

How To Replace Your Kitchen Doors



A complete DIY guide to door replacement in kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, caravans, boats, in fact almost anywhere

By Robert Clark
founder of Kitchen Door Workshop



www.kitchendoorworkshop.co.uk

Introduction

When my wife Lis and I set up Kitchen Door Workshop in 1996, the internet was not widely used, and the idea of replacing just your kitchen doors to give the room a make-over was still relatively new. Until then, if you wanted to give your kitchen a new lease of life, you had to go through the mess and financial stress of ripping the whole thing out and starting again.

Lis and I believed that replacement kitchen doors were the ideal way for people to refresh their kitchens by simply replacing doors and drawer fronts, you could transform the room without changing its structure and layout. Armed with little more than enthusiasm, we set up our replacement door fitting service in Hailsham, East Sussex.

Over the years, the business grew and grew. But as house prices rocketed and it became easier to acquire bank loans, people preferred to borrow money against the future value of their homes in order to fit new kitchens, rather than making smaller changes like replacing doors.

Then the financial crisis hit. House prices started to fall, and it became harder to secure loans. Uncertainty about the future value of property and a lack of job security meant people thought twice before starting costly renovations. They were looking for more affordable, sustainable alternatives, and were prepared to do the work themselves.

This revived interest in replacement kitchen doors coincided with a boom in online shopping, so we launched our website. And we wanted to help our customers at every step of the process, from measuring their units to fitting their new doors, so we produced a DIY handbook and a series of 'how-to' videos. Looking back, the quality of the first videos we made was amateur to say the least, but they gave people the skills and confidence they needed to have a go at replacing their own doors.

In writing this book I wanted to bring together the latest versions of our 'how to' guides, into one handy manual, which takes you step by step, through the complete process of measuring and fitting your new doors, using just basic tools and DIY skills.

I hope that you find it useful.

Robert Clark
Managing Director
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www.kitchendoorworkshop.co.uk

When carrying out any DIY project, safety should always be your first priority and care should be always be taken to use tools safely and to wear protective clothing, glasses and ear protection where required.

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How to measure doors and drawer fronts

Draw a plan

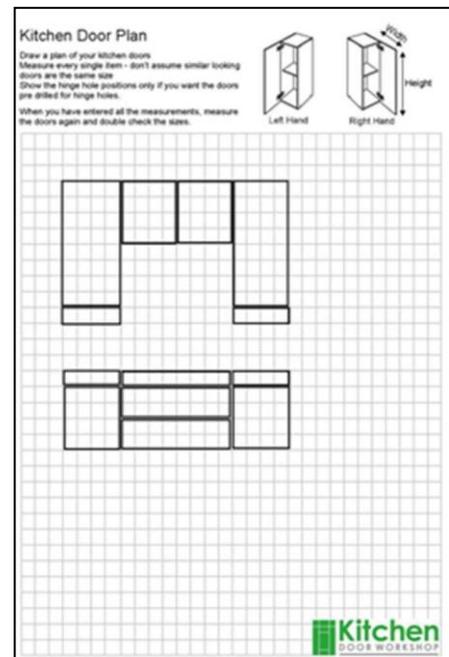
Draw a plan of the layout of your kitchen doors, like the one opposite. This will help you to keep track of the number of items you'll need.

Double-check the number of doors

Once you have drawn your plan, take a moment to double-check the number of doors you have in your kitchen and make sure you have the same number on your plan!

Do you have standard sized doors?

Standard sized doors tend to be slightly cheaper than made to measure doors, but we offer both. If your doors are only 1-2mm different to a standard size, it may be best to opt for standard doors, rather than made to measure doors.



Tip: measure the doors, not the units

Doors tend to be slightly smaller than the cabinet they are attached to, so measure the doors themselves, rather than the cabinets.

For example: if a cabinet is 500mm wide, the door on it will be approximately 4mm narrower, making it 496mm.

If you order 500mm doors, you'll have trouble opening and closing them as they won't sit comfortably side by side.

Where to measure your doors

Measure the back of the door rather than the front, as the front may have a profiled or rounded edge, which makes it harder to get an accurate measurement.

Measure the height first, then the width, and make a note of the sizes on your door plan.



Measure every door and drawer individually

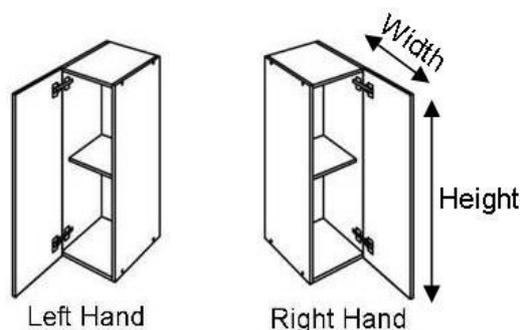
Doors don't come with drawer fronts attached, the images on our website are produced to show you what the doors and drawer fronts of each style look like when purchased and fitted together. If you need both doors and drawer fronts, be sure to measure and order each item separately.

