



SLIDING DOOR
INSTALLATION GUIDE

TEKTRIM CORPORATION

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MODERN MADE EASY

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Tektrim Pocket Door Guide. Read this guide to learn about, design, and install pocket doors.

IN THIS GUIDE

This guide contains the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1** Overview *page 7*
- **Chapter 2** Designing Your Pocket Door *page 16*
- **Chapter 3** Installing Your Pocket Door *page 28*
- **Chapter 4** More Possibilities and Customizations *page 42*

GETTING STARTED

To use this guide:

1. Start with reading **Chapter 1** for a high-level description of pocket doors.
2. Read **Chapter 2** to plan out your specific pocket door.
3. When you are ready to install the pocket door, read **Chapter 3** for detailed instructions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Tektrim for questions about Tektrim products or how to install them. For more information, see the Tektrim Website or Contact Tektrim directly.

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OVERVIEW

- In this manual you will find a comprehensive understanding of the installation procedures.
- You will also learn about the many different installation applications.

HISTORY OF POCKET DOORS

Pocket doors have been around since the 1920s, but they became popular in the late 1940s and the 1950s. By the 1960s, most pocket doors on the market had deteriorated in quality, and after 1970, most architects and homeowners had ignored pocket doors because of their bad experiences, Tektrim pocket doors are a solution to:

- the belief that pocket doors don't work, and are a constant maintenance problem
- as built spaces rise in cost per square foot, the need for a small space footprint
- the need for quieter, smoother and easier operation

Tektrim has thoroughly analyzed the problems, carefully engineered solutions, and created a well-built pocket door.

IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF POCKET DOORS

A good pocket door has the following qualities:

- It never needs servicing.
- It operates effortlessly.
- It operates silently.
- It feels solid.
- It has an ambience of quality.

SMALL SPACE FOOTPRINT

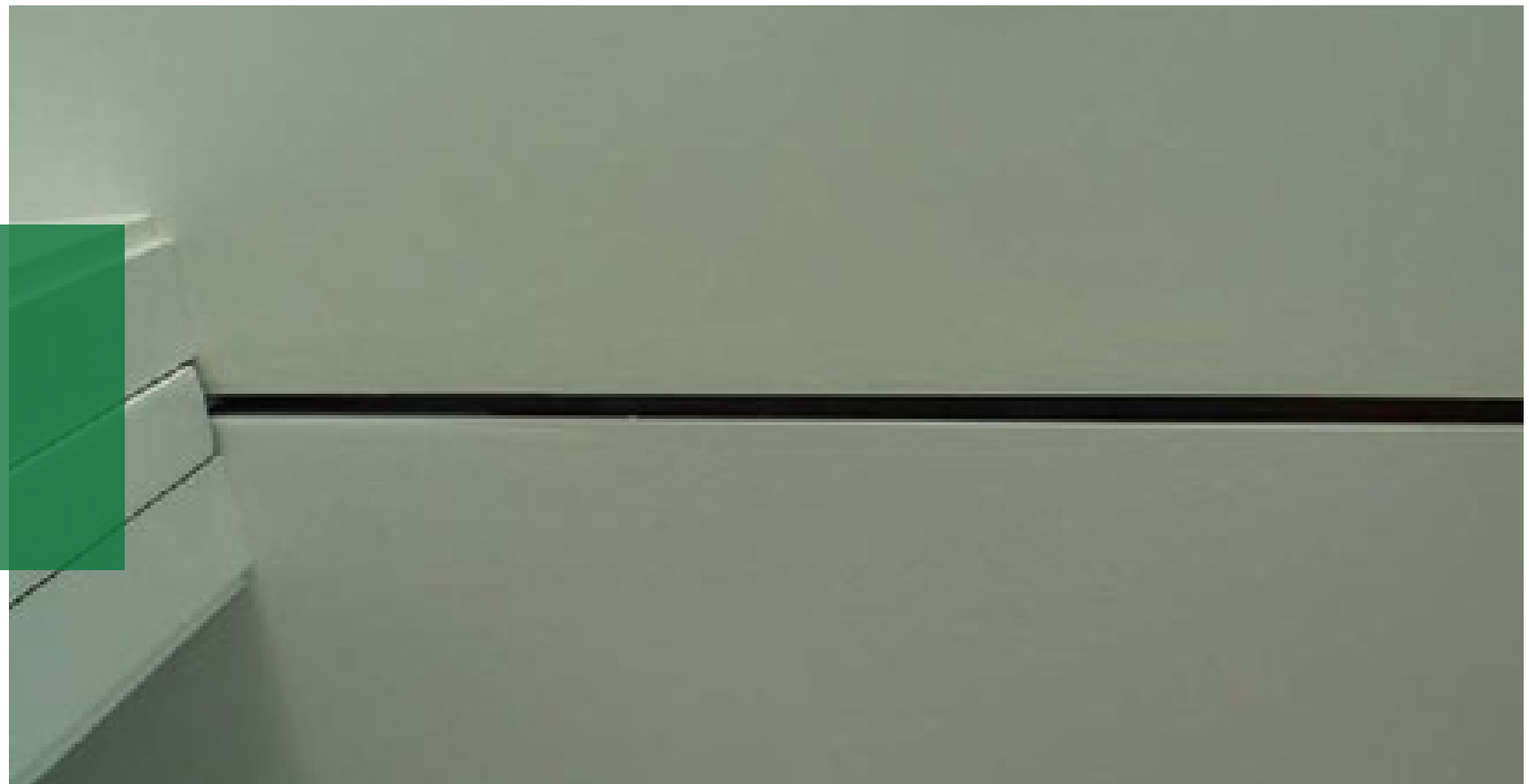
A standard 30" or 32" swing door monopolizes about 6 square feet of floor area as it swings open 90 degrees and another 6 square feet if it must swing back 180 degrees to clear walkways and hallways. This is an inefficient use of floor area. Pocket doors use no floor real estate thus no floor space is wasted.

Now, Tektrim pocket doors are a solution to these many requirements.

AESTHETICS

The track of the Tektrim Pocket Door gets rid of unsightly wide channels in ceilings. Figure 1-1 shows the small shadow line that the track creates as it crosses a ceiling. Also in a more conventional application with door jambs and casings the unsightly channel at the head is greatly improved.

Figure 1-1:
The view looking up. The track crosses the open ceiling unobtrusively.



LOAD CAPACITY OF THE TRACK

The track is designed for very heavy loads. The load capacity is only limited by the number of wheels that can be installed above a given door width. Each wheel can be safely loaded to 50 lbs, and a standard carrier setup has 4 wheels, so the basic package starts at 200 lbs. Doubling the wheels to 8 yields a carrier for 400 lb doors etc. Each door is hung on a 1/4" x 4", 5", or 6" aluminum bar stock carrier. The wheels are clipped to press fit stainless steel axles that are then dadoed into the top of the door. These carriers can be ganged together to accommodate different sizes and weights of a variety of door panels.

SERVICING CHALLENGES

Pocket doors are unique in that they are built into a wall. So, most parts are not readily available for servicing. Adjustments or replacements of parts make it a big deal, since removing trim or opening up the wall are the starting point of service work. The challenge to building a high quality pocket door, then, is to treat the parts that are hard to reach as if they are not to be touched for 50 years or more. In other words, to engineer them to last a lifetime.

AMBIENCE

Good ambience includes the following:

- The door must feel solid and comfortable to the person operating it.
- The door must be easy to open and close.
- The door must operate quietly, because noisy operation of a rolling door is like squeaking hinges on a conventional door.

LONGEVITY

There are limitations on wall thickness vs. height that result in some pocket walls being too flexible or flimsy. The classic 1960s pocket door was an 1 3/8" hollow-core door in a 3 1/2" thick wall. If you do the math, you see that the sidewall framing thickness is 3/4" + 1/4" space. As many of you know, if you push lightly on the pocket wall of this system, the wall deflects, rubs the door, and even scratches its finish. Tektrim rolling doors offer materials and systems that feel solid and work flawlessly for years. 1 3/4" doors require a minimum 4 1/2" framed wall thickness. This allows one full inch for the pocket sidewalls. (a one inch square steel tubing is a great choice). This works great for up to 7 foot doors. If your doors are taller than 7 feet, we recommend 1-1/2" tubes and a 5 1/2" framed wall thickness. In both cases, if walls are constructed in this fashion, you will not have pocket wall deflection and the installation will have an ambience of quality and solidity. Some jobs require extreme measures to solve a unique challenge. There are other pocket wall systems that can perform equally to the systems mentioned and yet are thinner in cross section. These may use structural aircraft honeycomb panels that are very strong and are very stiff relative to other options.

VERSATILITY OF THE TRACK

ROOM DIVIDERS

Figure 1-2: Door openings with a ceiling track

ROOM DIVIDERS

BATH DOORS

Figure 1-3:

Both pictures on the previous page show a door that pockets in a wing wall with track that spans the door opening. The track is not only carrying the doors weight across the clear span, but is laterally stabilizing the tops of both wing walls as well.

OTHER USES

- Room dividers
- Standard pocket doors
- Barn doors
- Any other track spanning door openings
- Heavy screen hanging
- Rolling display panels

SHOP DRAWINGS

We have a variety of example shop drawings that we have created for various job scenarios. If you give us an idea of what you would like to do, it is more than likely that we have some drawings that are similar, and can be readily adapted to fit your conditions.

TYPES OF ROLLING DOOR TRACKS

Single Pocket

Double Pocket

Barn Door

Bi-pass Door

POSSIBILITIES

Multiple tracks and pockets:

- Single door with a single pocket
- Double door with a single pockets
- Double doors with a double bi-pass track
- Triple doors with a triple track

HARDWARE

The parts needed to install a rolling door are the:

- Track. For more information, see page 14.
- End Mounting Plates. For more information, see page 14.
- Door carrier or Carrier Blade, see page 15.
- Guide Channel, see page 15.
- Plunger Door Guide, see page 15.
- 1/4-20 Allen head set screws
- Bumper or track stopstop, see page 13.
- Telescoping arms for multiple panels in a single opening

PARTS OF A POCKET DOOR

WHEELS

The wheels we offer are polyurethane bonded to a sealed roller bearing assembly. The bearings are rated for continuous operation at 30000 rpm. The wheel was designed over a period of 3 years as we adjusted the durometer hardness of the polyurethane resin to strike an optimal balance of load capacity and quiet operation. The resulting wheel has now been in use for over 9 years.

GANGING TRACK

The tracks are 2" wide, and as many as you want can be ganged together. With standard 1 3/4" doors this leaves a door-to-door gap of 1/4". Thicker doors can be accommodated by spacing the tracks out appropriately. Track is available up to 24 feet in one piece. Longer lengths are obtained by joining them together. The end mounts are available in single, double, triple and even custom for difference multiple track conditions.

STOPS

There are several options for stops.

We have two types of internal stops that contact the internal hanging fin inside the track to stop the door. We also have one track-mounted surface stop that is an aluminum block that projects 3/4" below the ceiling. This stop contacts the top edge of the door. On conventional pocket applications off the shelf bumper stops are used in the rear of the pocket.

