

Ribbon Installation for Contractors— for Long or 2 Story Displays

There should be a plastic template and nails included with the Ribbon Wall Sculpture.

Read “How Ribbons are Installed— The Basic Concept.

Plan on an hour in general for an installation which is more simple. 2 or more for more complex. For easiest installation, especially for horizontal configurations over 6 ft, I advise 2 guys and 2 ladders—tall enough to reach within 2 ft of the top of the art. The plastic can get unwieldy placing it up high and adjusting it, and 4 hands are better than 2. You may want to safely lean the ladders against the wall so art can be viewed by the clients easily.

Place the template on the floor and make sure it is what you are looking for. Place the art on top of the template to make sure you can visualize where each Ribbon will go on it. The Ribbons will fit together like a puzzle. Make any adjustments to Ribbon placement at this point.

As you can see in the photos— place the new plastic template securely on the wall with painter’s tape— noting that the weight of the 2 story plastic can pull it off. Make sure the configuration works as well on the wall as it did on the floor. Note the Ribbons get installed OVER the plastic, (then the plastic is cut away.)

Important: The TOP nails need to go in the drywall at a 45 degree angle upwards in the same direction the Ribbon is. The bottom nails go in at a 45 degree angle downwards. This way— the Ribbon is securely “spring loaded” with some tension in between. You don’t want floppy ribbons.

Set the top nails first where they are marked on the template— you can dangle a 7 ft Ribbon from one 10 penny nail as you are getting the proper placement one on top of another. The bottom nail marking will be just a guide— often the plastic stretches and so watch this carefully. Work with placing the Ribbons which will go underneath the others first. For the larger Ribbons— there is a concealed tie down with fishing line at the center of the Ribbon to carry the additional weight. Plan accordingly for sequence, but it is easy to backtrack if needed.

Bottom nails: Continue mounting the Ribbons over the template; note the plastic may stretch a bit. Double check that the holes in the back of each Ribbon line up with the template properly. Get the bottom nail angle so that it easily goes over the hole in the back of the Ribbon— and you are able to “Springload” each Ribbon on the wall.

Once you have the art up— simply cut the plastic away with a razor knife: “underveiling”

Voila! A beautiful work of art! You should have just 2-3 holes in the wall per ribbon. Art can be cleaned of fingerprints with a wet cotton washcloth, a tiny bit of alcohol if needed. But— Acrylic Plastic cleaner works the best, and is what I carry when I install art. No windex— it will haze the art.

*Troubleshooting on the Ribbons:

Enough sturdy nails are provided with templates— but note drywall is less dense these days. I have used some contractors that preferred to use dry wall anchors for the 7 ft and very wide Ribbons. Make sure the anchor will fit into the hole in the back of the art before you are up on a ladder. A large 10 penny nail (with a double stacked smaller head) is what I use for the big Ribbons. Drywall nails with smaller heads are good for the smaller ribbons.

The Ribbons can be mounted onto cement with a masonry bit by a professional. Curved surfaces are no problem! They flex easily if they are larger or longer Ribbons. Ribbons are light and easy to work with on the top of a ladder.

For unusual placements— if they torque side to side too much because the hole on the back is not in an optimum spot— the acrylic can be drilled on the back with a suitable bit (using a large spoon or similar to shield the bit from going through to the front.

While this work looks fragile— it is not! My art is lightfast and I have samples that are 25 years old that look new. In some cases it can be installed outside under an alcove— but the resin will cloud with rainy weather— then go back to normal when dry again.

Enjoy!

My # in case of any Q's: 858 759 9652 (no texts yet.) Nancy Henderson nc4art@gmail.com