

Installing North Solar Screen Shades and Keeping Them On The Level

By Robert Shafer, Grosse Ile, MI
©2010 Robert Shafer – used by permission

Getting a wall of solar shades up and in alignment isn't hard if you're careful and use the right tools. It's essential to have a level reference, especially in older homes where the doors and windows may not be level.



A laser level is a great tool for this job. A laser level projects a horizontal (and/or vertical) line giving an accurate level reference.

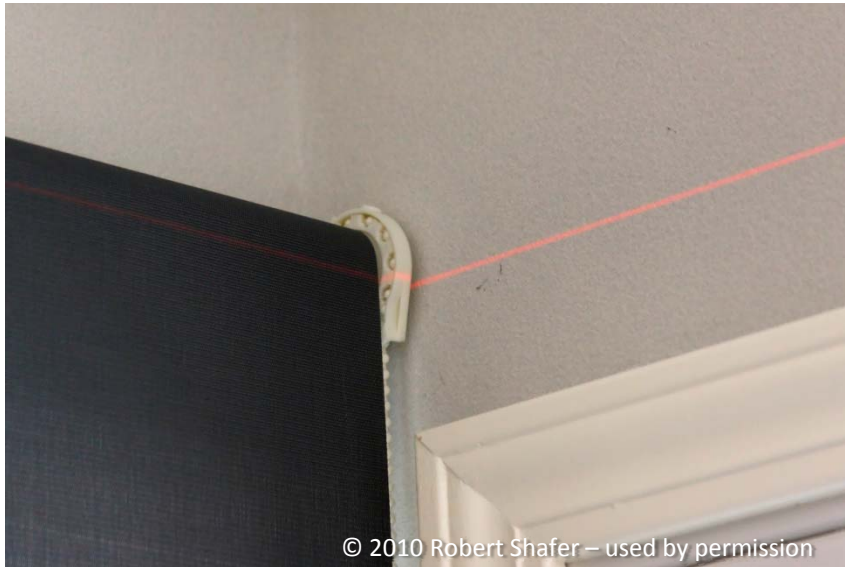
This example is a Ryobi laser level, which was purchased at home improvement store for about \$50. It can stick to the wall by means of a suction cup device, or it can be placed it on a photographic tripod, as it is here. To get the level above the height of the doors, the tripod is set on a card table.

The cost of the level is considerably less than professional installation and allows the do-it-yourselfer to do a professionally accurate job.



© 2010 Robert Shafer – used by permission

Set the height of the laser so its line is at the desired height of the blinds. Use one of the mounting screw holes for reference. Here we've used the lower hole. If there are existing blinds to match, just set the line to match the existing brackets.