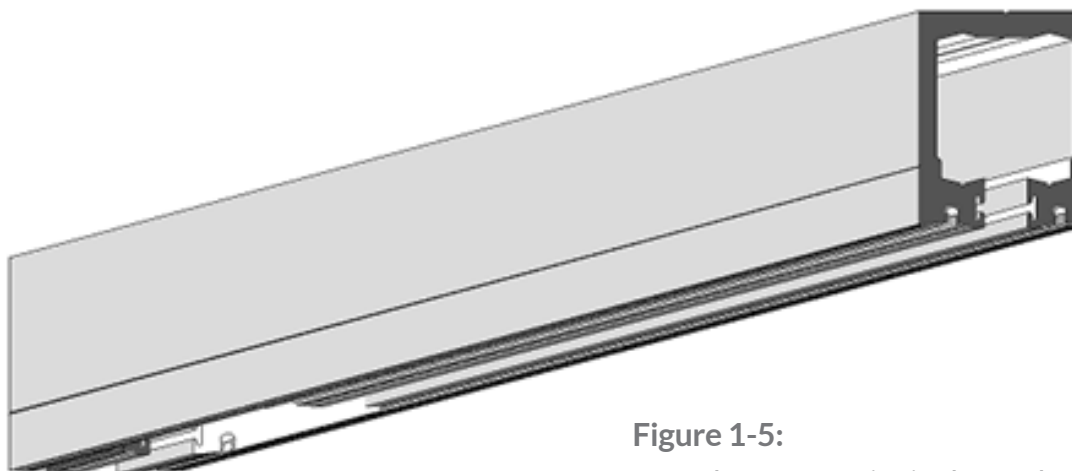
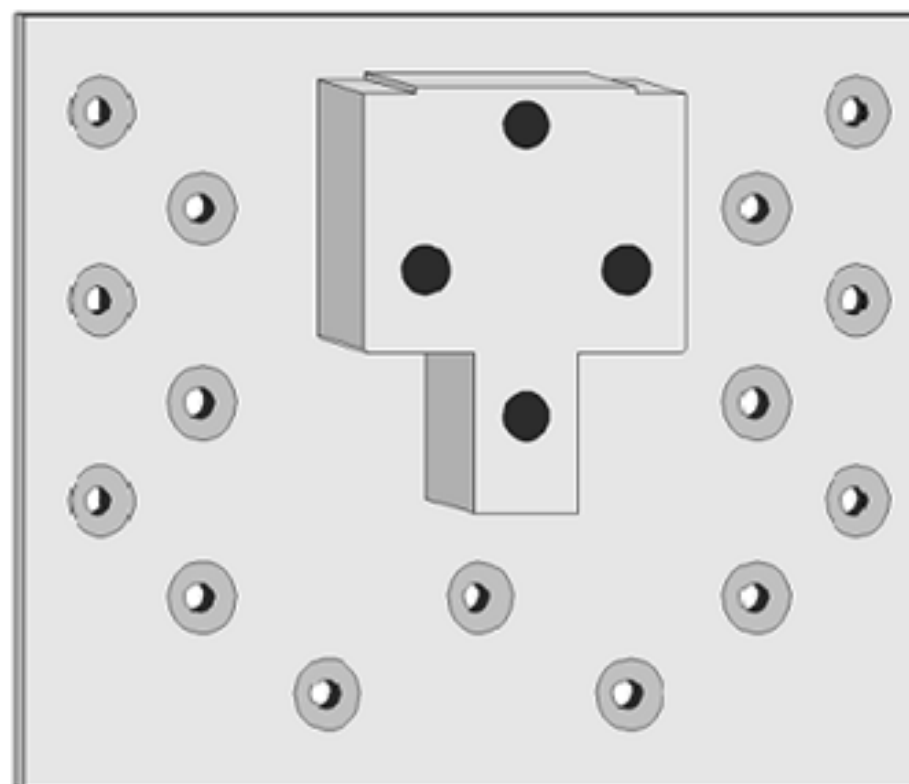


Figure 1-5:
*Note the access point in the track
for future service if necessary*

MOUNTING PLATE

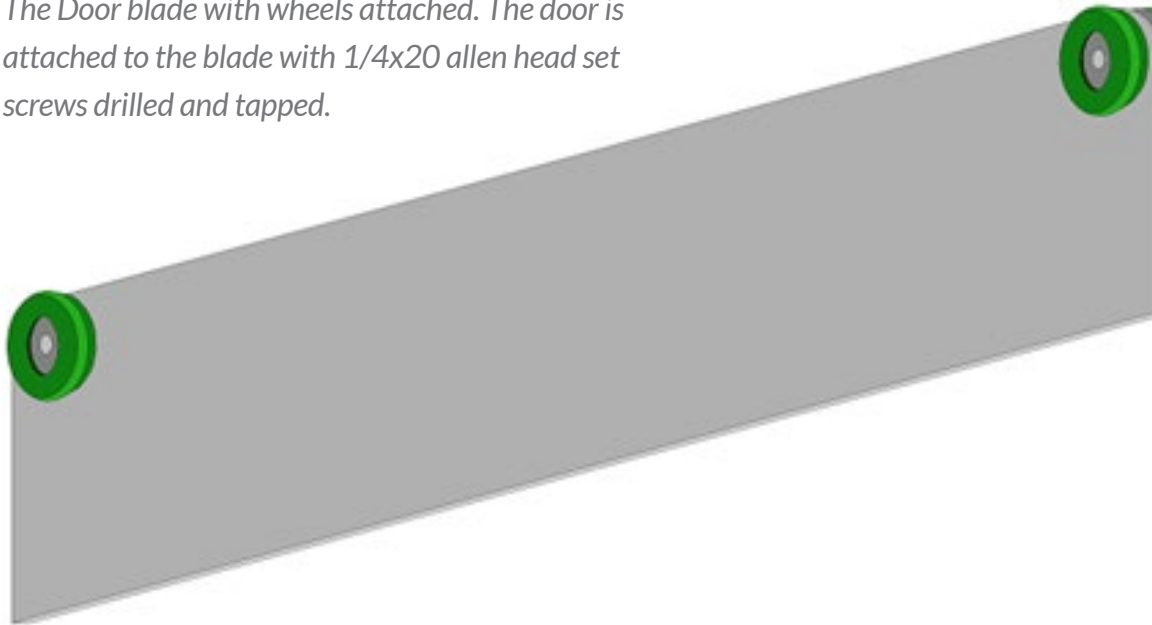
Figure 1-6:
*This can also be flipped to use
for flush ceiling conditions.*



CARRIER BLADE OF THE DOOR

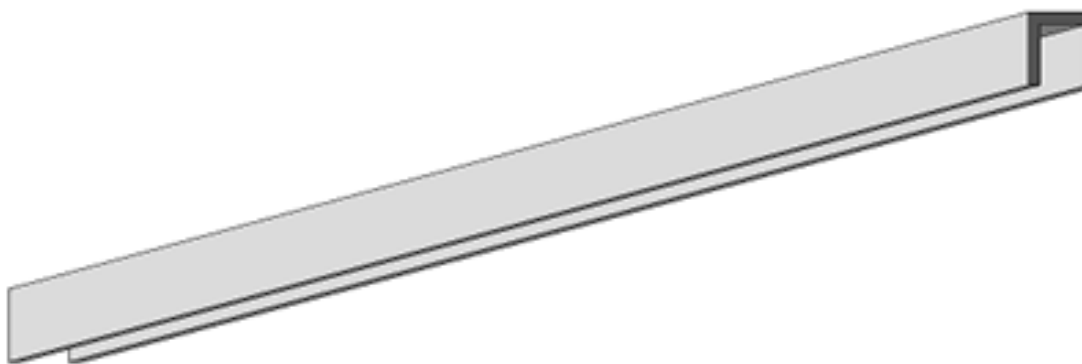
Figure 1-7:

The Door blade with wheels attached. The door is attached to the blade with 1/4x20 allen head set screws drilled and tapped.



GUIDE CHANNEL

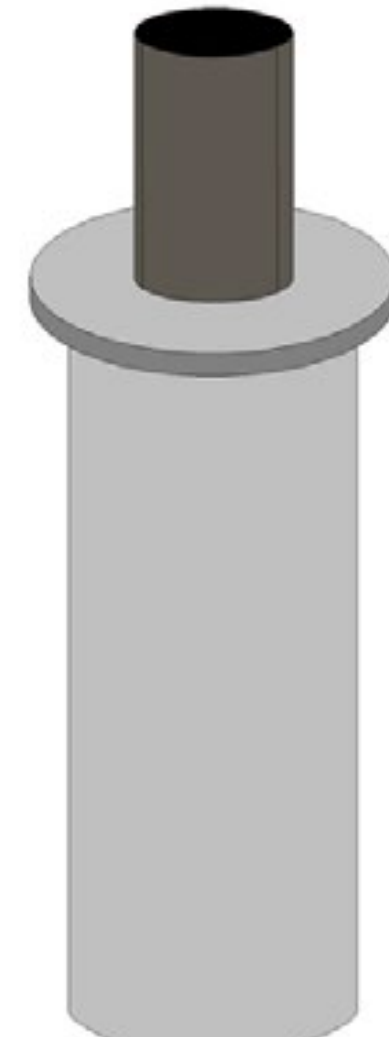
Figure 1-9:



PLUNGER DOOR GUIDE

Figure 1-8:

The plunger door guide.



DESIGNING YOUR POCKET DOOR

OVERVIEW

This chapter explains the following:

- Calculating the rough dimensions
- Width of the door
- Header and track support requirements
- Pocket sidewall construction including space requirements

STEPS

To use this guide:

1. Framing done ahead of time.
2. Review Pocket door planning guide.

CALCULATING THE ROUGH DIMENSIONS

Calculate the following to get a general idea of the rough dimensions that you are working with:

1. Find the size of the door that is specified in the plans for this specific opening.
2. Calculate the height
3. Calculate the rough opening width
4. Calculate finished dimensions of the opening

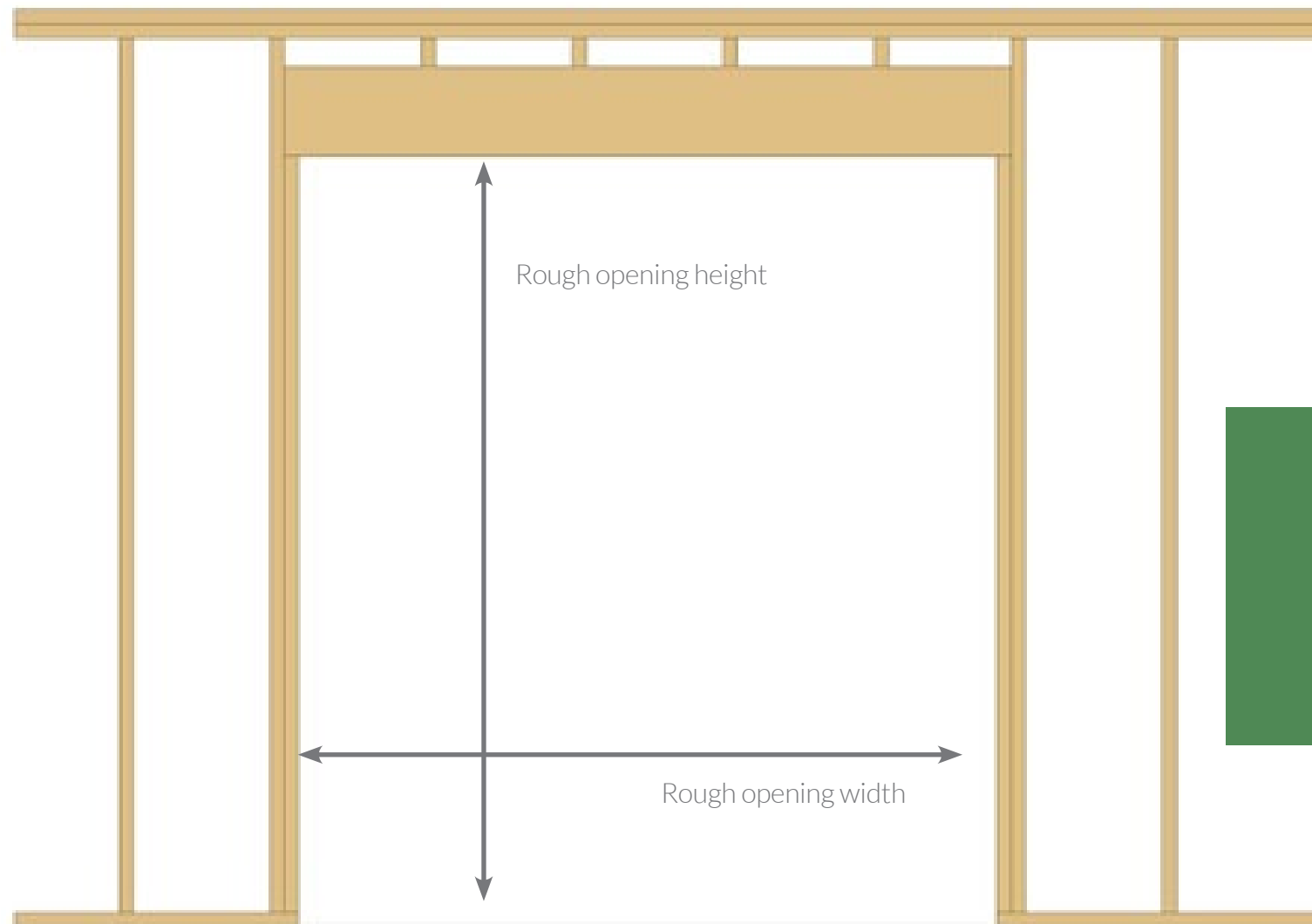


Figure 2-1:
*Measuring the
rough opening*

ROUGH OPENING HEIGHT

Be sure that the rough opening height is correct. To determine the rough opening height, use the following calculation:

