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## Pocket door guide hardware

Danny Lipford showing the framing for pocket doors in the new building. We are in the process of renovating our laundry room and would like to use a pocket door, because of the space. Is this something that we, as owners, should be able to do, or do we need to hire a professional? We've done a lot of remodeling, but nothing like that. - Linda Hi Linda, It depends on how confident you are in your ability to tackle some serious framing and repairing the walls. Although pocket doors are not that difficult to install in the new construction, they require a lot of work to renovate an existing home. The first thing to consider is whether the wall of the door slides into contains wiring or plumbing. If this is the case, pipes or wires will have to be moved or rerouted. Then check to see if the wall is a load carrier. If this is the case, the wall will need to be supported temporarily and a sufficiently sized header installed on the opening. While it is possible to get around these problems, they make the job even more difficult than it already is. If you decide to proceed with the project, start by removing the existing door and frame, then remove the drywall on both sides of the space where the door will slide. Pocket door kits are available online that contain the track and other specialized parts, or you can buy pre-assembled units at home improvement stores. After framed the opening, install the track and planks that form the 2 wide slot for the door. Finish the door on all sides before hanging it on the track. Once everything slides smoothly, install drywall with screws short enough not to pass through the 3/4 planks around the pocket. A special split doorjamb is available to fit around the slot and track, or a standard jamb can be torn at the waist. Good luck with your project, Hi Liz, As long as the measurement is correct for the pocket opening, the door is the right thickness, and the door has not been pre-drilled for a standard door lock or hinges, you can use any type of door for a pocket door. Just drill and mortize the new door to accept the pocket door material, hang it on the pocket door slide, and you're good to go. Good luck with your project, More information Photo courtesy: A A MillworkOne of the reasons we chose the plan of the house we built was because there was a flex room out of the breakfast area. We thought it was the perfect place for a games during those early years with our children. On the one hand, it's close to the kitchen, where I spend a good part of the day. In the future, it will make the perfect guest room or study. The original plan of the house called for French doors in this space. But since we intend to use this breakfast area for all our dining and entertaining (we are just not formal dining room people), we felt the French doors, which opened, would really get in the way and hinder our use of space. So instead, we decided to pocket doors installed. What is a pocket door? A pocket door is a door that slides, through rollers on an airstrip, into a pocket in the wall on either side of it. When it is completely open, the door disappears completely. Pocket doors were very popular in Victorian times, but when they went out of fashion, many hardware manufacturers went bankrupt. Courtesy diagram: PocketDoorInstallations.netPros and conspocket doors see a bit of a resurgence, especially in small spaces like condominiums and townhouses. Coming from a small apartment in New York, I was already in love with the practicality of the pocket door. That said, pocket doors have their drawbacks and are not the right solution for every space. Keep these things in mind if you weigh the decision: Pocket doors save valuable floor space by eliminating the room you need for the traditional doors to swing. Because the door slides into the wall, you need to have enough clearance in the wall frame for the door (s) to fit, and you can't put switches or light sockets in those walls (there's no room). The material for the pocket doors is quite bare, as it must also be able to clear the framing in the wall. It just lets you slide a finger into it to pull the door closed. There are dual-door privacy lock sets, but they are not common and can be expensive. The tracks and equipment in a pocket door frame are hidden, so if it needs repair or replacement, access can be very difficult. I did not regret for a second the decision to put in our pocket doors. They are the perfect divider for the space we have. We kept the French glass door design, so we could close the doors after dinner and still see what our girls do while they play with-wandering-fighting for the game kitchen. 1/6 Construction Pro TipsA pocket door is an excellent space-saving solution. Since pocket doors offer a little less privacy, getting the locking equipment installed on the right is important. Although other styles are available, I still prefer traditional pocket door pulls that require a notch in the edge of the door. I'm going to show you how I do it. 2/6 Construction Pro TipsI start by carefully marking the cut to the size indicated by the instructions. The cut on the edge of the door should be just on the silver because the outer end door edge of the material does not overlap the notch at all, so it is crucial to the point its perfected as there is no forgiveness. Remember that you can always make the notch bigger, but it is much harder to make it smaller. 