STATUS QUO: Frames are traditionally prepared with a “hang wire” on the rear. It is typically mounted to the side rails of frames about 1/3 down from the top of the frame. Also, this wire is traditionally longer than it need be. There is slack in it by some inconsistent amount. When hung from a hanging system cable, this standard frame preparation will frequently cause the top of the frame to hang away from the wall, what we call “face forward”.

ACTION: Simply move the “hang wire” attachment points upward on the frame and while doing so, remove the extra hang wire length.

Hang wire relocated and tightened
Where to locate the attachments? That depends on the size and weight of the frame. The rule of thumb is that you want to mount these as high as possible on the frame side rails, but just low enough so that the system hook will still be hidden behind the frame top. When you support the frame from your finger at the center of the hang wire, the wire should be no closer than 1-1/4” – 1-1/2” from the frame top edge.

**HINT:** You may also leave the original hang wire in place and simply add a second one to use with hanging systems. This is something progressive custom framers do as a matter of course and a valuable service enhancement for their clients.

**2. ACTION:** Add a pair of “bumpers” to the rear lower corners of the frame. It acts to create a small space between the wall and rear surface of the frame and lessens the “face forward” dynamic.

**3a. ACTION (when hanging from one cable):** Add a “frame stabilizer” behind the frame. This is a device that attaches to the system cable at the bottom rail of the frame. The objective is the same, to create a bit of space behind the frame at the lower edge of the frame. However, this action in only appropriate when the art piece is hanging from one system cable centered behind the art.
Add Counter Weight Stabilizer

3b. **ACTION (when hanging from two cables):** Remove the hang wire on the rear of the frame and install a Counter Weight Frame Stabilizer. This clever device will use the weight of the frame to pull the top edge of the frame towards the wall. It includes the bumpers described earlier.

**NOTE:**
Bumpers and Frame Stabilizers offer very similar results. Bumpers are less costly but are single use and attach to the rear of the art/frame with adhesives. Frame Stabilizers will last for decades and are infinitely reusable and do not have an impact on the art piece itself.

This document is one of a series of documents that were created to help the reader optimize their framed art, and other wall objects, for display via a hanging system.

Others in the series include:
- How to Hang Framed Art
- Optimize with 2 Cables
- Eliminate Teeter-Totter Frames
- Eliminate Tilt Left-Right
- How to Hang Unframed Art