$$\text{Finish Floor Height} + 3/8\text{th} - 1/2" \text{ (for a minimum air gap)} + \text{Height of the Jamb} + \text{Track Height (door + track)} = \text{Rough Opening Height}$$

Explanation:

- Finish floor height: for example, 3/4"
- Minimum air gap: usually 3/8" - 1/2"
- Track height: Door + track: always 2-1/2"
- Height of the jamb: for example, 3/4"

Door Height + 3" + Thickness of Head Jamb + Height of Finish Floor (above subfloor).

EXAMPLE 2-1

The door is 6'-8" (80"), then the calculation is 80" + 3" = 83" + thickness of head jamb + the height of the finish floor.

EXAMPLE 2-2

If the height of the head jamb is 3/4" and the height of the finish floor height is 1", then the rough opening height is 83" + 3/4" + 1" = 84 3/4" (7'-0 3/4")

ROUGH OPENING WIDTH

(Door Width x 2) + 4". As an example, if the door is 2'-8" (32"), then the calculation is (32" x 2") = 64" + 4" = 68" (5'-8") Rough Opening Width.

GENERAL LAYOUT

This Full Elevation shows all of the components in their installed positions that would otherwise be covered by drywall or finishes. For more detail, these parts are shown in larger scale on the next page.

EXCEPTIONS

Note: This is a typical installation and it is possible that not all the parts would be used in every installation. For example, if the door is full-height to the ceiling, there might not be a head jamb depending on the desired look. A full-height door can also move the header into the ceiling, or eliminated if the joists are perpendicular to the door wall.

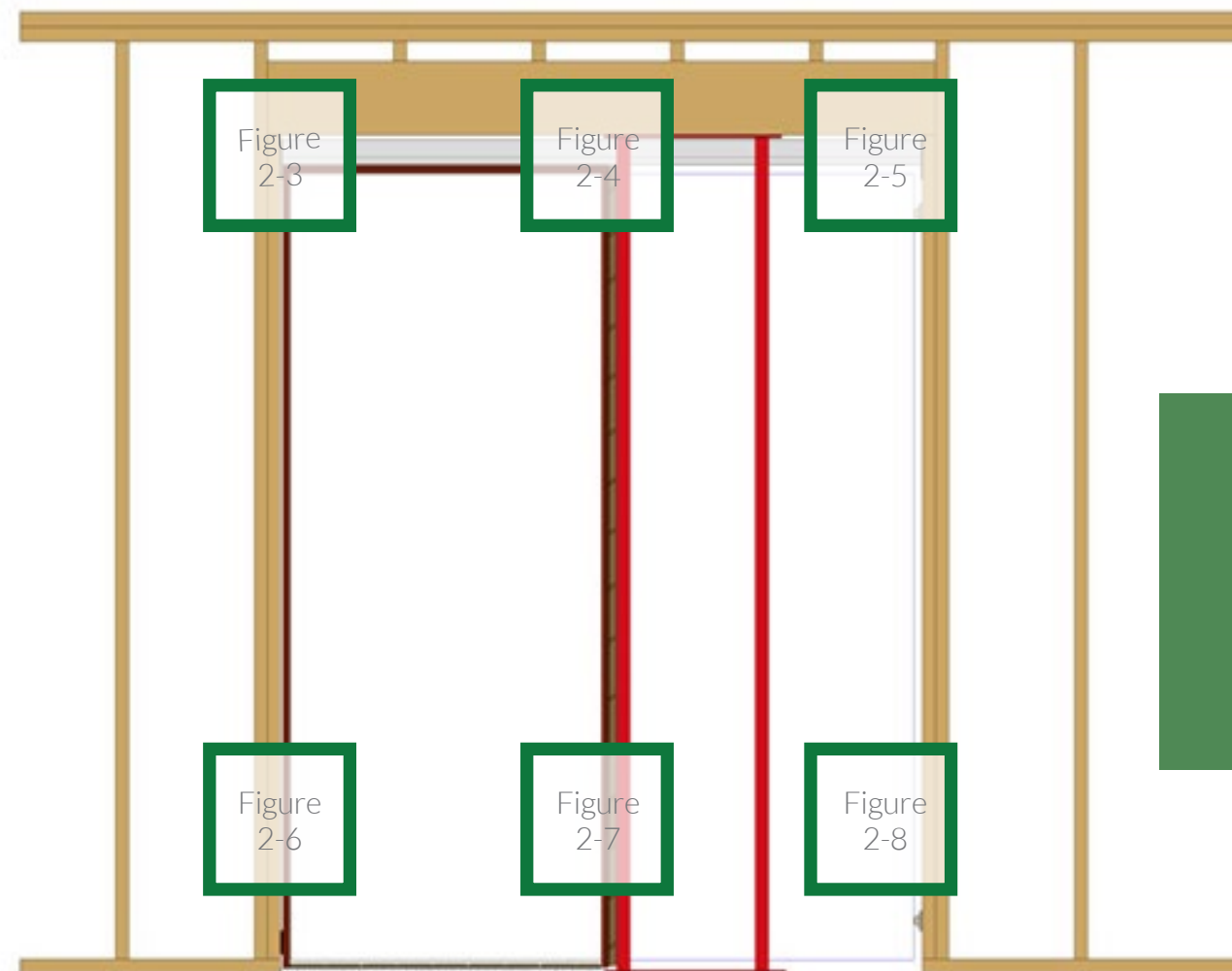


Figure 2-2:
General parts and details
for rolling pocket door
installation and planning

