

Birds

Bird mounts have very thin skin and the mounts must be handled carefully to avoid damage.

Locating the Mount ~ Find a suitable location out of direct sunlight and away from a heat source (like a fireplace or wood burning stove).

Wall mounts ~ You do **not** need to place the hanger into a stud for most bird mounts. A hollow wall anchor in drywall is sufficient or a pan-head screw or nail in paneling for a typical mounts. Even a picture hook is general adequate. However, heavier mounts & scene mounts should have the hanger attached to a stud.

Once mount is hung, adjust the angle until you are pleased, then carefully groom any feathers that may have gotten ruffled with your fingers.

Table mounts ~ There is more risk of accidental damage to a mount placed on a table, so if possible place it in a low traffic area where there is little chance of it getting bumped. If you have house pets, observe how they react to the mount and consider placing it out of their reach. Again, do not place in direct sun or close to a fireplace or woodstove.

Cleaning ~ Birds must be dusted **very carefully** and fairly often. You should not let dust build up on any mount – it becomes more difficult to remove the longer it sits. The duster should be made of a soft material like feathers, soft nylon or soft hair. A nylon duster, a new make-up brush, or a **very soft** paint brush all will do an excellent job of cleaning your bird mount. Do not spray any cleaner directly on the bird, but a product like Endust can be sprayed **on the duster**. Gently brush with the feather pattern – never against the feathers. Be extra careful around the tail section. Careful use of **low pressure** compressed air can be used to blow dust from driftwood and plant material. A moist Q-tip can be used to polish the eyes & clean the feet. Carefully re-groom & adjust any feathers that are out of place.

Shoulder mounts & Mammals

Picking a spot to hang your mount ~

Unless you already have a specific place to hang it OR you've been told where you will be allowed to hang it – First read the **General Guidelines**. ->

Look for a spot out of the main traffic pattern in a room, but viewable from most places in the room. The mount should look into the room, not into a corner or a wall. Special hangers are available if needed when re-locating a mount to a new spot.

Hanging the Mount -

For most deer sized shoulder mounts and smaller – use either a hollow wall anchor rated for 75 lbs. (EZ Anchors are my favorite) or make sure the nail or screw is in a wall stud. Larger mounts like elk or moose should be hung on a ¼” or heavier lag screw that is at least 2 “into the stud. Drive the screw in at a slight downward angle and leave approx. ½ - ¾ “ of shank exposed on which to hang the mount. Be very careful hanging large mounts or if you require a ladder – getting help is better than falling.

With the mount is securely on the hanger, check to see it's balanced by tapping on the wall or lifting the chin. If it wants to roll – adjust the placement of the mount on the hanger. You can also run the screw into the wall a bit more and “snug” the mount against the wall. Once you are satisfied it is properly balanced, use your finger tips to tuck any stray hair behind the shoulder to create a “clean” look. Unless you have a specific pose with the head tilted, level the mount across the eyes. Then step back and take a look – make any adjustments if needed.

Cleaning the Mount –

Wipe the hair using a soft cloth or a used dryer sheet. Take care around the nose & eyes not to scratch the paint. Polish the eyes with a damp Q-tip. Antlers and horns can be cleaned with a damp cloth, or a lamb's wool. You may also want to take the mount down every few years and use compressed air to blow any dust from the nostrils or ears. Groom the mount with a soft brush and/or a damp cloth.

General Guidelines

Taxidermy is NOT child or pet proof.

Be sure to hang mounts out of the reach of small children and house pets. Both can do irreparable harm in the matter of a few minutes.

Direct sunlight fades everything.

Do not hang any mount where the sun will shine directly on it. It will fade the colors, make hair & feathers brittle and dry out the skin. Even a few hours a day will have a detrimental effect over time.

Avoid moisture & extreme temperatures

Do NOT hang your mount in unheated garage or cabin, a basement without a dehumidifier, over the fireplace or close to a woodstove, the bathroom or boathouse or the sunroom – all very poor choices.

Do NOT be afraid to dust.

Don't allow dust to build up on a mount - not only does it look bad, but it over time can be very difficult to remove. Dust often. If you smoke or have a fireplace or woodstove – dust even more often.

Never apply anything directly on the mount.

Products like Endust or Plexus can be sprayed on a cloth or duster, but should never be sprayed on any mount.

Always use Common Sense.

These are tips and guidelines – if you have any questions or a unique situation – you are encouraged to call or e-mail me for specific answers to your questions.