Tip: always measure in mm, not cm or inches

When ordering your doors, always measure in mm. When processing your order, we can only accept measurements in mm and cannot convert measurements for you.

Left hand or right hand doors?

Check which way your doors will need to open, as this will help you work out where the hinge holes will need to be drilled.



Hinge hole positions

If you need hinge holes in your new doors, you'll need to specify their measurements and positions. We recommend measuring and checking the hinge hole positions on every door individually, to ensure you get them drilled correctly.

How to measure hinge hole positions

The standard diameter of a hinge hole is 35mm.

Measure from the top of the door to the centre of the top hinge hole, and then from the bottom of the door to the centre of the bottom hinge hole.

Don't worry about the distance from the edge of the door to the hole or the depth of the hinge hole.



How to measure for multiple hinge hole positions

If you have doors with three hinge hole positions, measure from the top of the door to the middle of the centre hinge hole.

If you have doors with four hinge holes, measure the top two holes from the top of the door and group them together, then measure the bottom two holes from the bottom of the door and group them together.



Check your hinges & drawer boxes

It's worth looking at the quality of your existing hinges and drawer boxes when ordering new doors. If any hinges are a bit wobbly or your drawer boxes have seen better days, now's probably a good time to replace them.

There are two hinge options, depending on how far you need the door to open:

- 110 degrees when open
- 165 degrees when open



110 degree hinge



165 degree hinge

If you're replacing your hinges, we need to know the thickness of the cabinet, as this will determine which hinge backplates you'll need. Cabinets are usually one of two thicknesses:

- 15mm
- 18mm

Measuring drawer fronts

Measuring drawer fronts is basically the same as measuring doors. Remember to measure the back of the drawer front if possible.

When a drawer front becomes a door

Any drawer fronts that are 283mm high or larger (big pan drawers, for example) will be styled as a door rather than a drawer front. This is quite normal and is shown in the images on our website.

Doors and drawer fronts that are especially shallow may not have room for a central pattern. The minimum size for inclusion of a central pattern varies between door styles, but generally, doors below 296mm wide will be manufactured with plain centres, rather than patterned centres. The product specification of your chosen style will tell you the minimum width to include a central design.

Calculating drawer front sizes

Some common questions we get asked are:

- 'How do I calculate drawer front sizes?'
- 'If I'm putting a set of drawers where there are not currently any drawers, how do I measure them?'
- 'How do I know which size of drawers make up a drawer pack for a given unit size?'

For 720mm cabinets, on the cabinets page of our website, you'll find a list of standard drawer size combinations that make up two, three and four drawer packs.

Visit www.kitchendoorworkshop.co.uk/kitchen-cabinets for more information.

If your cabinet is not a standard height, or one drawer front needs to be a non-standard height to match others in the kitchen, then you can use standard height drawer fronts, and just a custom sized drawer front at the top or bottom as required.



Tip: leave space between drawer fronts

Remember to always allow a 3mm gap between drawer fronts to give you the space to adjust them.

We often get asked, “how do I work out what size doors I need if the unit doesn’t currently have doors?”

In simple terms, assuming that the cabinet sides are either 15 or 18mm thick, all you need to do for a single door cabinet is to measure the overall width of the cabinet and deduct 4mm.



If it’s a double door cabinet, take the overall width of the unit, divide that by 2, then deduct 4mm from that number to give you the width of both doors.

Panels above and below ovens

Another place where a drawer front can be used is above or below an oven. These panels are drawer fronts and are usually 115mm high x 596mm wide, but do check the size before ordering. You can use a panel rather than a drawer front, but if you choose to order a panel then bear in mind that it will be plain, rather than having drawer front pattern of your chosen style.



Tip: buy a sample door before placing your final order

Want to know exactly what your chosen door style will look like before you place your complete order? Order a sample door in your chosen colour and style to see how your new doors will look in real life.

Handle holes

Unfortunately, we're unable to deliver your doors with handle holes already drilled. However, we have a handle hole drilling jig available for purchase which makes the job a lot easier for you and ensures your handle positions are the same on every door. On page 28 of this guide you'll find our hints and tips for fitting handles.



Tip: drill handle holes from the front of the door

When drilling handle holes on doors or drawer fronts, always drill from front to back, as this will ensure your handles will be fixed in the right place. Place a small piece of wood behind the door or drawer front to ensure a clean hole is drilled.

Do you need heat deflectors?

Heat deflectors are a good way to help prevent damage to the edges of your doors caused by heat from appliances like ovens and dishwashers. Heat deflectors are quick and easy to fit, they simply screw on to the edge of any cabinet. We have a video guide on how to fit heat deflectors on the Videos & Guides page of our website.



Tip: before you order, double-check measurements

Once you have measured all the doors once, it's a good idea to double-check by measuring again. A common saying in carpentry is "measure twice, cut once".

