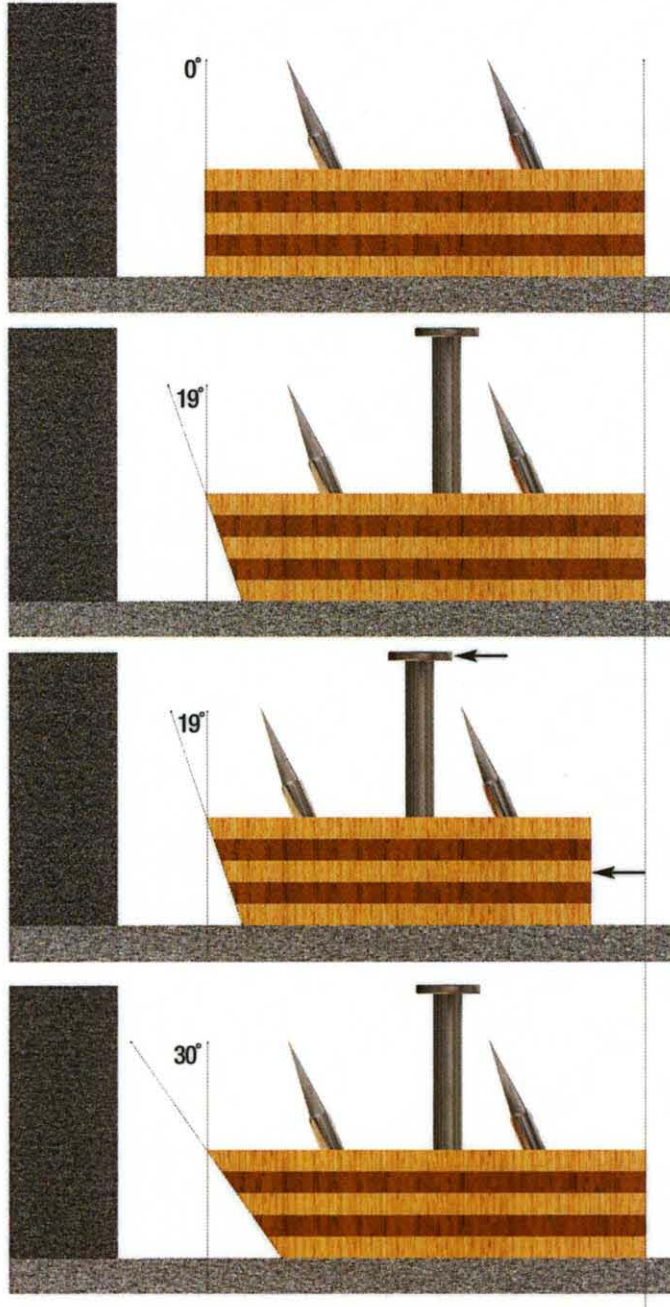


# The Evolution of Today's Carpet Gripper Profile

Carpet gripper is a simple looking product that is actually more sophisticated than is first apparent. When compared to the methods of carpet installation that were used before the invention of gripper in the 1930's, it can safely be said that today's humble tack strip has changed our homes, our businesses and even our lifestyles. Gripper has evolved even as carpet and installation methods have evolved and it will almost certainly look different in the future as carpet and installation methods improve.



## 1930's through 1940's

The original carpet gripper was designed as a simple rectangular profile with multiple small pins to grip the carpet. The vertical edge that faced the wall provided very little space to tuck the carpet, and the absence of pre-started anchor nails made it time consuming to install and nail to the floor.

## 1950's through 1960's

Carpet gripper design was greatly improved with the addition of a 19-degree bevel cut along the wall side of the tack strip and with pre-started anchor nails. These new modifications allowed more tucking room between the wall and the gripper, making installations cleaner and faster. Installation results were significantly improved and labor costs were reduced.

## 1970's through 1990's

With cost savings as the primary motivation, gripper width was reduced by as much as 20%, placing pins and nails closer to the wall. The resulting change made it harder to hook carpet and easier to hit the wall with the hammer. While cheaper, the new gripper was a step backward from an installation point of view.

## Today

Current carpet gripper design includes a wider width which shifts the positions of the pins and anchor nails away from the wall making nailing and hooking easier. The new bevel angle of 30 degrees provides the extra tucking room needed for stiff-backed carpets while still providing a solid base that will not rock when stretched. Installations are faster and give a clean appearance.

### **MAXXIMUS™ Engineered Carpet Gripper**

Available in short, medium and long pin lengths for all carpet pile heights.

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