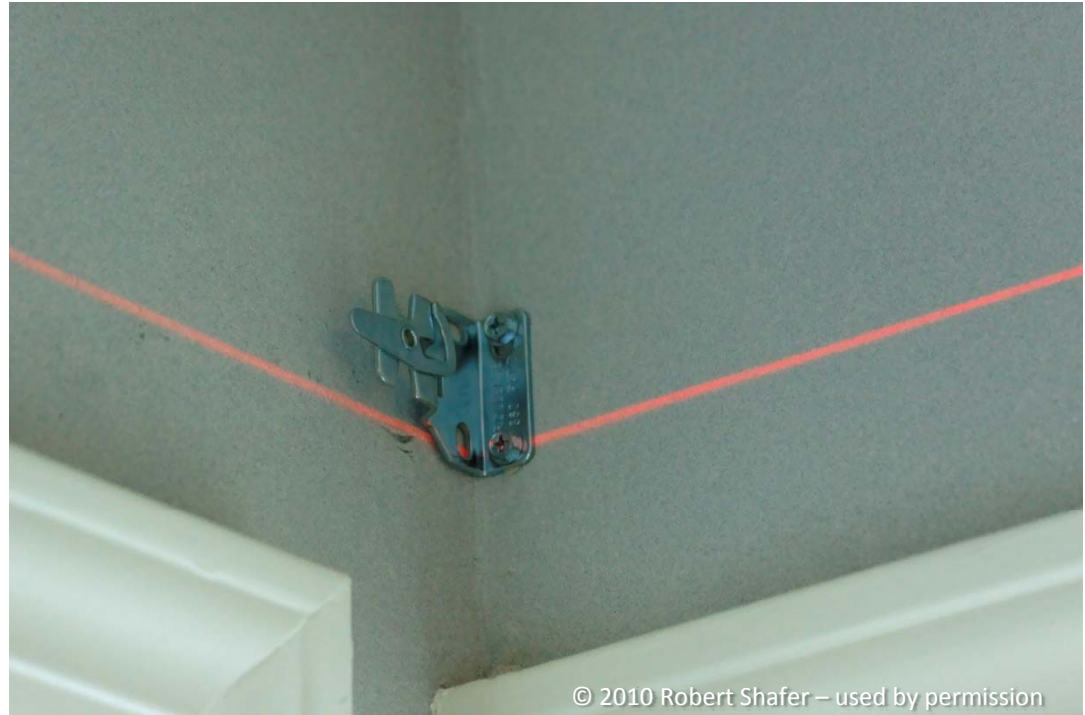


Existing shades (installed earlier).



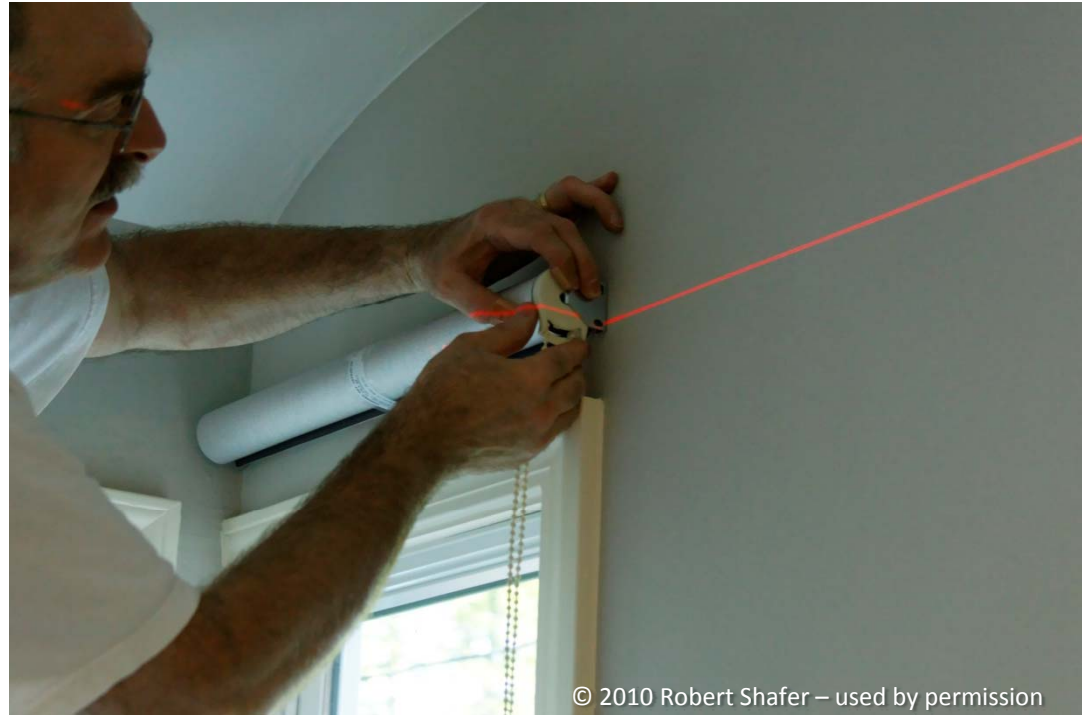
Existing shade bracket with shade removed. Note the line at the level of the lower mounting screw.

With the laser projecting a level line, it's an easy matter to line up the new brackets. Just align the lower mounting hole of each bracket on the red line, and all of the brackets will be level. This bracket had to be mounted right against the adjacent wall.



© 2010 Robert Shafer – used by permission

With the first bracket in position and secured to the wall, place the appropriate end of the blinds in the first bracket. Then, hold the second bracket in position on the blinds. Place it against the wall with the lower mounting hole on the red laser line and mark the position of the hole with a pencil. When the holes are marked, set the shade aside and mount the bracket.