Don't assume that all the hinge holes are the same on all your doors, double-check the hinge hole positions on every door.

Get your quote online, over the phone or by email

Using your measurements, make a complete list of all the items you need to order. Once you have completed the materials list you can get a quote via our website, give us a call on 01825 765041, email hello@kitchendoorworkshop.com or visit our showroom.

L-shaped corner cupboard doors

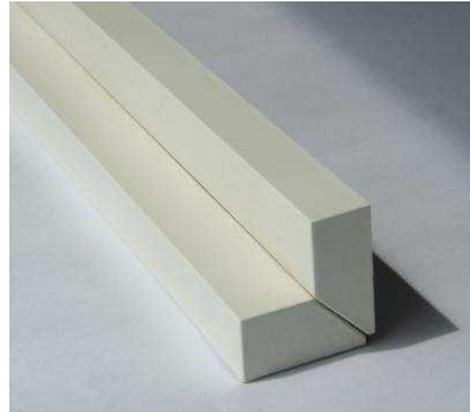
L-shaped corner units have two doors, and there's a few different ways you can fit them. In this section, we guide you through the options.

1) Using a corner post

The most common way of fitting doors to an L-shaped unit is to have two separate doors. You open one, then the other. These are usually spaced apart with a corner post that can be attached to one of the doors.

We supply corner posts in two sizes when measured from the back:

- 720 x 30mm x 30mm
- 720 x 40mm x 40mm



If your existing corner post is one of those sizes and the height is 720mm then you can just replace it with a corner post from our range of accessories.

If the corner post that you currently have is a different size, then you can make your own from off cuts of plinth. You could also simply remove the corner post completely and join the two doors with L-shaped corner unit hinges which we'll look at overleaf.

2) Using a piano hinge

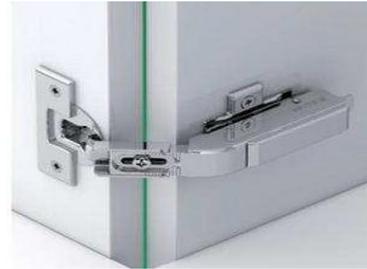
The second type of corner door arrangement is where the doors are joined together with a piano hinge. If you want this type of hinge fixing, it's a good idea to have the door edges where the piano hinge will be attached made with square edges, as opposed to profiled edges (there's no additional charge for this). When ordering square edge doors, please be sure to specify to us which side of each door is to be made with the square edge.

3) Using two doors hinged together

The third option for doors on L-shaped units is to have two doors hinged together, so they open together at the same time. One door is attached to the cabinet with 165 degree hinges and the second door is fixed to the first door with an L-shaped corner unit hinge.



165 degree hinge



L-shaped corner unit hinge

The L-shaped hinge backplate attaches to the adjacent door in the same way it would attach to a cabinet, the fixing holes are 37mm back from the edge of the door. You'll find our guide on fitting hinges on page 36.

How to calculate the two door sizes

Begin by measuring from the face of the cabinet to the outer edge (the size of the opening plus the thickness of the cabinet side panel). From this measurement deduct 20mm. This will give you the width of the door required.



So, if the measurement is 340mm, we would deduct 20mm and order a door 320mm wide. Measure both sides of the cabinet individually, don't assume they're the same size.

Please note, these instructions are for cupboard doors with a thickness of 18mm.

Drawer fronts in tight corners

What is a tight corner?

A tight corner is created when a corner unit is fitted without a corner post to separate the two drawers that are perpendicular to each other.



Consider your handle style

Handleless drawers are one way of solving this problem, as one drawer can slide smoothly past the other. If you've got handles on your drawers, however, you may only be able to open one drawer a little before it hits the other drawer's handle, and vice versa. So consider the design of handle you're going to fit on the drawer fronts. Large, chunky handles will cause the drawers to clash, while slim bar, bow or small round handles fixed to the centre of your drawers will allow them to open that little bit further.

Move the units to add a corner post

Can you move the units along a little and add in a corner post? It's not always possible, and it is a little more work, but inserting a corner post will space out the drawers so they'll open with no trouble whatsoever.

Create a false drawer front

Another alternative is to remove one of the drawer boxes completely and attach a false drawer front to the door below it. If you've got enough storage space to lose one drawer, this is a relatively easy solution to the problem. You won't need to attach handles to a false drawer front, so the other drawer will be able to open and close properly.

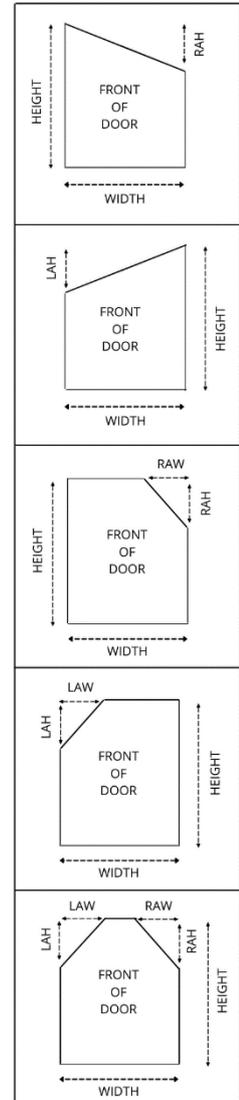
How to measure sloping doors

It's easier than you think

When it comes to ordering sloping doors, you'll need to tell us the maximum height, width, and whether the door will have any glass panels in it. You'll also need to let us know the RAH or/and RAW for right hand doors, and for left hand doors the LAH and/or LAW (see right).