Figure 2-3:
Upper left corner

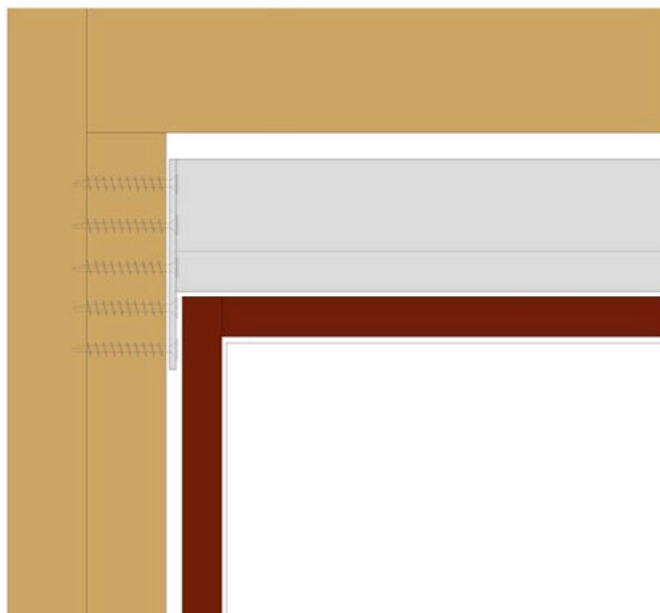


Figure 2-4:
Upper middle

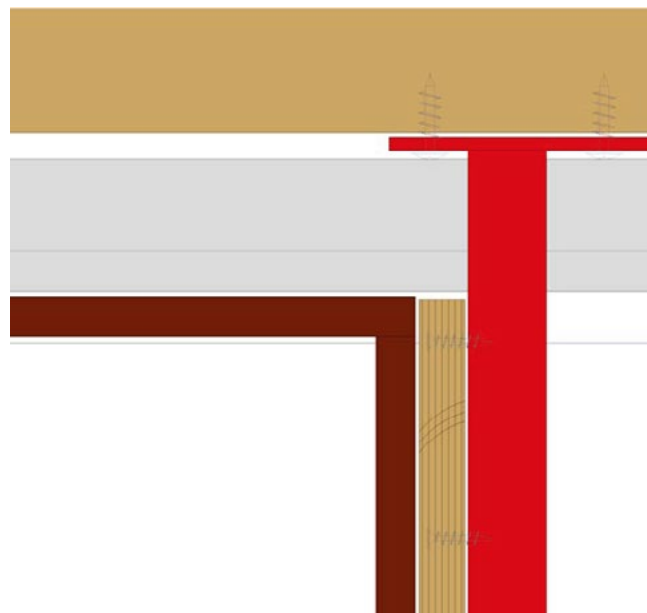


Figure 2-5:
Upper right corner, including door stop

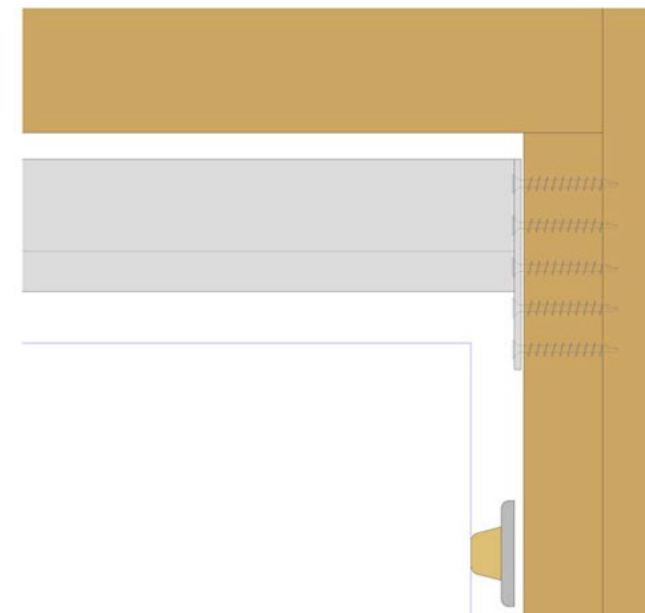


Figure 2-6:
Lower left corner

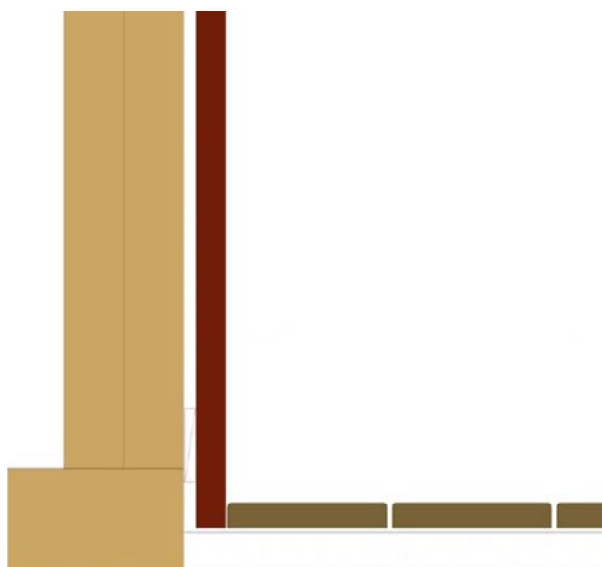


Figure 2-7:
Lower middle, including the plunger guide

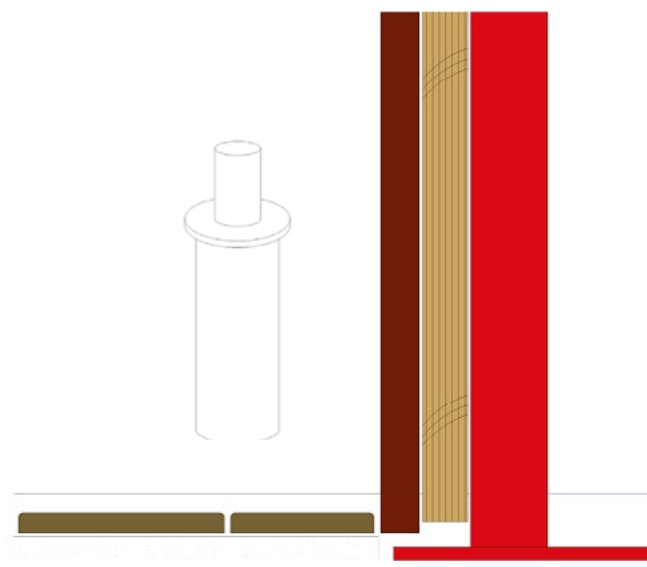
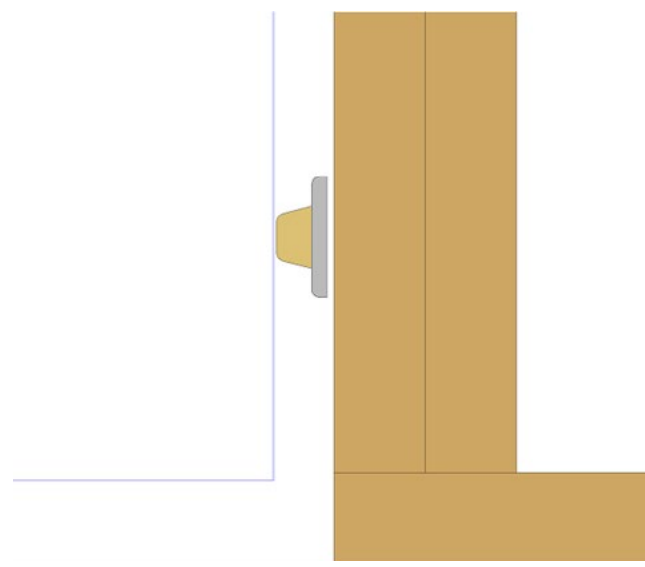


Figure 2-8:
Lower right corner, including door stop



DETAILED PLANNING

NEED FOR SUPPORT

Notice that the track is not fastened to the “header”. On doors 36" or less and up to 150 pounds or up to 3'-0" in width and 6'-0" of track length, the track does not need support between the end mounting plates.

This provides economy and simplicity of installation and greater design freedom. On heavier doors and longer spans, intermediate support will be required. All tracks will be machined drilled to accommodate #12-14 screws for intermediate support. It is recommended to use manufactured lumber or steel for headers. The inherent dimensional stability makes them a great choice. Sawn lumber headers are not a good choice for track support, as they dry, the track will move upwards creating havoc with the door fit and finishes. Although the intermediate screws can be backed off or tightened in the event of material movement.

DESIGN DEFLECTION

Another structural consideration is the design deflection of the supporting headers or beams. This is usually expressed as:

$$L/360 = \text{Deflection (in inches)}$$

$L/360$, if used for a 20 foot span, would yield a design deflection of about $11/16"$. Whether or not this is a workable solution depends on the situation. If you have rolling doors crossing this 20 foot span, and the door floor gap is $3/8"$, the door would probably rub on the floor and require trimming. Had the engineer been asked to design for less deflection, (perhaps $L/720$ or greater) the problem would be handled before the fact. The point is to figure this out as early in the project design phase as possible.

DETAILED VERTICAL DIMENSIONS

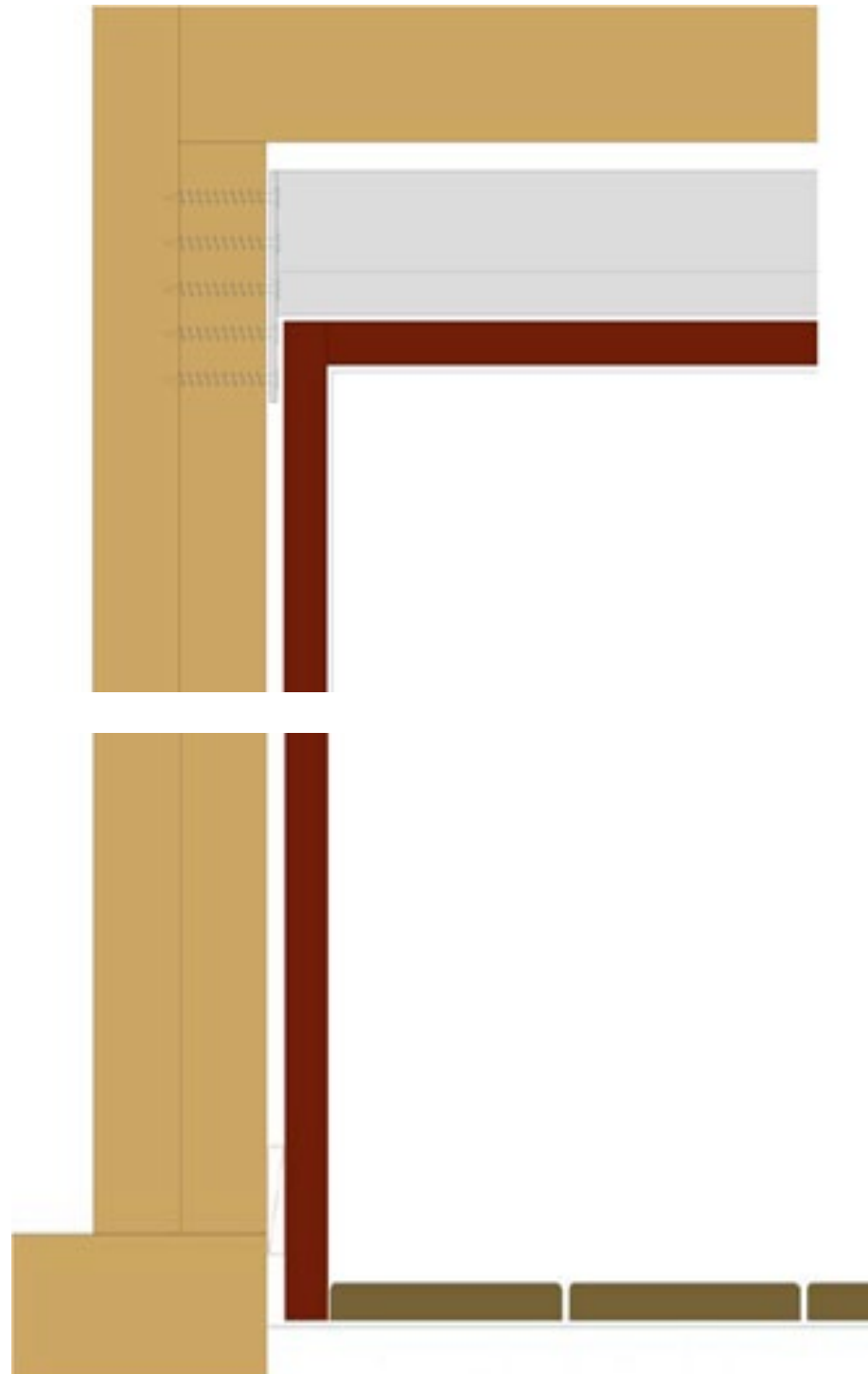


Figure 2-9:
*Vertical Dimensions for Rolling Door
Installation & Planning.*
Note: Dimensions given in [parentheses]
are from the example height calculations
on page 18.

HEADER, TRACK SUPPORT AND OTHER CONDITIONS

Flush-in-Ceiling track with ceiling joists parallel or perpendicular to the track are detailed in figure 2-11 and 2-12. These examples also detail sawn joists and TJIs in perpendicular situations and how to notch or fur joists.

Figure 2-10:

*Large Scale Vertical Details
(with dropped header) -- Doorway section*

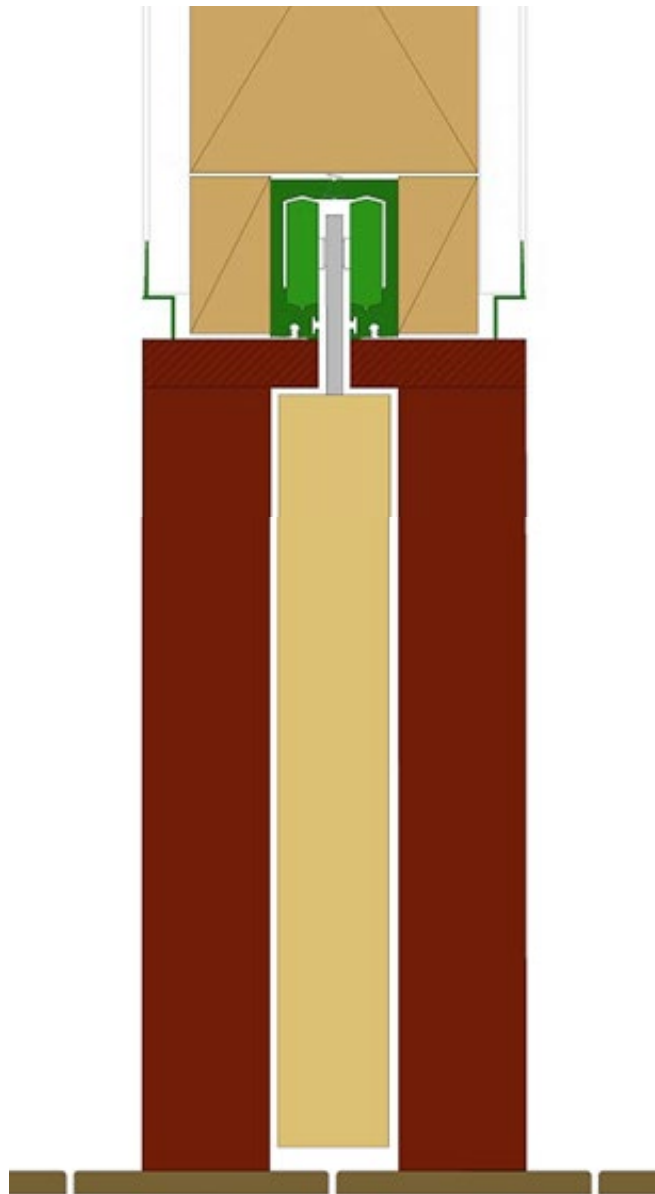


Figure 2-11:

*Large Scale Vertical Details
(with dropped header) -- Pocket section*

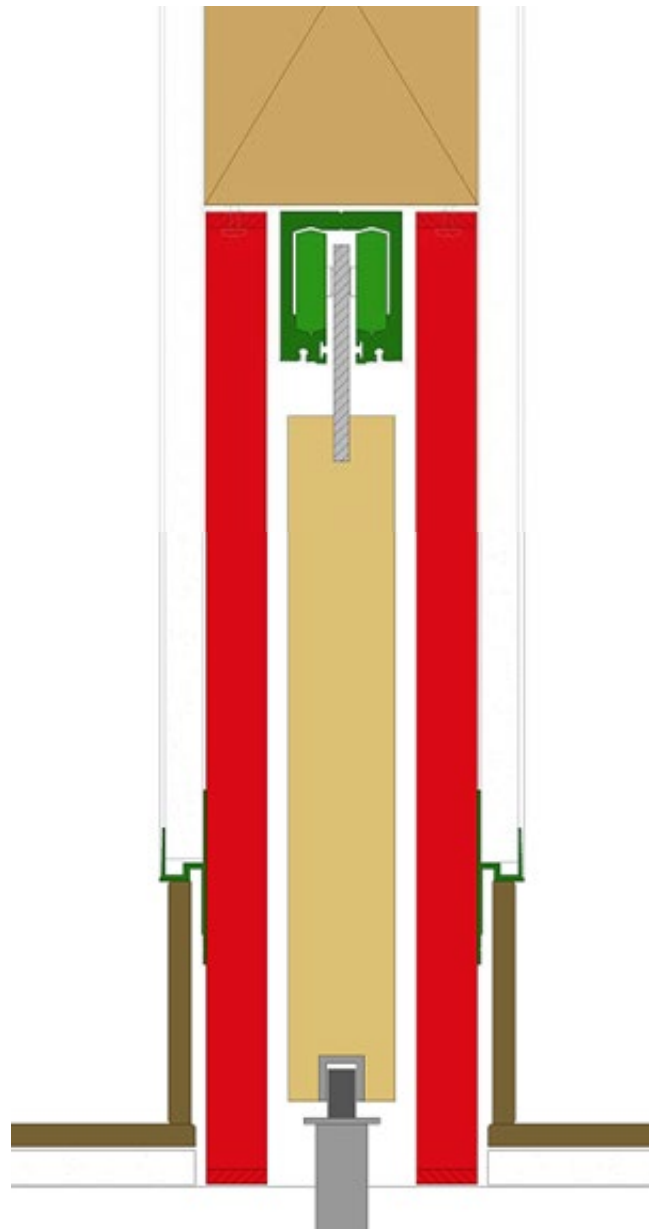
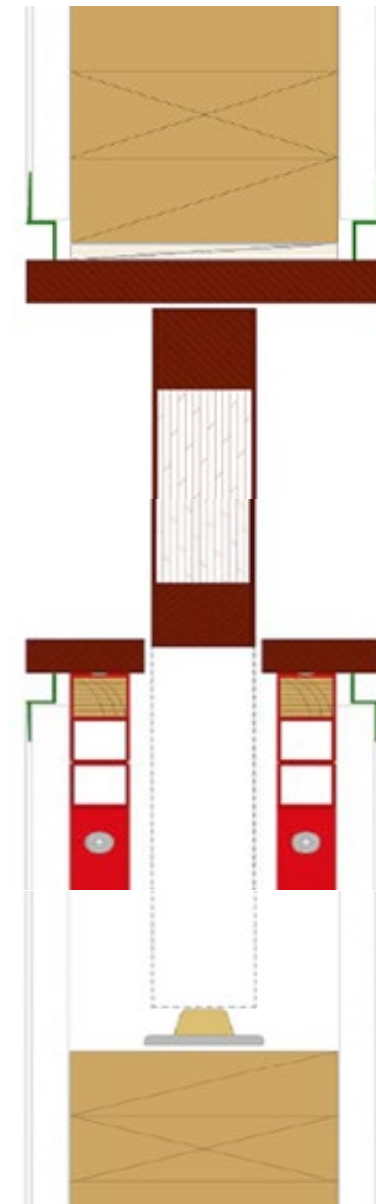


Figure 2-12:

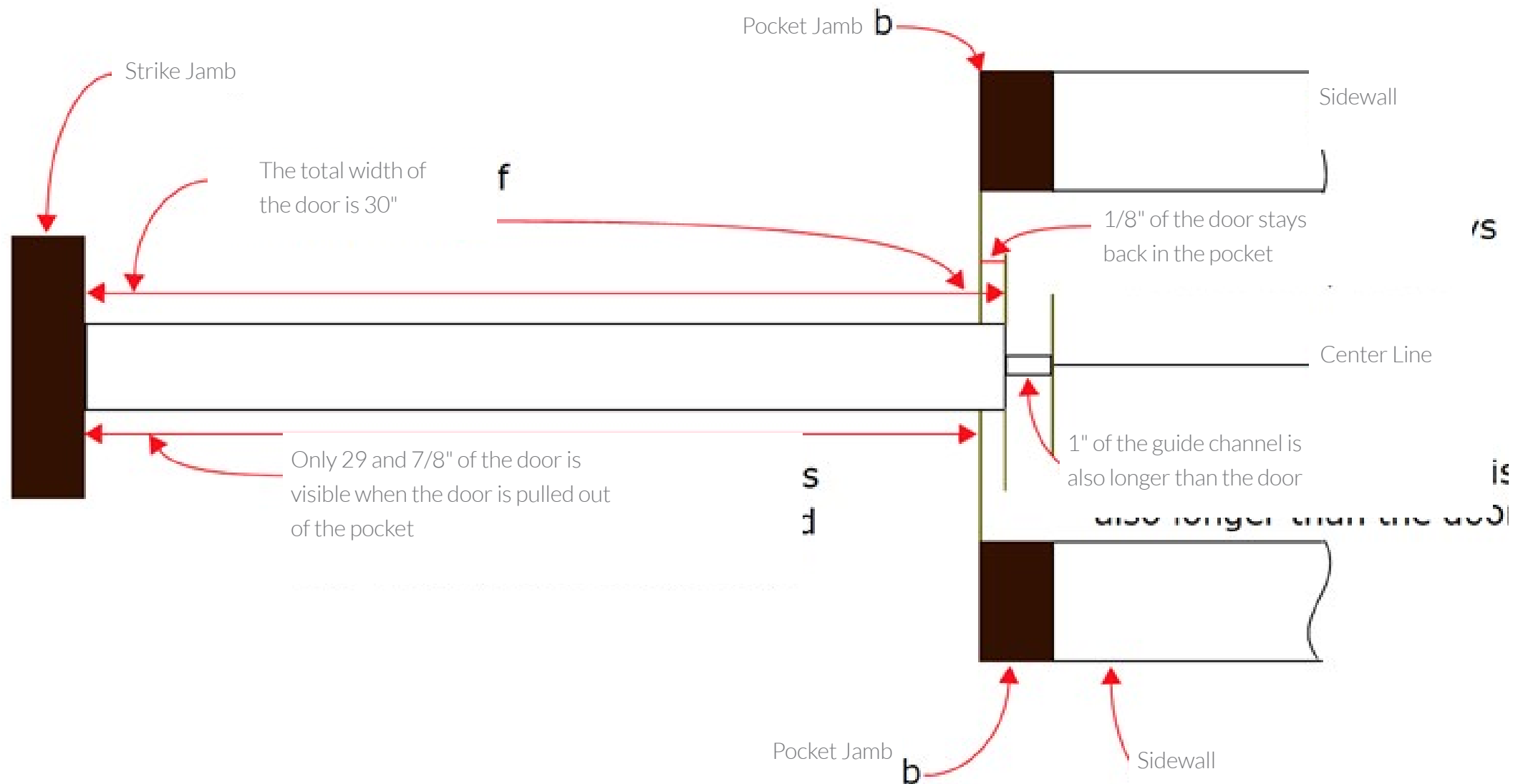
*Horizontal section of finished
Door Installation with Dimensions and Notes*



DOOR WIDTH DETAILS

Figure 2-13:

In the following example, the door width is 30". However, the horizontal distance between the strike jamb and the edges of the pocket jambs is only 29 and 7/8" so that 1/8" of the door is still back in the pocket even when the door is fully closed. This eliminates the chance that the door will have an opening when it is fully closed.



THICKNESS OF THE POCKET SIDEWALLS

LIMITATIONS

There are limitations on wall thickness vs. height that results in some pocket walls being too flexible or flimsy.

The classic pocket door from the 1960s was a 1 3/8" hollow-core door in a 3 1/2" thick wall. If you do the math, you see that the sidewall framing thickness is 3/4" + 1/4" space. If you push lightly on the pocket wall of this system, the wall deflects and rubs the door—even scratching its finish, unacceptable.

Tektrim offers materials and systems that feel solid and work flawlessly for years. We offer several pocket wall systems that solve the problems mentioned above.

You will not have pocket wall deflection and the installation will have an ambience of quality and solidity.

In both cases, if walls are constructed in this fashion, some jobs require extreme measures to solve unique challenges. There are other pocket wall systems that can perform equally to the systems mentioned and yet are thinner in cross section. These may use structural aircraft honeycomb panels that are very strong and are very stiff relative to other options.

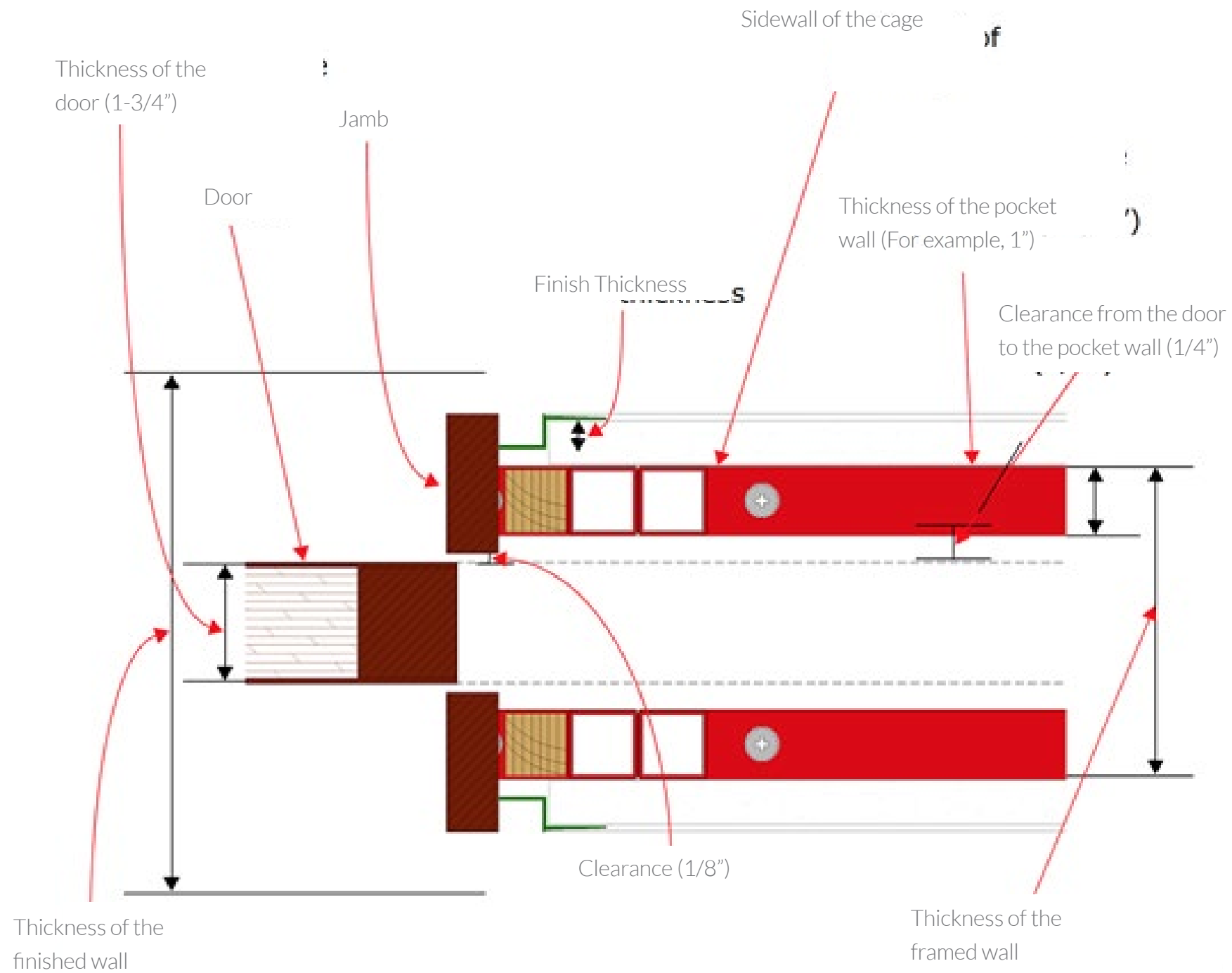
DOORS THAT ARE 7' TALL OR LESS

Doors that are 1 3/4" require a minimum framed wall thickness of 4 1/2" to allow one full inch for the pocket sidewall (a 1" square steel tubing is a great choice). This works great for up to 7 foot doors.

