Hanging a Door in an Existing Jamb

CHECK THE ROUGH OPENING

Make sure your door is going to fit into the opening. Measure the height of the opening, and then measure the width at both the top and the bottom







REMOVE HARDWARE

Working from the back of the door, take out the doorknob and existing lockset. Start with the bottom hinge and work your way up, remove the pins holding the hinge knuckles together. Using both hands, lift the door off the hinge knuckles. Remove the door knuckles, but leave the wall knuckles attached to the jamb (they must be left on or your door will align properly).

TRIM AND CUT THE NEW DOOR TO SIZE

Place new door on the old door to measure how much to trim from the new door. Align doors, ensuring they are flush. Trace the Door using a pencil. Set aside the old door and slowly and safely cut or plane the new door to size.

CUT-OUT HINGE MORTISE

Copy your hinge mortise, lock set mortises, and door hole outlines from the old door to the new door. Use a combination square to lay out your mortises, making sure that you're transferring the proper width and height of the outlines. Score the Outer Edges using a utility knife with a sharp blade, score the outer edges of your mortise outlines. This will help you avoid tear-out when you begin to work with your chisel. Make straight, deep score lines and be careful not to mar the finish on your door. Make Perpendicular Cut-lines. Start by making cut-lines perpendicular to the grain of the door. Hammer down to the depth of your hinge knuckle's mounting plate. You'll want that plate to be flush with the doors edge. Mortise and Repeat with your chisel's beveled edge flat against the door's edge, gently tap to remove material within your score marks. You want to make a nice flat surface for your hinge to lay into. Go slowly and test-fit your hinge a few times until you get it mounted flush. If you accidentally go too far, you can place a thin wooden shim under your hinge to bring it back flush with the edge of the door. Repeat the mortising process for the other hinge along with the lockset.

DRILL DOOR HOLES

Use a hole saw that is the correct diameter for your knob to gently drill out the hole for the knob. Then, using a spade bit, you'll drill a hole through the lock set mortise into the knob's hole. Make sure not to penetrate the back edge of the knob hole. At this point, you can apply paint or finish to your door if desired.

INSTALL YOUR ACCESSORIES

Install your hinge knuckles, lock set and door knobs. Drill pilot holes for your hinge hardware so that you don't accidentally split the door's edge.

HANG YOUR DOOR

Hang your new door and test-fit everything. If your door sticks, make a mark on the edges where it's not closing flush. You'll need to take the door back down and shave some material off using your hand-plane until the door opens and closes freely. If your knob and lock set are loose, you can bend the striker plate outward slightly, or unscrew the knob and make any necessary adjustments until your door is opening and closing freely. Once your door is properly adjusted, you can re-insert any remaining hinge pins and install any other decorative hardware or door stops.