No need to worry about angles

Obtaining a sloping door is very straightforward – just complete the relevant boxes our website with the various measurements (see right), and we'll do the rest.



Panels, vinyl & corner posts

End panels

If you want to change the colour at the end of your units you've got two options:

- 1) You can apply a panel
- 2) You can use self-adhesive vinyl. This option is especially useful if you don't have room for any extra thickness at the end of the unit.

What are panels made from?

Panels are made from the same material as our doors. The front of the panel will match the front of your doors, and the back of the panel will match the back of your doors.

Simply apply some strong adhesive to the back of the panel, then screw through to the unit to hold the panel in place.

Styles of panel

Panels come in three different styles:

- Plain
- Profiled
- Tongue and groove

A plain panel has square edges all the way round, with no bevelling or profiling (see right).



A profiled panel has its edges finished to match the edges of your doors (see right). It isn't a door, so if your chosen door style has a pattern like a central panel or cathedral arch, the end panels will still be plain. When ordering a profiled panel, our standard specification is that the panel will be profiled on all four edges but if you only want some of the edges to be profiled, make this clear on your quote request or when contacting us.



The third type of panel that we manufacture is a tongue and groove panel, which is profiled on the outside edges to match the door style you're ordering, and then has the tongue and groove lines cut into it.



Infill panels

Infill panels are small strips that fit between wall units, or between a base unit and a wall if there's a gap. You have three options for finishing infill panels to match your doors:

1. Apply a small piece of self-adhesive vinyl to the existing infill panel if you have one.
2. Order a made to measure panel to fit the space you need to fill. Bear in mind that there is a limit on how small panels can be made, so we may not be able to produce a panel small enough.
3. Create your own infill panel using an off cut of plinth. Plinth is the skirting board that runs around your base units. If you're replacing the plinth, then just order a bit extra, cut it to size and slot it into place.

Self-adhesive vinyl

Self-adhesive vinyl is the same surface material as many of our doors, just with an adhesive backing applied. You simply remove the film on the back and stick it to the side of your units.



There's a couple of things to bear in mind when it comes to buying self-adhesive vinyl. Firstly, it's cut to order off a roll, so if you need 5m (for example), you'll get it in one large piece, rather than cut down into smaller pieces.

Self-adhesive vinyl is 620mm wide, and though you can cut it to size yourself, it shouldn't really be butted together like wallpaper, as the join will be visible and it could leave the vinyl at risk of peeling. For surfaces wider than 620mm, consider using a panel or non-adhesive vinyl which is available in a wider size.

Before applying the vinyl, clean the end of the unit with a de-greasing cleaner. Then lightly sand the end of the unit, to help the adhesive stick. Cut the vinyl slightly bigger than you need it, and once you've applied it to the unit, trim it to size. A small piece of wood held along the unit edge, behind the vinyl, will give you something to cut into. Once you have trimmed it to size, finish off any rough edges with sandpaper to give you a nice smooth finish.

Non-adhesive vinyl

If the colour you've chosen for your door is not available as a self-adhesive vinyl, we also offer non-adhesive vinyl. As its name would suggest, this type of vinyl doesn't come with an adhesive backing, so you'll need glue strong enough to stick vinyl on to melamine. Your local DIY shop will be able to advise. Non-adhesive vinyl comes from a roll that's 1400mm wide and again, the amount you need will be delivered to you in one large piece.

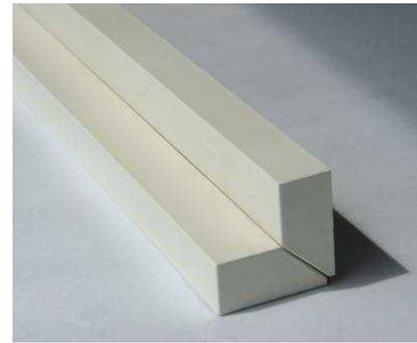
Corner posts

We sell corner posts in a wide range of finishes. They are available 720mm long and come in two different widths (measured from the back of the corner post):

- 720 x 30mm x 30mm
- 720 x 40mm x 40mm

If you need a different size of corner post, you have a couple of options:

1. Try applying the self-adhesive vinyl to your existing corner post
2. Use an off cut of plinth and create an 'L-shape' by screwing it together at the back. This will allow you to create your own corner post in almost any size you like.