DOORS THAT ARE TALLER THAN 7'

If your doors are taller than 7 feet, we recommend 1-1/2" tubes and a 5 1/2" framed wall thickness.

Figure 2-14:
Pocket wall thicknesses (Plan view)



HEADER, TRACK SUPPORT AND OTHER CONDITIONS

The following table can assist you in your layout.

Figure 2-15: Pocket wall thicknesses

DIMENSION	TYPICAL VALUES
Thickness of the Door	1 – 3/4"
Clearance from the Door to the Trim	1/8"
Clearance from the Door to the Pocket Wall	1/4 – 1/2" More is recommended
Thickness of the Pocket Wall	1 – 1 1/2"
Finish Thickness	3/4 – 1 1/2"
Thickness of the Framed Wall	Minimum 4"
Thickness of the Finish Wall	5 – 1/2"

INSTALLING A POCKET DOOR

Follow these steps to install a pocket door:

1. Lay out the door. See the section “Getting ready” on page 30 for details.
2. Install the plunger guide. This step is described in the section “Getting ready” on page 30.
3. Install the first of the two sidewalls that enclose the pocket door. This step is described in detail in the section “Installing the sidewalls and the track” on page 32.
4. Install the track and blade by attaching them to the framing. (Note: The access hole in the track should be located in the pocket area and not on the strike end of step 5 (show right in figure 3-1). that is not mentioned in the following.) This step is described in the section “Installing the sidewalls and the track” on page 32.
6. Install the second of the two sidewalls. See “Installing the sidewalls and the track” on page 32 for more information.
7. Prep the door. See “Prepping the door” on page 34 for details.
8. Install the door itself by attaching it to the blade encased by the track. See “Installing the door into the track” on page 37 for details.
9. Install all the jambs, including the pocket jambs, the head jamb, and the strike jambs. For more information, see the section “Installing the jambs” on page 39.
10. Install the bumpers. Details of this step are in the section “Installing the door bumpers” on page 40.

Figure 3-1, to the right, shows the steps in order.

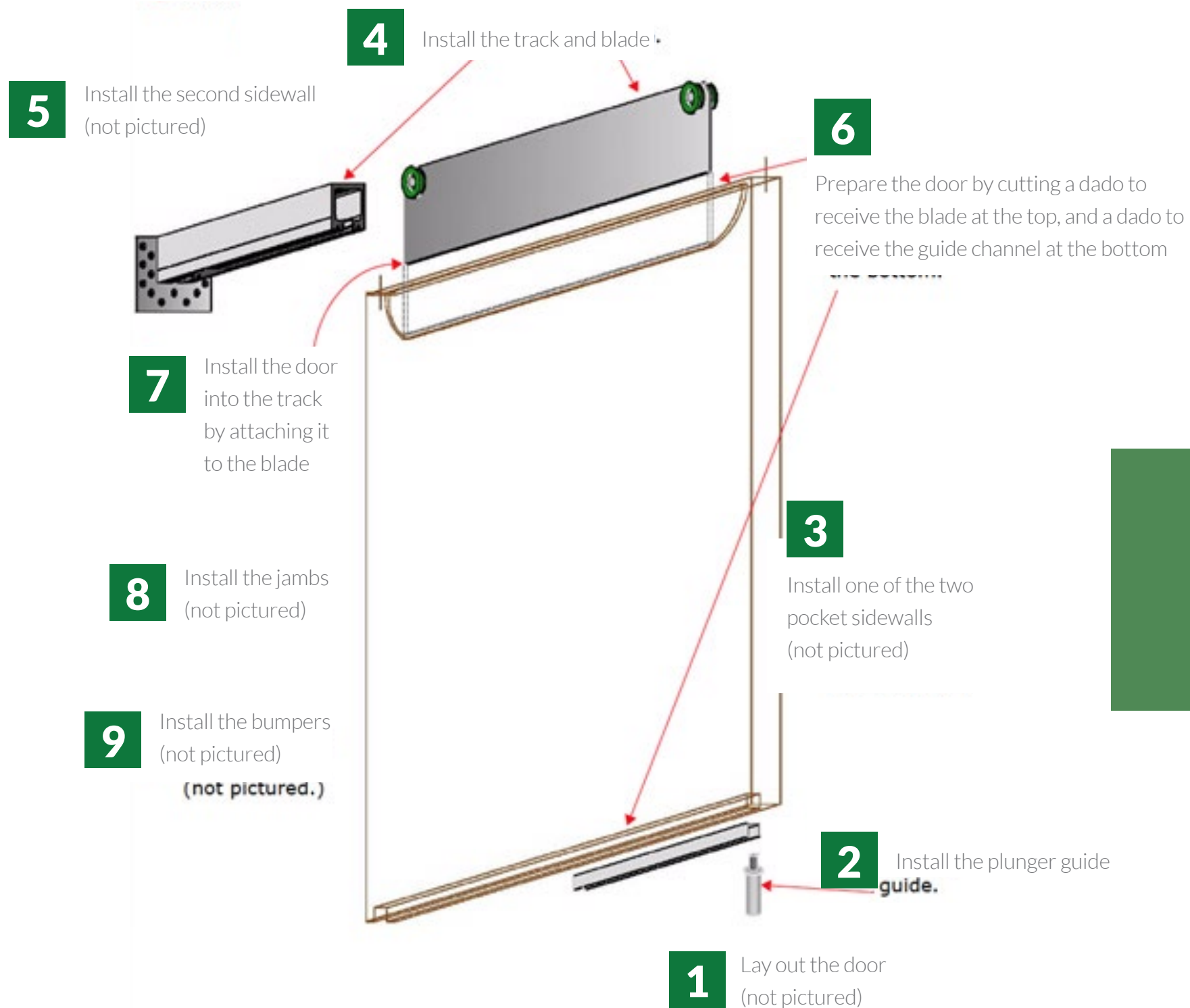
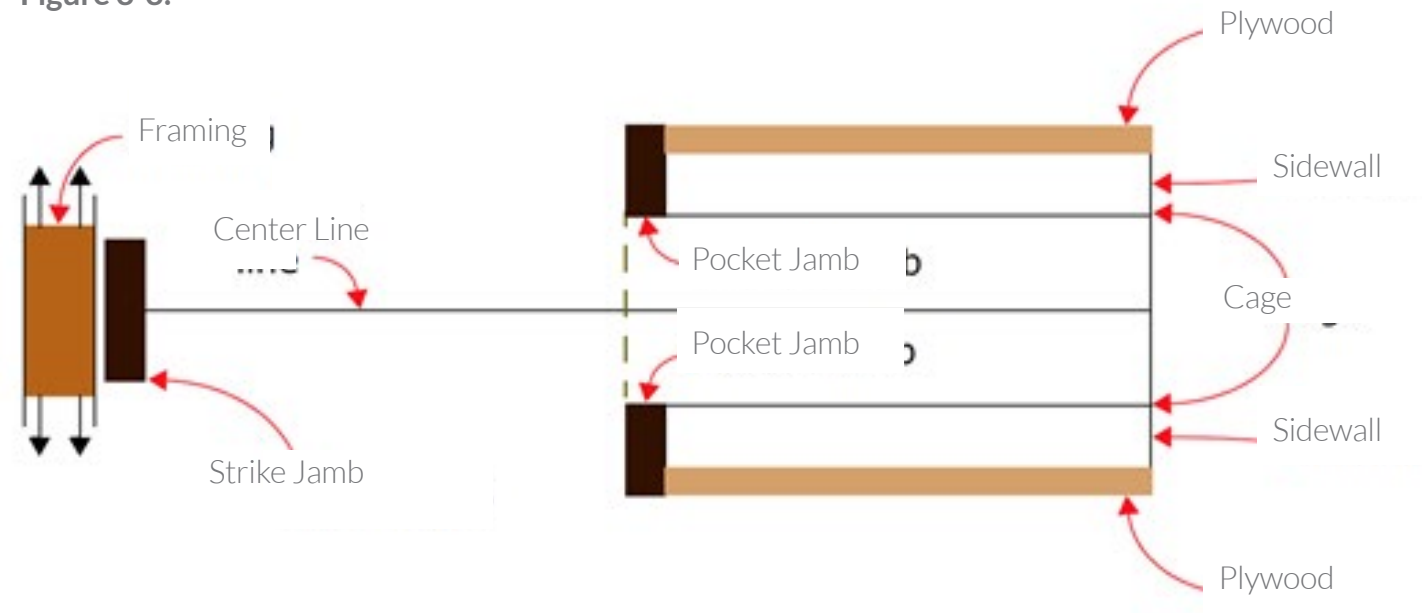


Figure 3-1:
*Steps to install your
pocket door.*

6. *Optional:* If plywood is added to the cage in Step 4 to help attach it to the base, set the location of the cage from the outside of the wall to the thickness of the plywood.

Figure 3-3:



7. Drill the subfloor and place the plunger guide so it is at the height of the finish floor. Center guide in the opening of the pocket 1/2" inside the finish line of the jamb face.