3/6 Construction Pro TipsI used to cut my notch with a jigsaw, but I had a lot of trouble with the blade curvature and the wood ripped off on the opposite side, even when I put duct tape down and scored it with my knife. I've had excellent results since I switched to a multi-tools. It is important to cut with a sharp blade, and do not cut all the way through the door to one side. Instead, cut halfway through on either side. This is the only way to reach a perfect notch. 4/6 Construction Pro TipsLoosen the front machine screws and slide the latch into place, then drill some driver holes for the wooden screws. There is a dimple where the screw passes through the side of the material which normally causes the plate to stick a little. To get a tight fit, I drill a hole in the sink and then reinstall all the screws (below). Construction Pro Tips 5 7/6 Construction Pro TipsWhen it's about locating the attacker plate there's not much room for maneuver. I extend the latch and mark where it hits the jamb and then temporarily screw the plate into place. 6/6 Construction Pro TipsAfter I have marked the opening of the plate, I drill a few overlapping holes and then temporarily put the plate back in place. I check to make sure the latch catches well, then mark around the plate with a sharp scissor. Making shallow cuts directly into the jamb help control the depth of the cut when I chisel the striker plate. As long as I take my time the fit is usually pretty close to perfection. Construction Pro TipsGary StrieglerGary began working with his father as a trimming carpenter in 1972 at the age of 14. As president of Craftsman Builders, Gary is still a practical builder. About half of his time is still spent on the job to create the high-end interiors that have become his trademark. He is a frequent contributor to Fine Home Building Magazine and the Journal of Light Construction. Gary also enjoys teaching about things related to house building. He has presented for The Woodworking Show, JLC Live Shows, Woodmaster Tools, Kreg Tools, DEWALT Tools, Grex Tools and White River. Gary also teaches at the Marc Adams School of Woodworking. Switch to main contentHome Family HandymanDo do you have a pocket door that sticks or doesn't open or closes all the way? Don't replace it if you don't have to, just install a new track, new rollers or both, and your pocket door will work as it did when it was new. By the DIY experts at The Family Handyman MagazineYou may also like: TBDPocket Door OverviewYou don't need to be a coal miner to venture into the deep, dark pocket of a sliding door, but it helps. Once you are equipped with a new track, rollers and a good flashlight, we will show you how to enter, replace broken equipment, and get out before the end of the weekend and the research comes to research. Tips for removing doorsRemove the door stopsRemove painted screws. Cut the paint seam between the door stop and the case, but do not remove the case. The pry out of the door stops with a rigid putty knife. Remove the pocket door. Sometimes the hardest part is getting the door out of the pocket or the Take out a door that is stuck in the pocket by alternately pulling the upper and lower edges. Remove a door from a J track following the instructions in photo 5, but instead of pulling the top towards you, push to get the rollers out of the track. Remove a door with indiscreet rollers from the door and tap the rollers to free them. New track and pocket door rollersCut an access holeCut an access hole in the wall with a drywall saw to remove the old runway and install a new one. Check for obstructions before hammering the saw through the plaster or drywall to begin cutting. Install the new pocket door trackInstall the new pocket door lane in the center of the track slot. Place the track at the depth recommended by the manufacturer. Use a 2x6 to check out the new trackUsing a 2x6 as a stand-in for your door, check the secure attachment to the track, travel smoothly in the pocket, and easy access to the adjusting screws. When you are satisfied with the alignment, transfer the rollers to the door. Attach the rollers to the doorUse this detail pulled as a guide to attach the rollers to the door. Rehang the doorRehang the door by hanging down towards you, lifting with a lever, and pulling back on top of the door to hang the rollers on the track. If you need both a new track and a set of rollers, get them from a builders' supply store, or order them from your local visitor center. Before ordering the equipment, weigh your door on a bath ladder, and measure the slit and track. Our door weighed 30 lbs. and the track slot was 1-1/2 in. wide and 2-1/4 in. Deep. Stanley J Runway 82 adapts to the narrow width of our track location. To reduce the depth of the track slot to the recommended 1-1/2 in. Stanley 85 two-wheeled rollers, rated for doors up to 75 lbs, were more than enough for our panel door. If you have a solid-core door that gets a lot of use, roller skate rollers, valued at 125 lbs, are a better choice. Tools required for this projectWith the tools needed for this DIY project aligned before you start, you will save time and frustration. Circular sawDrill/driver - wirelessDrywall sawFlashlightHammerHearing protectionLevelMiter sawPutty knifeSafety glassesSpeed squareTape measureUtility knifeRequired Materials for this ProjectAvoid last-minute shopping trips by having all your materials ready ahead time. Here's a list.2x6 scrapPlywood door rollsPocket door track door