© 2010 Robert Shafer – used by permission

Attach the lower mounting screw, make sure the bracket is straight and attach the upper mounting screw.

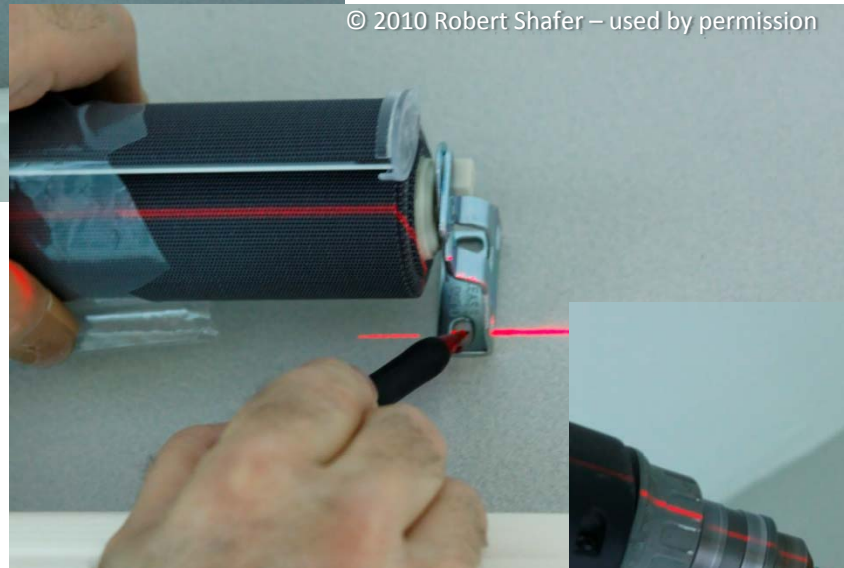
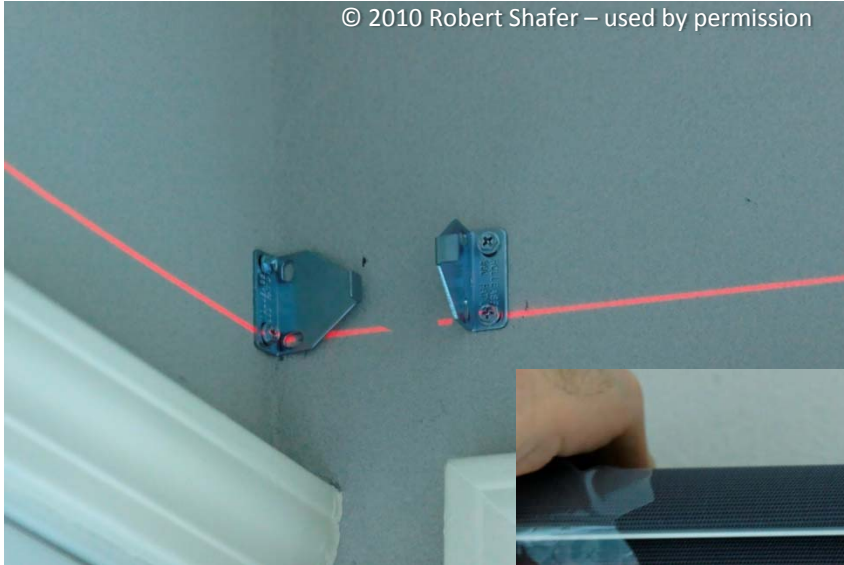


Attach the shade and it's done. And it's absolutely level. For additional shades, just repeat.



© 2010 Robert Shafer – used by permission

Just locate each bracket on the laser line and shades will go up absolutely level.



Of course, it's always good to have someone check your work.



Before you know it, all of the shades are up and level. The laser level is a great tool for D-I-Y installation, especially when the doors and windows aren't all exactly level.



Thanks to North Solar Screen!

- We're very pleased with our shades.
- We appreciate the personal service and the careful attention given to making sure that we got the shades sized correctly.
- The shades were packaged very well for shipment, and each was labeled for proper installation.
- Installation was very straight forward with no problems or surprises. The laser level made it easy to keep them aligned and level.

- Robert Shafer, Grosse Ile, MI