

# A Picture Hanging Tool, Version 1.1

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By R. G. Sparber

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It is easy to hold a picture up against the wall and decide where it should go. But locating the nail so it is aligned correctly is not so easy.



This picture frame has a keyhole slot in the back. Other are suspended from a wire.

This problem is just begging for a homemade tool.



My tool is no more than a 1/8 - inch x 1/2 - inch x 5 - inch aluminum bar. I drilled and tapped one end 6-32. Then I took a 1-inch long piece of threaded rod and turned a point on one end. Screwed the rod into the bar and lock it in place with a lock washer and nut. Note that the washer and nut are on the same side as the point.

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To use the tool, slip the blunt end of the threaded rod into the top end of the keyhole slot.



Flip the picture over and locate it.

Then firmly hold the bar and use it to push the point of the threaded rod into the wall. Apply just enough force that the tool doesn't slide around.

While keeping pressure on the point, lift the picture out of the way. Then push in hard around the threaded rod to deepen the mark in the wall.



If the picture is supported by a wire, hook the blunt end of the threaded rod under the center of the wire, lift up, flip the picture over, and again use the bar to snugly push the point into the wall. Lift the picture away and push the point in deep enough to leave a mark.

If you plan to hang the picture from 2 nails, the tool can be modified. Drill and tap both ends of the bar and attach a bar in the center as a handle. The tool will look like a "T".

## **Acknowledgment**

Thanks to Glenn Neff for pointing out that if I just pushed the point of the threaded rod into the wall by applying pressure to the front of the picture, it would likely damage the picture from behind.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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