Edging tape

We often get asked, "Is it worth re-edging all of my units?" In simple terms, it *is* possible but it's also time-consuming.

Ideally, your doors need to be off their units to apply edging tape. Edging tape is usually iron-on (the glue on it is activated by heat) and is available in a wide range of colours.



Cut your edging tape to the right length, then place it along the edge of the door. Put a piece of paper over the tape to protect the edge of the door, then briefly press the iron against the first section of tape. Moving along the door's edge, press the iron against small sections of tape. Once you have ironed the tape on and let it cool, trim to the desired width and sand down any rough edges.

Because of the time and effort involved, we recommend you use edging tape very sparingly, maybe only where the edge of the unit is clearly visible. In places where you have two doors meeting, and there's a slight shadow, it's probably not necessary to have edging tape.

How to measure cornice, pelmet and plinth

What are cornice, pelmet and plinth?

Cornice

The trim that sits on top of wall units



Pelmet

The trim that fits underneath your wall units (also called light pelmet)



Plinth

The skirting/kickboard that fits around the bottom of your base units



How to measure cornice, pelmet and plinth

1. Measure each length of cornice, pelmet and/or plinth in turn.
Remember to measure in millimetres.
2. Next you need to total up how much you have, then add an allowance of 20% for cuts and wastage.
3. To do this add up the individual lengths and multiply by 1.2.
4. Then divide this number by the actual length of the cornice, pelmet or plinth.

Example:

6580mm x 1.2 = 7896mm

Divide by length size (3000mm) = 2.632

So in this case you would order 3 lengths.

To help you calculate out how many lengths you need, we suggest looking at the price list for the door range you're considering, firstly to see which cornice, pelmet and plinths are available, but more importantly to see what the standard length is. The size of these can vary between one door range and another. It's also worth ordering an extra length, just in case of mistakes.

A special note about measuring plinth

When ordering plinth, you'll need to specify the height. This can be between 100-200mm high and will be cut to your specific height. The height of your plinth may vary throughout your kitchen, as it's possible your floor isn't totally even and level. We suggest measuring the plinth all the way around the kitchen, and then ordering your plinth at the maximum height you're going to need.

Some customers prefer to order it taller than they need and cut it down on site, and some customers prefer order it at just the height that they need. It's entirely down to personal preference.

End display shelf units

Replacing end display shelf units

We often get asked if it's possible to cover existing wall end shelves with self-adhesive vinyl and edging tape. We don't advise this as it can be fiddly, time consuming and won't look as good as it could. The best solution is to replace your current unit with a wall end or base end shelf unit that matches your new doors.

Angled or square?

In our Trends range, end shelf units come in two different styles: a square style and an angled style.



Square style wall end shelf unit



Angled style wall end shelf unit

Wall end shelf units come in two heights: 720mm and 900mm, while the depth x width is always 300mm x 300mm.

Base end shelf units are also available in either an angled or square style, and they are right or left handed. Here, you can see a right handed angled shelf which fits on the right hand side of a base unit.



Angled base end shelf unit, right hand

Common mistakes and how to avoid them

1) Forgetting to order all the doors you need

The most common mistake people make is forgetting to order all the doors they need. Making a plan of your kitchen, then double-checking that plan to make sure all your doors are on it, will help you avoid this.

2) Not double-checking all your measurements

Another common mistake people make is only measuring their doors once. As the old carpenters' saying goes: "measure twice, cut once", so measure your doors twice to ensure you've got it right.

It's also worth making sure you measure the hinge hole positions on every single door. Don't just measure them on one door and assume they'll all be the same.

3) Not asking whether it's cheaper to use standard sized doors

Check the size guide (you'll find this on our website on the product page of your chosen door style) to see which standard sizes are available, as they are usually a little cheaper than made to measure doors. You may find a standard sized door is within 1-2mms of the size you need.

4) Not replacing old hinges, drawer boxes and handles

While you're replacing your doors, it's a good idea to think about replacing hinges and drawer boxes if you need to. Replacement hinges aren't expensive, but they will ensure that your doors last for as long as you need them to. Similarly, replacement drawer boxes aren't expensive either. Both are available to buy on our website.



If your current handles are looking a little worse for wear, or if you want to replace all your doors and handles in one go, have a look at our range of accessories. When drilling handle holes, drill from the front of the door through to the back. We also stock a handle position drilling jig which will make placing handles much easier. See our guide on how to fit new handles on page 28.



5) Not checking your order on delivery

Although damage in transit is rare, you'll need to check your order as soon as possible after it's been delivered. Remove all the protective packaging and make sure nothing is missing or damaged. In the unlikely event that an item has arrived damaged, you'll need to contact us within two working days to report the problem. Send us a photo of the damage and we'll arrange for the item(s) to be replaced.

If you've ordered gloss finish doors or drawer fronts, there will be a clear plastic film over the surface of the items to protect them from marks and scratches. You'll need to carefully remove the protective film to check the doors' surfaces, but it's a good idea to replace it until the doors have been fitted.

