

## FITTING GUIDE: 10.2 FITTING FRENCH DOOR SHUTTERS

### SUPPLIED IN THE BOX

(end of the frame boxes)

- **Frame screws** - For fixing the frame to the window
- **Hinge screws** - For final fixing of the hinges
- **Hinge packers** - For final adjustment if required
- **Hinge pins** - To connect the shutters together
- **Interlocking keys** - To connect the frame together
- **Touch up paint** - Just in case! (Not supplied with Standard MDF shutters.)

### TOOLS REQUIRED

(Not supplied)

- **Hammer** - Tapping the insert strips into place
- **Suitable drill** – Screwing the frame into position
- **PH2 screw bit** - The best size bit to use
- **3mm Pilot Drill** – For final hinge screws (optional)
- **4-5mm pilot drill** - For frame pilot holes
- **Saw** - For cutting the window sill or battens
- **Chisel or multitool** - Cutting the window sill
- **Tape measuring** - For measuring

### Step 1: Measuring the sill cut out



Before assembling the centre frame check if you think it can be lifted in between the dwarf walls as one frame, if not you may have to leave the bottom frame disconnected and connect together in place.

Screwing the frame corners together on French doors is recommended (if you fit the frame in one piece).

**Measuring** - Check the level of the dwarf walls and adjust your measuring accordingly. Assuming these walls are upright and level, measure how far the window sill protrudes past the wall. Mark a line on top of the sill to indicate where the wall below finishes, do this both sides.

Take the top or bottom section of the left, centre, and right shutter frames and place them on the window sill in the position you measured them. The centre frame should fit between the two marks. Refer back to the templates you made if required. Laying the frames out will allow you to see clearly where the sill needs to be cut and the relevant clearance gaps.

If you have measured correctly, you should have 5-6mm clearance at each end of the centre frame and dwarf wall marks. This clearance creates the shadow gap between the dwarf wall and shutter frame below the sill. There should another 5-6mm clearance at the very far left and far right of the side frames where they meet the wall. If you have allowed for an infill between the frames there will be a larger gap between the side and centre frames which should be the size of the infill.

Mark around the end of the centre frame on the window sill in pencil, this will indicate how much you will need to cut away. You will need to allow 1-2mm clearance between your lines and where you actually cut, how much exactly will depend on the frame depth, the sill overhang, frame style and how confident you are. This extra clearance will allow you fit the frame in place and make small adjustments to ensure the shutters can be aligned.

The only part of the cutting you really see is at the front where the insert strip fits, you can see this from the photos so make sure this cut is straight and neat, and if possible, curve the end a little rather than cutting it dead square as the corners of the shutter frames are curved.

**Skirting** - If you have ordered cut outs, you don't need to worry about the skirting board, the frame will sit over the top. When there are no cut outs, the skirting board will need to be cut or removed.

Follow the 14.4 specialist guide on removing skirting board.

## Step 2: Cutting the sill



Cut out the section of window sill, here are a few suggestions:

**By hand** - Use a 4-5mm drill bit and drill a series of holes along the line you can not reach with a saw, position the holes so the edge of the drill bit does not overlap your marked line. Drill the holes with 2mm clearance between each one. Use a tenon saw and cut along the accessible line stopping 3mm short of where the first hole starts. You want to leave this corner rounded. Using a chisel, cut along the marked line 3mm from the corner and do the same from underneath the sill, but only gently otherwise you could start to knock the sill off. Cutting slightly underneath will help prevent the sill splitting. Use a 10mm chisel or similar and work your way along the line, you will find the pre-drilled holes help with chipping the sill away.

**Electric** - If you have a multi tool cutter you can use this to cut along the marked lines, this will make quick easy work of cutting the window sill.

**Fitting the frames** - Lift the centre door frame into position, you may not be able to lift the frame in as one piece, depending on if you have skirting or cut outs and how far the sill protrudes, and how high your ceiling is. You may need to bend the frame in slightly so if fits between the sill, remove the bottom section of frame (if already assembled) and re-fit this piece once the frame is in place. Level the frame up and wedge it into position.

Lift the side frames into place, level and wedge these into position. Make sure the tops of the frames are all inline and that the frames look equally spaced within the recess.

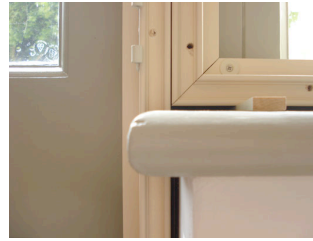
## Step 3: Fitting the infill



If you have an infill, fit this between the side and centre frames. You will need to drill some pilot holes sideways through the frames, screws are not provided for this as the infill is only supplied as an extra. Decide if the infill is being fitted flush with the front of the frames or being set back. Cut to length if required, infills are usually ordered the same height as the side frames. Make sure the frame heights are level when fitting the infill.

If needed the infill can be planned or adjusted to suit the angle of the French doors if they are out of level. In some cases 2 or 3 different size infills should be ordered to allow flexibility, so choose the correct size infill that makes the best equal shadow gap all round the frames.

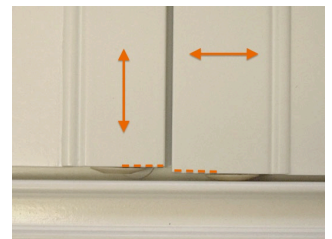
## Step 4: Connecting the frames



When there is no infill, screw the 3 frames together.

Drill some pilot holes through the frame sides, line up the tops of the frame and screw them together. Screws are not provided for this.

## Step 5: Fitting the shutters



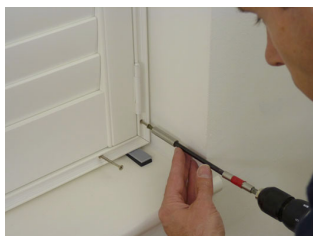
Check the frame is wedged in tight and will not fall forward.

Lift the shutters into their frames and connect the hinge pins, square up the frames and shutters together by adjusting the wedges in and out and moving the frame sideways.

Check the shutters open and close within their own frames neatly, the panel feet should just rub on the bottom of the frames and there should be an even gap between the frame and shutters all round.

Remember the hinges are adjustable and can be moved up and down if required. Using a small flat crow bar is useful as the three frames can be heavy to adjust.

## Step 6: Fixing the frame



Check you have enough window frame to screw into, you may need to re-drill your own pilot holes at an angle or in line with a window mullion to ensure they have something to fix into, if possible use a long extension bit to ensure the chuck of the drill does not mark the wall.

Check the shutters still operate correctly, before screwing the last small hinge screws into place. These are self tapping screws. Some materials can be harder than others so to avoid the drill slipping a 3mm pilot hole can be drilled first.

## Step 7: Finishing touches



Replace the insert strips into the frame to cover the screw heads.

With Standard MDF shutters they snap into place, push hard or tap in with a hammer using some cardboard to protect the finish.

With wooden shutters they have sticky pads to keep them in place, remove the backing and push into place, tap with a hammer if tight using some cardboard as protection again.

### The final and most important step!

*'Take some photos of your finished shutters and email them to me along with a some comments about my service, website and shutters you received, I would love to hear from you'*

*Regards Sam*

*Please share*

