherein the front cover plate forms a depending tang member whereby when said first and second parts are conjoined together, the tang member of the second part is received and housed in the pocket of the first part to thereby secure the object to the wall.
4. A wall hanging device comprising a first part adapted for attachment to a wall, and a second part adapted for attachment to an object to be mounted on the wall, said first and second parts including coplanar members have interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two axially spaced apart parallel planes allowing adjustment of



one of said parts relative to the other of said parts about a common horizontal axis of the interfitting arcuate contact faces in each of the two planes, characterised in that the coplanar member of the second part is a circular disc which comprises one of the arcuate contact faces of the second part which co-operates with one of the interfitting contact faces of the first part, allowing for a full 360° rotation of the disc of the second part and of the attached picture or object relative to its interfitting arcuate contact face on the first part, which is affixed to the wall.

5. A wall hanging device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first part includes front and rear cover plates for the coplanar members, wherein the rear cover plate is adapted for attachment to the wall, forming a receiving space or pocket between the front and rear cover plates, having an opening to said receiving space or pocket along at least a nominal upper edge of the first part, and wherein the second part includes front and rear cover plates for the coplanar members, wherein the rear cover plate is adapted for attachment to the rear surface of the object, and wherein the circular disc comprises the front cover plate, whereby when said first and second parts are conjoined together, an arcuate portion of the circular disc is received and housed in the pocket in the pocket of the first part to thereby secure the object to the wall.
6. A wall hanging device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first part includes a front cover plate for the coplanar members, forming a receiving space or pocket between the front cover plate and an underlying wall surface when said first part is affixed to a wall, said receiving space or pocket having an opening along at least a nominal upper edge of the first part, and wherein the second part includes at least a front cover plate for the coplanar members and wherein said circular disc comprises the front cover plate, whereby when said first and second parts are conjoined together



an arcuate portion of the circular disc is received and housed in the pocket of the first part to thereby secure the object to the wall.

7. A wall hanging device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the first and second parts are identical and interchangeable.
8. A wall hanging device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a back surface of the first part and/or the second part of the wall hanging device is covered with an adhesive coating or double-sided adhesive tape.
9. A wall hanging device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first and/or second part is adapted for screw fixing to an adjacent surface.
10. A wall hanging device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the tang member has a front or a rear face which includes an arcuate bead or rib for frictional contact with an inner surface of the pocket of the first part.
11. A wall hanging device as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein a front or rear surface of the circular disc includes an arcuate or annular bead or rib for frictional contact with an inner surface of the pocket of the first part.
12. A wall hanging device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, when used as a picture hanging device.