6) Not asking for help when you need it!

We're here to help, so if you need a little help or advice just email us at hello@kitchendoorworkshop.com or call 01825 765041.

Tip: don't book a fitter until you've received and checked your order

If you're hiring professional fitters to replace your doors, don't book them until you have received and checked everything on your order just in case there is a problem. We'll rectify any issues as quickly as we can, but if you don't book your fitter until your complete order has been delivered and everything is in perfect condition, it will save you the inconvenience of having to change plans and rebook.

How to fit your doors

Start by removing your old doors

To remove an old door, separate the hinge (attached to the door) from the backplate (attached to the cabinet). If you just undo the hinge screws and remove the door, the hinge will still be attached to the cabinet, so be sure to detach the hinge from the backplate.

How to separate the hinge from backplate

The way a hinge attaches to its backplate varies depending on the type of hinges you have. They may be clip-on hinges which generally have a little button at the back that you press to release the hinge from the backplate. They may be screw-on hinges, in which case, you'll need to loosen the screw at the back of the backplate and the hinge will slide or lift off.



Tip: unclip the bottom hinge first

When you remove the door, unclip the bottom hinge first. If you unclip the top hinge first, the door might drop off while you're trying to release the bottom hinge. If you detach the bottom hinge first, the top hinge will support the weight of the door. If your doors are quite large or heavy, get someone to help you to support the weight of the door while you unclip or unscrew the hinges.

If you're reusing your existing hinges, put the old the door on a bench, remove the two screws that secure the hinge to the door, then remove the hinge. Now is also a good time to remove the door's handle, so it doesn't get in the way.

Fit the hinges to the new door

- 1) Start by fitting the hinges to the new door. Place the hinge into the hinge hole on the back of the door, making sure that the hinges are fitted level, so that the arm of the hinge is at a right angle to the edge of the door.
- 2) Next, drill 2 x 2mm diameter pilot holes. You can use the hinge screws we sell on our website. These are countersunk wood screws, 3.5mm in diameter, 15mm long.
- 3) Having attached the hinge to the door you are now ready to attach the door onto the cabinet. Alternatively, if you are planning to replace the hinges, refer to our guide on fitting new hinges (see page 36).

Fitting the new door

Offer the door up to the cabinet, attaching the top hinge first, as this will help support the weight of the door. Then connect the bottom hinges.

If you find the hinges don't quite line up with the backplate, some hinges allow you to simply adjust the backplate position slightly, moving it up or down as required to get the position right. This is normally done by loosening off two screws on the back plate. Some back plates have an adjusting screw in the centre that moves it up and down, look at how yours works.



If, having loosened the backplate fixing screws, you find that the backplate refuses to move, you may need to give it little tap with a hammer. If it's a traditional style of plate, you should find there's plenty of adjustment in the backplate to allow it to move up and down. As with removing the doors, we suggest getting some help to support the weight of the door while you attach the hinges to the backplates.

Adjusting hinges

Once all your doors are fitted and you've attached the handles, you're ready to adjust the hinges. See our video guide on how to adjust your hinges at the link below:
www.kitchendoorworkshop.co.uk/video-guides/how-to-adjust-kitchen-door-hinges

Fitting drawer fronts

How you fit new drawer fronts will vary depending on the type of drawer boxes you have. However, the best way to do it is to simply look at how the drawer front detaches from the box, then follow the same steps in reverse to fit the new one.



Drawer boxes

Drawers are very easy to replace. If the drawers are not easy to pull out and the sides are falling apart it's a very good time to replace them. Our drawers come in a range of sizes and options, with soft close drawers and deep pan drawers in plywood and metal. When replacing your drawer we will ask you to measure the cabinet width to establish the drawer box size needed. We also need to know whether you're looking for standard height drawer or the big pan drawers.

If you're planning on replacing your drawer boxes, please see our guides:

'How to fit plywood drawer boxes' and 'How to fit soft-close drawer boxes'.

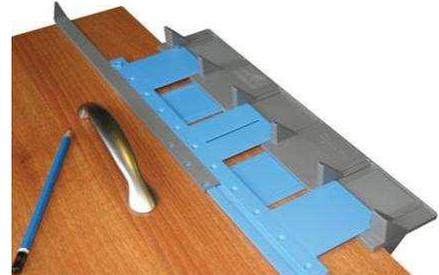
These can be found in the full version of our book which is free to download from www.kitchendoorworkshop.co.uk/news/how-to-replace-your-kitchen-doors-book.

