

# Mobile Hanging Instructions and Safety Warnings

(For small to medium sized mobiles)

## **A Note on Gravity, Materials and Methods:**

"What goes up must come down." Gravity is a perpetual and unyielding force, and my mobiles are subject to the forces of gravity like everything else. Nevertheless, I have taken every precaution to ensure my mobiles stay aloft for a long, long time:

- I have used materials and components that have a "break test" of at least 10 times the actual load.
- For joints that are glued I have used high-quality, durable epoxy or tough cyanoacrylate adhesives.
- Materials and components are generally maintenance free and corrosion resistant.

## **Safety Warnings:**

- Use common sense when hanging your mobile.
- These are not baby mobiles, and they are not toys. Keep them out of the reach of children and pets.
- Know how much your mobile weighs (I can help you determine the weight), and use appropriate hardware and hanging methods (some recommendations can be found below).
- Don't hang the mobile over anything valuable.
- Don't hang the mobile over an area that is frequently occupied by people (i.e., over a bed, over a chair).
- Some air movement is good, but too much wind may weaken the mobile components or cause other damage. It may also cause "hang ups," where the arms get tangled. My current designs are for indoor display only.
- Please be safe when hanging your mobile—use appropriate caution with ladders, tools, etc.

## **Hanging Instructions:**

\* If you have any questions or concerns on how to hang your mobile, please contact me, I would be happy to help.

### **1. Find a suitable location.**

- a. Remember that the mobile will need room to move in all directions—360° of motion—and that the width dimension can be variable, so be sure to accommodate the maximum width.
- b. To be on the safe side, make sure the mobile isn't located over anything (or anyone) of value.
- c. Areas with regularly occurring drafts or breezes can add interest (e.g., by a central A/C vent, a room with a ceiling fan, or by a window or doorway).
- d. Think about lighting and light sources; the cast shadows can be very interesting. However, direct sunlight can be detrimental to the acrylic components of acrylic mobiles.

*Tip: If you need help determining the maximum width, just let me know.*

### **2. Determine the appropriate hanging method.**

- a. **Consider purchasing a mobile stand.** I offer custom made mobile stands for a variety of display options (e.g., countertop/desktop, floor based, even wall based). The stand can be customized to fit and match your mobile, and your display needs.
- b. **Drywall or plaster ceilings.** I highly recommend finding a joist or stud to anchor the mobile. Use a ceiling screw hook or screw eye that is the appropriate strength and length, and ensure that it is anchored in solid wood. There are other types of ceiling hooks available; it is up to you to determine if they are adequate.
- c. **Wood beams or wood paneled ceilings.** Use a ceiling screw hook or screw eye that is the appropriate strength and length, and ensure that it is anchored in solid wood. If hanging from wood paneling, make sure the panel is itself properly secured and able to support the mobile.
- d. **Suspended ceilings.** Mobiles under 8 lbs are suitable for hanging from suspended ceilings using a special type of hook, which I have available upon request.
- e. **High wall sections/vertical surfaces.** Also consider spaces where there is a high section of wall above an adjacent ceiling (like where a room with a lower ceiling meets an area with a higher ceiling). On the vertical wall surface you may be able to use a picture hanging hook or even a removable adhesive type hook.

*Tip: Use an inexpensive electronic stud finder. For textured ceilings, use a piece of stiff paper or card stock in between the stud finder and ceiling to smooth out the surface to use the stud finder.*

### **3. Secure the hanging hardware.** Follow the hardware installation instructions.

### **4. Hang the mobile.** Carefully hang the mobile from the hanging leader and clip/swivel.

- a. If the mobile doesn't hang at the desired height I recommend contacting me and I will gladly supply a suitable extension at no additional cost. Please be prepared to provide specific measurements (i.e. how much lower you want it to hang).
- b. Check for free range of movement of all the mobile's "arms."

*Tip: Have someone help you, especially if a ladder is involved. They can hold the ladder, hand you the mobile or tools, and cushion your landing if you fall.*

### **5. Enjoy your new kinetic art!**

## **Maintenance:**

- The occasional required dusting is unavoidable. Use a dusting wand as needed.
- If you need to clean an acrylic mobile, use mild soap and water. Window cleaner and other solvents can harm acrylic.
- If you experience a "hang up" where one arm gets tangled with another (usually above or below it) it may be necessary to manually untangle the components. Use care when doing this.
- If something goes wrong (e.g., something falls off), feel free to contact me. I can provide advice, repairs, replacements, etc.