INSTALLING THE SIDE AND THE TRACK

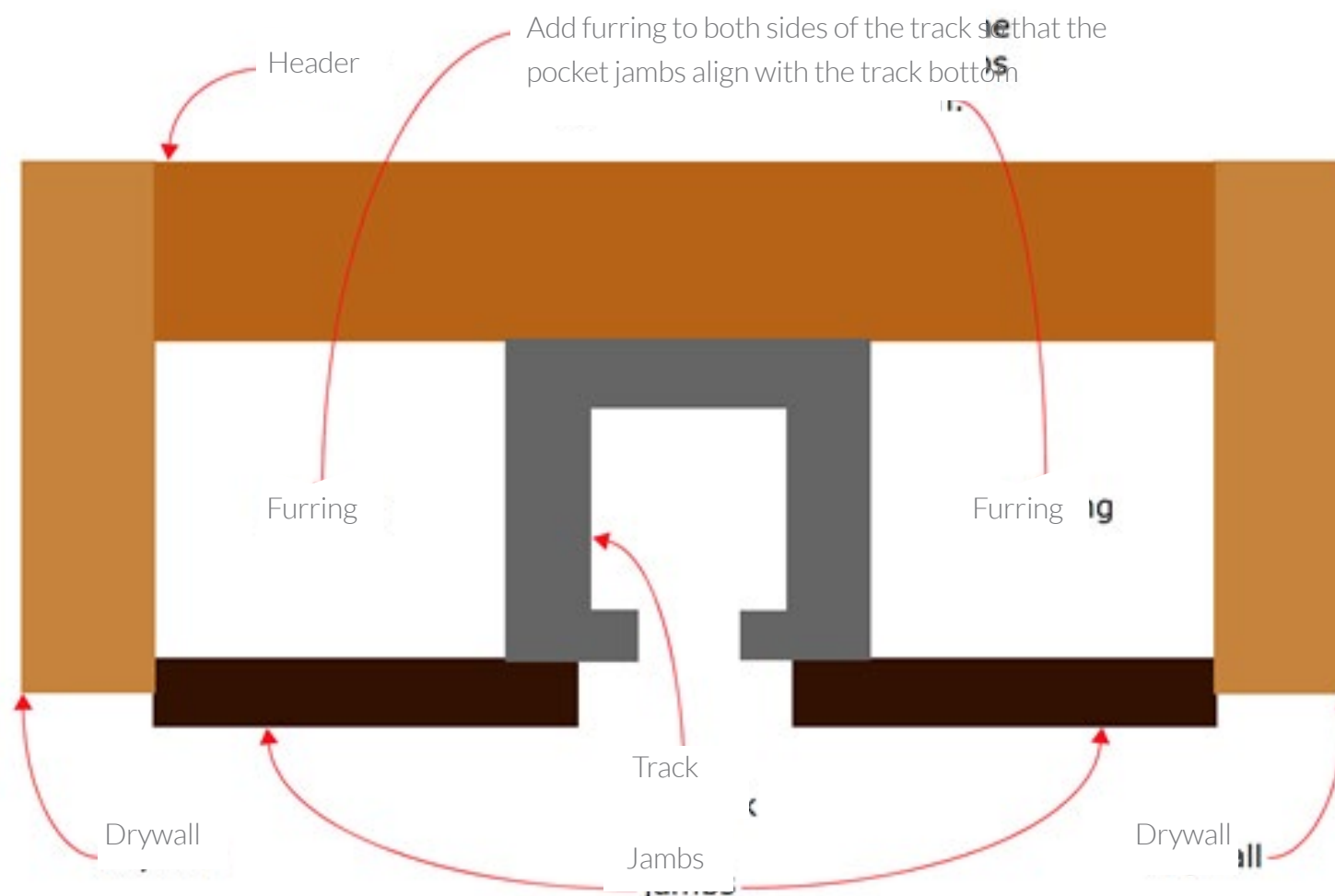
Follow these steps:

1. Set the rolling door track to on the center line between the trimers using the end mounts to level in both directions. (side to side and end to end)
2. Position the pocket frame so it is as the following:
 - plumb (=straight vertically)
 - square (=all angles 90 degrees)
 - parallel with the framing
 - as needed per any other special details
3. Attach one sidewall to the header and the floor with screws.
4. After the first sidewall is installed, plumb the second one to the sidewall installed in the previous step.
5. Check that the center line between the sidewalls for equal space from the track.
6. Install the track field screws so they are just slightly cinched to eliminate deflection:
 - check the level (horizontal) from the header, and
 - plumb (vertical).

Use Phillips #12-#14 flat head screws to support the track from the header.

7. *Optional:* If plywood is added to the pocket frames in Step 4 for wall thickness or to help attach any finish trim you may have to fur the the rest of the wall accordingly.
8. If the track is not level and plumb, it may impede the operation of the sliding operation. .
9. You can install the carrier after the track is installed by drilling a small hole in the carrier blade and feeding it into the access point in the track with an extension pole.
10. Operate the blade to check for binding. Run it back and forth to be sure that there is no noise, rubbing, or scratching.
11. Furr the sides of the track at the opening so that the jamb can attach aligning with the bottom of the track. Furr = adding wood at the sides of the track so that it all aligns properly.

Figure 3-3:



12. Next, trim the opening of the pocket jamb according to the architectural details of the project.
Note: This step varies from door to door. For more information, see the architectural details of the project.

PREPPING THE DOOR

Once the cage and track are installed, per the instructions in the preceding section, “Getting ready, laying out the pocket door, and installing the plunger guide” on page 30, the door can be prepped and installed in the track. Follow these steps to prep the door:

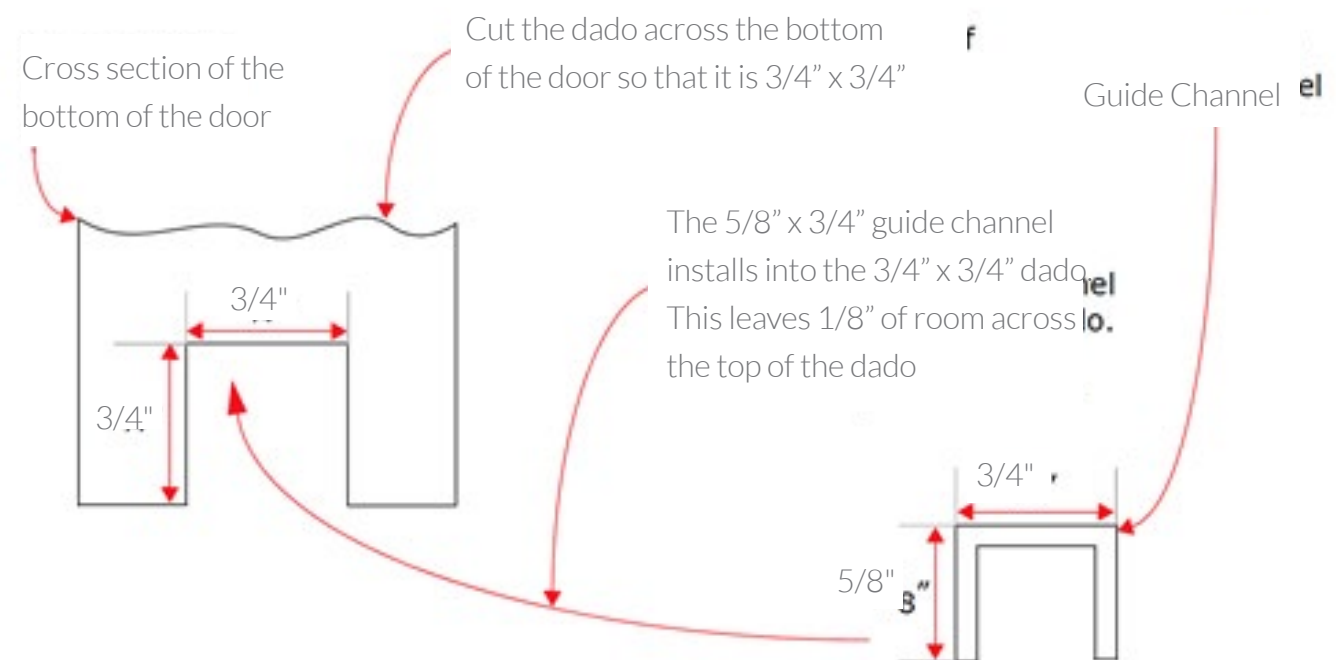
1. Be sure that the door is the correct height. Trim the height of the door, if necessary. For more information, see Chapter 2, “Calculating the dimensions,” on page 17.
2. Rule of thumb = guide channel should be 1" to 1-1/2" longer than the door so it still captures the guide pin when in its closed position. 1/8" to 1/4" of the door remains in the pocket when the door is closed.
3. Next, mortise a 3/4" x 3/4" dado centered in the bottom of the door to receive the guide channel. See Figure 3-6

Note: The guide channel is 3/4" x 5/8"

Figure 3-6:

Cross section of the bottom of the trailing edge of the door, with the dado that receives the guide channel. Cut the dado 3/4" x 3/4".

Note: Do not cut the 3/4" x 3/4" dado all the way across the bottom of the door. Leave a 1/2" of wood so that the channel is not seen from the outside of the door.



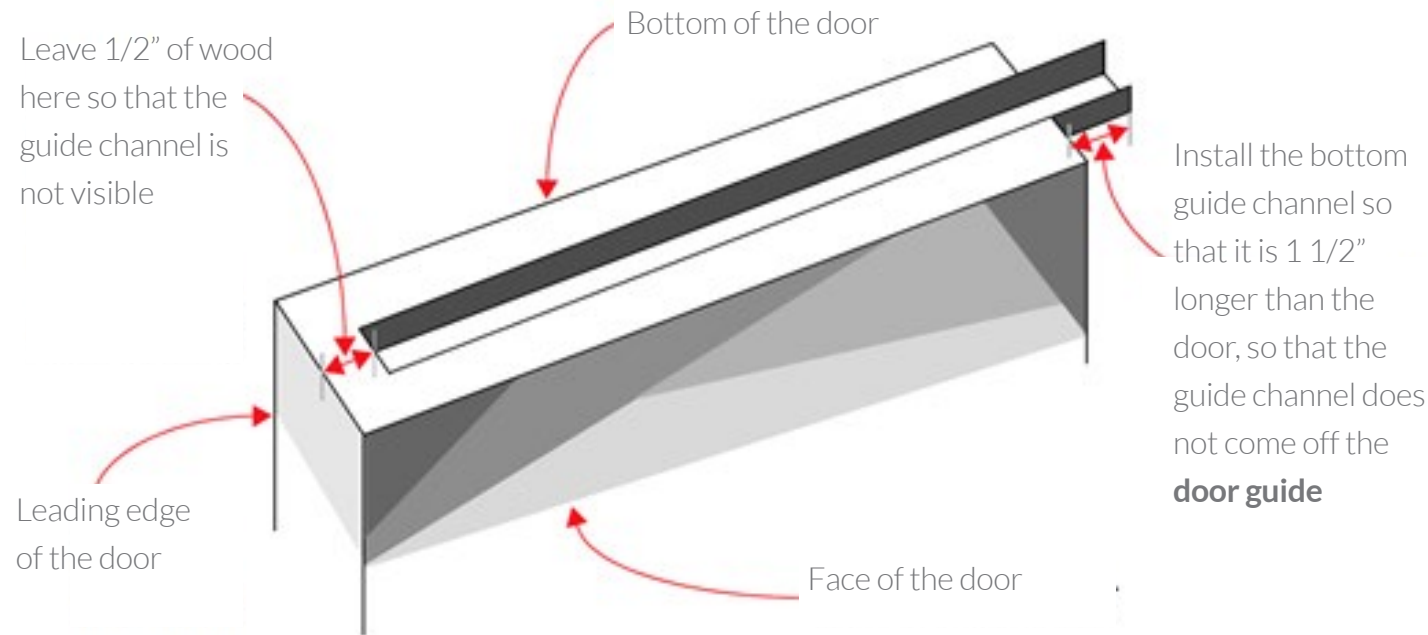


Figure 3-7:
*Cross section of the
bottom of the door.*

4. Install the guide channel in the bottom of the door so that it is 1 1/2" longer than the door. The guide channel is 3/4" x 5/8"

Note: Install the guide channel so that it is 1-1/2" longer so it always captures the guide pin.

4. Next, mortise the dado that receives the blade, at the top of the door. Just as in Step 3, be sure to leave 1/2" of wood intact at the end of the door, so that the blade is not seen from the outside of the door.

The blade is 4" less than the width of the door.

2 and 1/2" +/- 1/4" by 5/16"

Figure 3-8:

Cross section of the top of the trailing edge of the door, with the dado that receives the blade. Cut the dado so that it is centered at the top of the door, and so that it is 2-1/2" +/- 1/4" by 5/16".

