



Museum Textile Services

Making and Installing a Steel Velcro Slat

- To make a Velcro slat you need a length of the hook side of the Velcro; epoxy adhesive; weights (such as heavy books); and a length of 3-inch-wide wood or metal no thicker than .5 inches. If you are using wood, choose basswood or poplar sealed with 3 coats of clear polyurethane. For a metal slat use perforated steel, available in most hardware stores. The Velcro can be either 2.5 or 3 inches wide; white or beige color is best. Glue the Velcro to the slat by laying out newspaper or wax paper, spreading epoxy on both the slat and back of the hook side of the Velcro, laying the Velcro on top of the slat followed by another sheet or newspaper or wax paper, and allowing it to dry under weights. When dry, test to make sure the bond is strong and trim off any excess glue.



- Choose a location to hang your textile that has little or no daylight and minimum chance of abrasion or damage to the textile. After the textile is hung, periodically compare the colors on the back to the colors on the front. If the front is fading, the textile should be moved or put in storage.

- Using the slat as a guide, mark out where the slat will be hung on the wall.

- If you are using picture hangers that come with nails, you do not need to align the hangers with the studs in your wall. Simply use a sharp object to poke a hole through an outer ring on each end of the slat. Using a pencil, draw a mark on the wall where each of these holes will fall. Place a picture hanger so the bottom of the hook aligns with each mark. Nail in place and hang the slat on the hooks.



- If you are using screws to attach your picture hanger, or hanging a large or heavy textile, you need to anchor the slat in the studs of your wall. If the slat measures five feet in length or shorter, two picture hangers are sufficient. If the slat is longer than five feet, or the textile is very heavy, use an additional picture hanger at every other wall stud.

- If your textile is small enough to handle safely, hold it up to the wall, align the Velcro on the back of the textile with the Velcro on the slat and press firmly. If the picture hanger is visible, raise the Velcro an equal amount across the length of the textile until the picture hanger is not visible. Adjust the placement of the textile on the wall until the textile hangs as flat as possible, bearing in mind that many textiles will not hang perfectly flat. Separate the two pieces of Velcro gently to avoid putting strain on the stitching or adhesive. Press firmly to join Velcro once in place.



For larger textiles, see the **Hanging Textiles** handout.