Alternatively, our video guides explain how to fit both types drawers. These can be viewed here: www.kitchendoorworkshop.co.uk/video-guides/drawer-videos

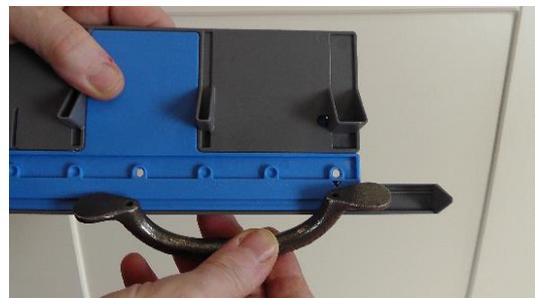
How to fit handles

How to use a handle hole drilling jig

Using a handle hole drilling jig is one way of ensuring a professional finish, and it's a quick and accurate way of getting the handle holes in the right position.



Set up the drilling jig to line up with the holes on the handles that you are planning to use. Hold the handle against the jig so you can see which holes to use. On the right, you can see that the first and fourth holes correspond with a 96mm hole centre of this particular handle. Then you need to drill out the first and the fourth hole on the jig using a 3mm drill bit.



Setting up the drilling jig

On the jig you will find there are two adjustable guides which allow you to adjust the distance of the holes from the top and the edge of the door.

Rest the jig against the edge of the door and mark the positions of the holes.



It takes a couple of minutes to set up the drilling jig, but once you've done it, it will help you mark all the other holes on all the doors without having to take any more measurements. To mark a door of the opposite hand, simply turn the jig around, and to mark a wall unit door simply flip the jig over.

Choose your handle position

On base unit doors, fit your handles near the top of the door, and for wall units, fit handles somewhere near the bottom of the door. And remember which doors are left handed and which are right handed (or better still, make a small pencil mark somewhere on the door so you know which is which).



Measure the handle position

Hold the handle in a position where you think it looks best. Place the handle on its side and with a pencil, draw a line on the door where the top screw hole position is.

Measure from the top of the door (if a base unit door) to the centre of the top hole position. In this example we decided the top hole for our handle would be 55mm from the top of the door.

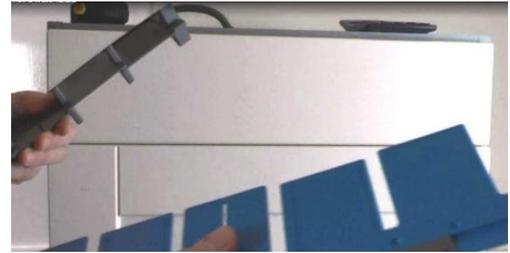
To have the handle mounted centrally on the frame of the door, measure the width of the frame and divide by 2.



For example: if a door is 90mm, set up the drilling jig to allow you to drill a hole 55mm from the top of the door and half way in the centre of the door frame which is 45mm from the edge of the door.

Marking holes for drawers

First decide where you want the handle to be. You'll probably want it in the centre of the drawer, halfway between the top and bottom edges.



Example:

If the height of a drawer front is 140mm and the jig only expands to 65mm, it's not going to expand to the 70mm (where the centre line would be) so break the jig in to two parts. Then, using a set square, draw a line halfway down from the top of the drawer front.



Now we need to calculate where the first handle hole is going to be. Start by measuring the width of the drawer front.

As an example, assuming the width of the drawer front is 596mm, deduct the width handle centres which we know on this handle example are 96mm, then divide the remainder by 2:

$$(596 - 96) \div 2 = 250\text{mm}$$

So the first hole needs to be 250mm from the edge of the door. Set the jig to 250mm and offer it up to the edge of the drawer front, look through the holes in the jig and align them with the centre line you drew earlier. Mark the holes, they will be central from the edge and the top of the drawer front.



Drilling the handle holes

Drill the holes in your doors and drawer fronts with a 5mm diameter drill bit and remember to wear safety goggles!

Tip: drill from the front of the door

Always drill from the front of the door through to the back. If you drill from the back and your drill isn't completely level, the handle holes could end up in the wrong position.

You can also drill part of the way through the door, then open the door and put a little block of wood behind where the drill hole is going to be so when the drill punctures the back of the door it doesn't damage the surface.

And, as the saying goes, "measure twice, cut once".

Remove the pencil marks

Take a moment to remove any pencil marks off the face of the door before fitting the handle, as it's easier to do this before the handle has been fitted.



Getting the right length screws

If the handles that you purchased aren't supplied with screws, or if the screws that you have aren't the right length, we sell 'snap-off' screws which can easily be adjusted in length just by snapping to the size you need.



Fitting the handle

Open the door and pass the screws from the back to the front. Guide the screws into the handle then tighten them with a screwdriver from behind. It's better to tighten them by hand, as an electric screwdriver could damage the head of the screw. Finally, check that the handles are level and in the right position.

How to glaze an open framed door

Whether it's a kitchen door or a bedroom door, whether you've got Georgian frames or a full open frame, the way you fix the glass is always the same.



What type of glass should be used in a kitchen door?

We recommend using 4mm-thick toughened glass in kitchen doors, however, if the door is in a different room a glazier will be able to suggest the best glass types for different settings.

Tip: let the glazier measure the glass

We recommend taking your door to a glazier to have the glass measured. The glazing rebate (the recess into which the glass fits) will have rounded corners, which make it harder to get accurate measurements. This way, you can be sure you'll get a perfect fit.