You probably waited a long time to get your trophy and quite a while to get it back from the taxidermist. If you take a few minutes to care for your mount, it will provide you many years of enjoyment as you remember how it came to be on your wall.

I thank you for your business & look forward to working with you on your next mount.

Red Simpson

Bear & Other Rugs

Unpack immediately and lay on a flat surface (floor, bed, etc). Leaving the rug folded or in the box can cause creases in the leather skin. Gently grasp each foot and shake the rug – this will fluff the hair and the padding. Leaving the rug on a floor or seldom used surface is fine, but AVIOD letting anyone **walk** on a mammal rug – over time the hair will break and the hide may be damaged by dirt. If you place the rug near a fireplace, be sure it is far enough away to keep sparks from landing on it.

To hang on a wall or vertical surface

1. Determine the location of the head and insert a screw or nail on which to hang it. Putting a nail or screw into a stud is preferred, but if the location of the hanger is not over a stud, use of a good hollow wall anchor is required

2. Hang the head and gently smooth the skin against the wall from head to tail. Lift the border felt (colored) near the tip of the tail & insert a thumbtack thru the **bottom felt** as close as possible to the skin. Lay the border felt back down to cover the tack Repeat the procedure - smoothing the rug from the **center** toward each foot and placing a thumbtack near the edge of the foot – thru the black felt and hidden by the border felt. Do the upper feet first, then the lower feet. If you are satisfied with the position, place a thumbtack every 12” or so around the upper portion of the bear and every 18” or so on the lower ½.

Cleaning

If the rug is kept on a floor of bed, a gentle shaking a couple times a year is all that is required. If it is on a wall, you can vacuum it by using the fabric brush attachment of any vacuum. Vacuum the rug from head toward tail & top to bottom. After vacuuming, shine the fur by rubbing with a used dryer sheet (or old nylon stockings), then use a wide tooth comb or dog-style brush to groom the hair. Clean the nostrils and eyes with a damp Q-tip.

Fish Mounts & Reproductions

Please follow the instructions below and if you have any questions, please call or e-mail.

1. Allow all mounts to warm up to room temperature before handling or unpacking.

2. Locate the mount out of direct sunlight and the reach of children. Avoid placing it near a heat source like a fireplace, in high traffic areas, areas with excessive moisture (bathrooms or unfinished basements) or where temperature and humidity fluctuate greatly (garages, unoccupied cabins, etc.) These things will shorten the life of your mount and may void the guaranty.

3. If you are hanging the mount on a paneled or painted drywall surface, hang the mount on a sturdy nail or drywall screw (2" - 2 1/2" long) attached to a stud. If you wish to hang the mount in an area where no stud or framing member can be found, use a hollow wall anchor with a rating of at least 50 lbs. If the wall is paneled with solid wood paneling at least 3/4" thick, most fish mounts can be hung on a 2" screw without having to find a stud.

4. Drive the screw in at an angle stopping about 1/2" to 1/4" from the wall. This may vary with the type of hanger or driftwood on the mount. The mount should hang easily, but snugly against the wall. If the mount has an adjustable hanger, move the mount until it seems balanced and at the position you like best.

5. To clean your mount, dust and dust often. A synthetic duster, feather duster or lamb's wool is best. A light spray of Endust on the duster (never on the mount) is also helpful. Be careful around the fins. A soft paint brush may be helpful to get into the nooks & crannies around the fin bases & inside the mouth. If you smoke, dust very often. Smoke will cling to the mount and eventually discolor the whites and dull the finish.

Caring for Your Mount

by

Simpson Taxidermy Studio

Turning Outdoor Memories into Wildlife Art



"Red" Simpson, Owner

IGT Certified Master Taxidermist

Award-winning quality

FISH * BIRDS * GAMEHEADS * MAMMALS
*** FISH REPRODUCTIONS**

920-582-7004

New Hours 2014 :

Hours may vary – Please call ahead

Monday - Thur - Noon to 6 pm
Mornings, Fri & Sat - appointment only
CLOSED every Sun. & Holidays

This is a 1 man operation and on occasion, I may have to close for personal reasons - so I suggest you call ahead before driving any distance, assuming that I will be open. I am also closed for several weeks every summer to take some vacation time. For safety and security reasons, I do not put that info on my answering machine or post it on the Internet.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD.

www.simpsonstaxidermy.com