Note: When cutting the dado that receives the blade, be sure to leave 1/2" of wood intact at the end of the door, so that the blade is not seen from the outside of the door. This is shown in Figure 3-9, next.

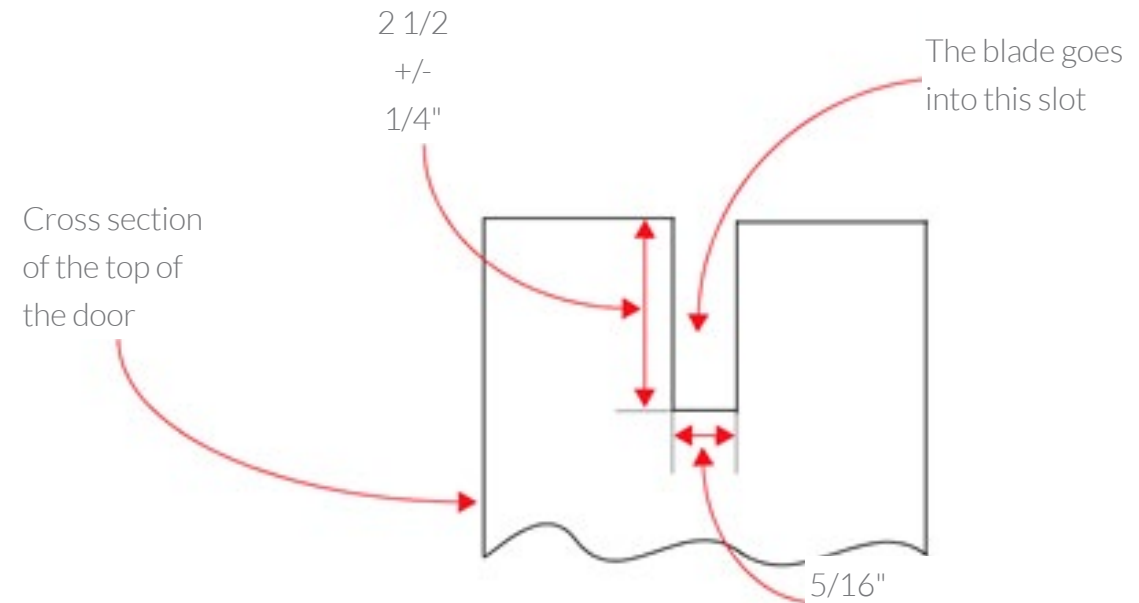
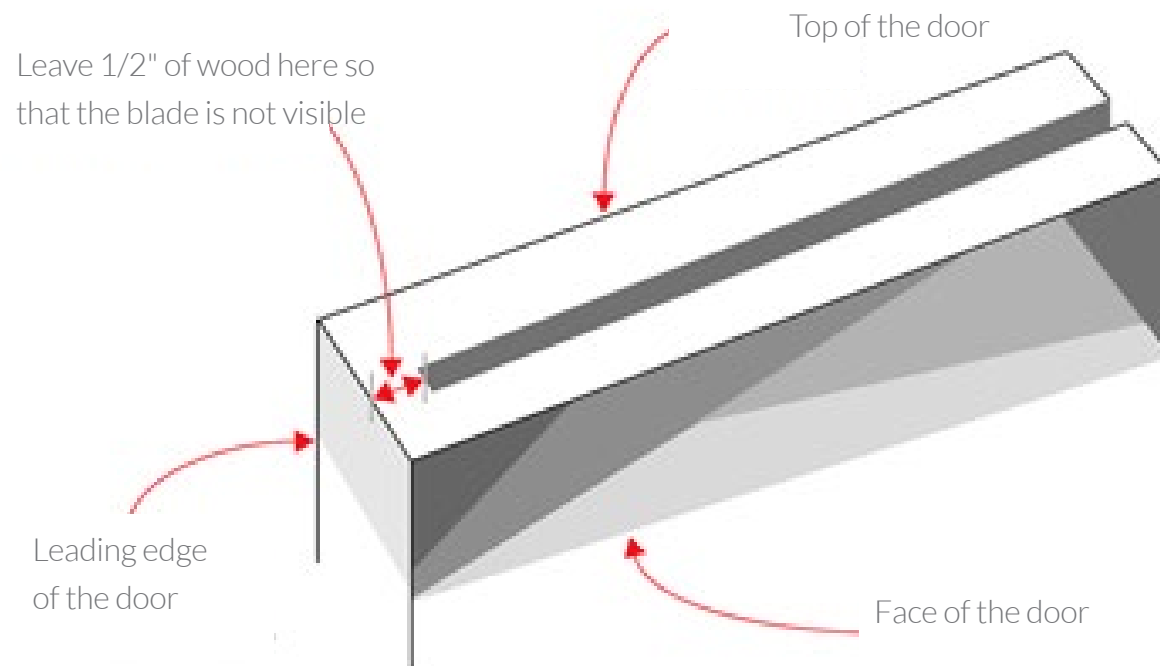


Figure 3-9:

Cross section of the top of the door.



INSTALLING THE DOOR INTO THE TRACK

1. Once the door is prepped:
2. Be sure that the blade is in the track.
3. Be sure that the plunger guide pin is in the floor. If it is not there, install the plunger guide in the floor.
4. Next, shim the door in its opening so that it is plumb with the desired gaps at the header. Use construction shimming to temporarily shim the door in the desired location..
5. Pull the blade in the track through the dado cut into the top part of the door to its desired location. Refer to Figure 3-10
6. Drill and tap holes for the screws at minimum and maximum locations from the top of the door. Generally on a slab book door the top internal rail will be 1-1/4" so you would stay well within that area to fasten.
7. Apply the screws in the locations created in <Step 5> so that the door attaches to the blade. There are two screws per section of carriers. In the case of multiple carriers we would still recommend two per section.
8. There are three different sizes of carrier blades. 4", 5", 6" increments when you have different finish conditions.
9. We offer multi-carriers for a greater variety of widths and weights. They are aligned with horizontal pins to insure they remain straight and secure.

USE THIS PAGE FOR FIELD NOTES

INSTALLING THE JAMBS

Install all the jambs, including the pocket jambs, the head jamb, and the strike jambs. Install the pocket jambs so that, when the door is all the way in the pocket, the leading edge of the door lines up vertically with the pocket. Follow these steps to:

1. Install the jamb stops (pocket jambs) on the trim part of the door.

Install the pocket jambs so when the door is all the way in the pocket, the pocket jambs line up vertically with the leading edge of the door.

Note: This is considered in the layout in Step 5 of “Getting ready, laying out the pocket door, and installing the plunger guide” and is shown in Figure 3-2.

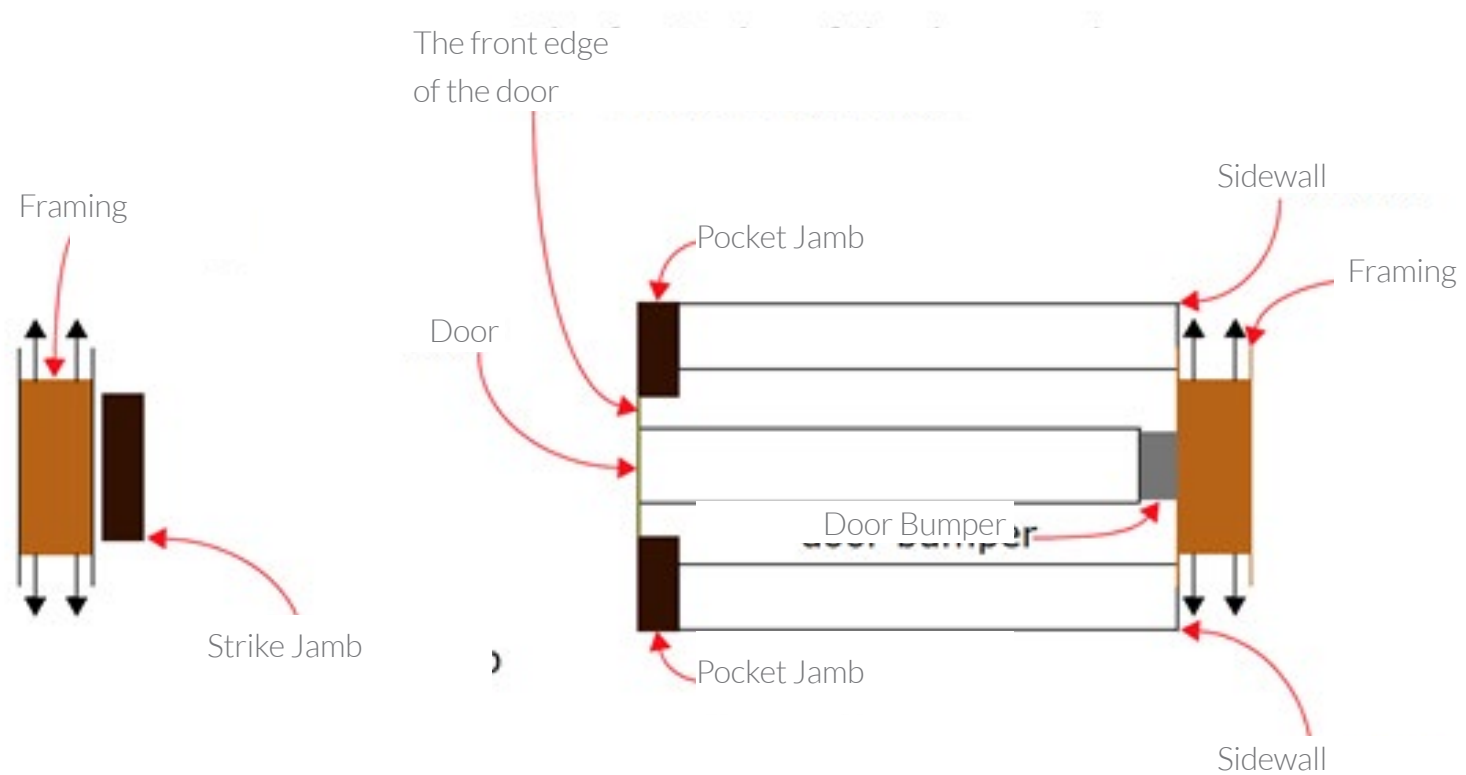
2. Install the strike jamb according to the architectural details of the door or project. Make sure the strike jamb aligns with the door in the closed position
3. Install the head jamb according to the architectural details of the door or project. Make sure the door operates freely and has the adequate clearance from the head jamb. This is usually 1/8"
4. Remove any construction shimming still on the door, including the construction shimming installed in Step 3.
5. Some minor adjustment to the jamb and trim parts can be made at this time.

INSTALLING THE DOOR BUMPERS

The final step is to install the door bumpers. Do this after installing the track and blade, both sidewalls, and the door itself. These can be adjusted to align the leading edge of the door with the pocket jamb to a perfect flush and parallel application.

1. Attach the door bumper so that the front of the door is flush and evenly spaced between the pocket jams attached to the sidewalls. This metric depends on the size of the door and the placement of the pocket jams.
rubber bump stop = door stop = door bumper. Furr according to jamb stop placement.

Figure 3-12:



2. Install in a straight line with the door and the pocket jams.

OTHER POSSIBILITIES

- Angles
- Barn Door
- Rolling Door,
- Glass
- Metal
- Single, Double, or Triple Door
- Pocket on both sides
- Doors with Transom Glass
- Bypass Doors
- 90° Doors

MULTIPLE DOORS

Single door, single pocket

Double door, single pocket

Triple door, single pocket

Pocket on both sides



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Tektrim for questions about Tektrim products or how to install them. For more information, see the Tektrim Website or Contact Tektrim directly.

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