Why vinyl doesn't fit into the corner of the frame

When open framed doors are manufactured, it's almost impossible to get the vinyl to fit tightly into the corner where the glass sits. When you look from the back of the door, you may see that the vinyl doesn't quite fit fully into the corner. This is not a fault, it's just the way the door is made. As it can only be seen from the back of the door, you're unlikely to notice it on a day to day basis.



Inside corner of the back of an open framed door

How the glass is held in place

The glass is held in place with a rubber gasket. The rubber gasket fits into a groove that runs all the way around the glazing rebate, holding the glass securely in place.



Example of a Georgian frame

How to fit the glass into your open framed door

The following glazing instructions apply to doors from our Trends range.

Lay the door on a flat, clean surface. Fit the piece of 4mm toughened glass obtained from your glazier, just pop it into the rebate on the back of the door. It should be a snug fit.



Now you're ready to fit the rubber gasket into place, you'll notice it has a flat edge and a ridged edge. It's the flat edge that fits against the glass, and the ridged edge that faces upwards. Some types of rubber gasket also have a white strip on them, which should face upwards.

Start halfway along the bottom of the door and insert the rubber gasket into position. You will see that the gasket fits sideways into the rebate, which runs all the way around the frame. If you have the gasket upside down, it will pull straight out.

Feed the rubber gasket into position making sure not to stretch it, as the rubber may slightly shrink back over time. Carefully continue around the door, gently easing the gasket it into position until you get back round to the bottom of the door frame where you started. Cut the rubber gasket to length and push it into position.



Georgian frame



Face frame

How to fit new hinges

- 1) Remove the old hinge and backplate.
- 2) Draw a straight pencil line from the centre of the hinge hole to the edge of the door. This shows you where the centre of the hinge is and where the hinge backplate will need to be.



- 3) Offer the door up to the cabinet and as you hold it in position, transfer this pencil line on to the cabinet itself. To make it easier, get someone else to hold the door while you do this.



- 4) Once the line has been transferred onto the cabinet, extend this horizontal line back using a square. This line shows you where the centre of the backplate needs to be.



- 5) Draw a second line: a vertical line 37mm from the front of the unit. This line shows the distance from the front of the unit to where the backplate fixing screws will be.

- 6) Remove the two fixing screws from one of the backplates and align the backplate on the cabinet so that you can see the vertical line through the screw holes. At the same time, ensure that the backplate is central to the horizontal line that you drew first.

- 7) Mark the position of the two fixing holes, taking care to ensure they're at the centre of the backplate screw holes, otherwise you won't have sufficient movement in the backplate should you need to adjust its position later.

Tip: drilling pilot holes

To help ensure that you always drill pilot holes the correct depth, simply hold the screws you plan to use against your drill bit and mark the length of the hole required, using a piece of masking tape.

And, as the saying goes, “measure twice, cut once”.

Fix the backplate

Drill two pilot holes using a 5mm diameter drill, then attach the backplate using the euroscrews provided.

Fix the hinge into the door

Mark and pre-drill the holes and fix the hinge into the door. The hinges are not supplied as standard with screws, but we sell the 3.5mm diameter x 15mm long screws on our website. Now pre-drill the pilot hole with a 2mm pilot hole, taking care not to drill through the face of the door.

Tip: how to repair pilot holes

Euroscrews are a great way of fixing backplates, but if you need to drill a 5mm diameter hole adjacent to another hole, or repair an incorrectly drilled hole, here's how to do it.

Get a length of wooden dowel from your local DIY store. Glue a piece of dowel into the offending hole (drilling out the hole to the desired diameter first if required) then glue the dowel into place, leave until the glue has properly dried (overnight is best). Then drill your new hole as required.

Attaching your hinges onto the backplates

Before trying to attach the door, check to see exactly how the hinges attach to the backplates.

Offer the door up to the cabinet and check that the hinges and the backplates are aligned. If necessary, adjust the backplate by loosening the fixing screws and moving it up/down as required.



Attach the top hinge first followed by the bottom ones. If the door is heavy, get someone to support the weight of the door while you do this. Once all the doors are attached, refer to our guide on adjusting hinges. See page 26-27.

Need any more information?

We hope you found this book helpful, but if you do have any further questions we're always happy to help. Give us a call on 01825 765041 or send an email to hello@kitchendoorworkshop.com

Alternatively, our full range of video guides is on our website. This also includes:

- How to adjust new hinges
- How to fit plywood drawer boxes
- How to fit soft close drawer boxes
- How to fit heat deflectors
- How to replace an integrated dishwasher door
- How to clean and care for your new doors

To watch any of these videos visit www.kitchendoorworkshop.co.uk/video-guides

All our guides are also available in our full book which you can order or download from our website.

www.kitchendoorworkshop.co.uk/news/how-to-replace-your-kitchen-doors-book



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