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Mortising a Door for Hinges



Follow these tips and instructions on how to mortise a door for hinges. Following these instructions can save you time and effort, while helping you to end up with a neater more satisfactory installation.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Pencil
Square
Marking Gauge
Wood Chisel
Wood Chisel Hammer

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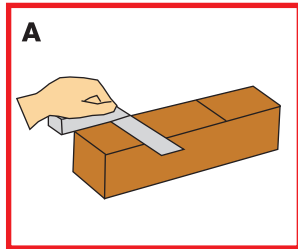
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MORTISING A DOOR FOR HINGES

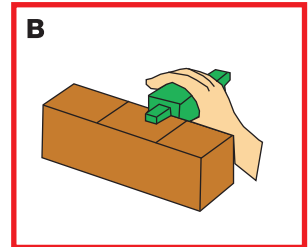
The first step in hanging a door is determining whether it is to be hung right-hand or left-hand. A right-hand door means the hinge is added to the right side, while a left-hand door means the hinge is on the left side.

Be sure to determine which type of hinges are needed before you begin.

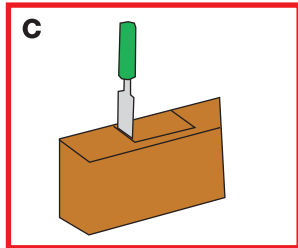
Use a small square to mark the location of the hinge on the door (A).



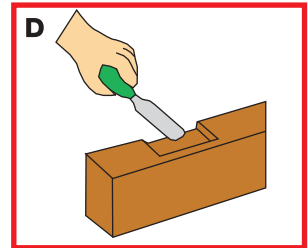
Use a marking gauge to indicate the area of the door that the hinge will not cover. This area is referred to as the setback (B).



Use a chisel and rubber or plastic hammer to score the marked area. Be sure the chisel is sharp and the correct size (C).



Remove the wood you have cut away. A sharp chisel will make this job go much faster, easier and a lot safer. After you have made the recess to the proper depth and smoothed it with the chisel, you are ready to mount the hinge (D).



Next, make shallow cuts as deep as the hinge leaf is thick. Tap the chisel lightly for better control of the cuts.

Use a nail punch or a drill to start the screw holes. Fix the leaf of the hinge tightly into place on the door with a good screwdriver. Use counter-sunk screws.

Position the door and hinges in the frame making sure that the vertical position is correct. If need be put spacers under the door. Mark the position of the hinges on the door jamb.

Remove door and follow steps A - D above for the jamb. Apply the same procedure to fix the door to the jamb.

After the door is done, swing it a few times to check for alignment. Make any adjustments necessary to the door and the hinges for proper positioning. In some cases, a door may need light planing or sanding in a few spots. In other cases, the hinges may need slight adjustments for proper alignment.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BUILD IT STORE.

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