

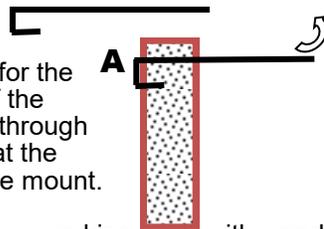
Orchids are commonly grown in pots or baskets, but some enthusiasts prefer the more natural look of orchids mounted on a branch, a piece of bark, cork or treefern. Many orchids respond favorably to this treatment, as long as:

- The humidity is sufficiently high.
- The watering schedule is adjusted accordingly. *Some smaller growing species may need watering daily (or even twice a day during the summer).*

Select a suitable material for the mount. I use primarily cork and fir bark for mounting. If using a branch, make sure it is a hardwood, that will not rot too quickly.

### Attach the wire it will hang from

I use galvanized steel wire (used for hanging suspended ceilings, available at Home Depot). First bend a piece of wire abt 8-10" long like this:



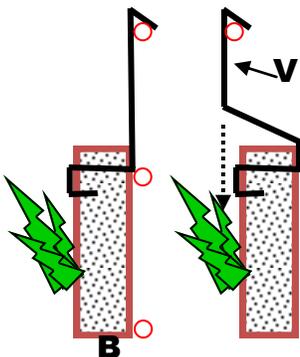
Drill a hole (just large enough for the wire) through the top center of the mount. Thread the long piece through the hole, and pull it tight so that the short piece (A) anchors into the mount.



When working with wooden mounts, you will need to hammer it into the mount. This will prevent the mount from rotating or pulling off the wire in the future.

Now you can bend the long piece upwards, and into a hook to hang onto whatever you place your mounted orchids on.

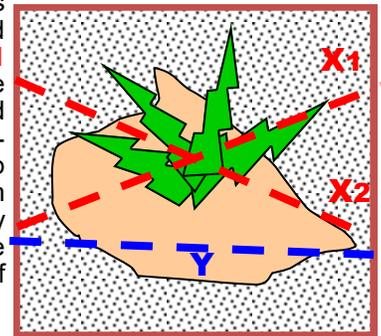
If the mount is not supported at both the top & the bottom (= B), the vertical wire must be centered over the center of gravity (= V) of the mount to avoid the mount tilting forwards when hanging.



### Attach the plant

To help the plant get established onto it's new home, place a small pad of sphagnum under the plant to hold some water. Spread the roots over the sphagnum, and add a thin layer of sphagnum over the roots.

Now tie the plant to the mount. I prefer florists wire over fishing line, as I can reuse it after the plant has attached itself. Also, since it is metal, it is easier to work with than fishing line, which tends to slip off unless you hold it very tight. 2 loops (X1 & X2) in a cross over the base of the plant should suffice, possibly augmented with a 3rd loop (Y) across the sphagnum over the roots. Simply twist the ends of the wire together on the back of the mount.



Using fishing line, I usually attach a push pin on the back, and loop the fishing line around the pin to start. You may need 5-10 loops. Finally, the push pin provides an easy place to tie off the line. And, when you are ready to remove the line, you simply pull the push pin out.

The roots will penetrate the sphagnum, and eventually attach themselves to the underlying mount.



**When growing mounted plants, be prepared to water daily, or even twice a day, if you cannot maintain high humidity in the growing area.**

October, 2014