


I'm not robot  reCAPTCHA

Continue

High tech pet door troubleshooting

I have dabbled in home improvement projects and like giving advice to others on what not to do. Are you tired of letting your animal into a friend's house and letting it out? If so, you may have dreamed of one of these vabik pet doors, but were discouraged by the prospect of actually installing. Be sure! It's not expensive or hard-even if, as was my installation, not everything goes pretty according to plan! We knew we wanted a cat door for our new kitten, and we found petsafe making a suitable door for the cat for less than \$25. And we knew we wanted to put that door on the wall. The package said that the door was suitable for mounting the door and wall. Sold! Installation begins with the location and cutting opening. I started inside because the wall plate is not critical to weather resistance and has a fairly simple patch if necessary. I found a stud inside the wall, and carefully cut the opening size given the door's mounting instructions. I was especially careful to make sure I didn't cut any electrical wires on the wall! But I should have been a little more careful. From the outside, as the above photo shows, my opening was crowded by the output box. Luckily, the box didn't actually stop the opening and could have been released from the wall if just a couple of screws were unused, allowing me to get the room to work. It could also be placed slightly once the door installation was complete. But it was a mistake you don't have to make! Check in and out before you cut. Here you will find a view of the finished opening overlooking the room. Aligning the inner and outer openings is important and not as simple as you might think when installing a wall. After all, the wall plate and lining are about four inches apart. I used the carpenter's square and I got pretty close. The biggest problem I had came from the fact that the stallion next to the opening was cornered a little bit, and I didn't notice that. I was positioned for opening a tight stallion, and measured from there. The result was that when the door was installed, it was a slight angle too. It meant he didn't want to sit peacefully against the inner wall as he should. So, my advice would be to allow a little wiggle-room if you are installing your door next to a stud or other obstacle inside the wall. It's always nice to have a planned user check out the project while it's still in progress! Here's the inner part of the door test installed in the opening. You will see slight deviations mentioned above. You can also see the biggest problem with installing the door with the built-in tunnel is not long enough to reach the entire width of the wall! Since the four-inch wall is the universal standard of North America, I don't agree with Petsafe that this door fits installation as is the first. It's a nice little door-affordable, but well designed and well built. So far it has been detained for a fine and acted properly, opening and closing, as it should without even creating a draft. But it would work in the wall, you need to add pieces not delivered. And that's what I did, as you can see below. I decided to span the inner width of the wall roll aluminum. It is a product intended for use on the roof. It is easy to work with, cheap, and not subject to corrosion problems. Best of all, I already had some at hand, left over from other projects. Below is a photo showing the measurement process. I cut the length of the aluminum a little longer than I had to run around the hole. The rolled aluminum is then inserted into the opening to indicate the depth of the wall to which it must be cut in another dimension. (If you look carefully, you can see a sign written on the metal, consistent with my thumb.) Here is the inner part of the door, removed again, so I applied an acrylic ribbon around the outside of the tunnel. My idea was to bind aluminum plastic in this way, and ensure it temporarily from outside the tape. You can also see that I have added bangs around the edges of the opening. It must touch the color, of course. With this done, I installed the door, attached to the aluminum, and then added another U-shaped piece of aluminum inside the door. It's a piece that the cat actually walks on. This piece is attached to a semi-temporary more packaging tape. To complete the project, the exterior must be weatherproof. I chose white heavy-duty tape for this. Starting at the bottom, and taking very carefully to avoid wrinkles or bubbles in the tape, I applied overlapping layers of tape. It's a bit of a question mark for me how well this tape holds up the weather and cat-traffic. But the tape is prominently replaceable, as the answer turns out not to be so well received. I'll update this hub to let you know when some time has passed. In the meantime, we have a cat door that seems to be working well. The cat has discovered how to use it, with little help and encouragement from us, and although we have had a lot of rain since the installation, there does not seem to be a problem with the leak. So-and as usual for me -- it seems that this project has been successfully muddled through. I hope this will help you and your furry friend! The door for pets, the second part of this arrangement worked well for us, about two months. I think it would have worked a lot longer because it had not deteriorated during that period. However, in 2011, the Commission was in the into the right to a new I'll write about it specifically later, and so it won't go here. But in chains, the events led to the presence of a stray beagle in our home. When we were Said the dog must have panicked. The result is shown in the photo below. So, please note that the Petsafe door mounted on the plasterboard does not stand in the effort of the crazed beagle. When it came time to replace the cat door, we decided to go to the window instead. They are considerably more expensive, but presumably they are less susceptible to the specific mode of failure that we had experienced. Online research led us to choose an American-made unit of Ideal Pet Products that is designed for use in window frame windows. The ordering was easy, the delivery was fast and the installation – shown below – was quite simple. Here's what you get. This is a compact package and the instructions are not too bad. The first device to install in the window and also my first error. Note the normal, unadorned surface of the interior view. The trouble is, this unit has lock buttons- that telescopes that adapt to the window width. I put them out where they would conveniently allow the burglar to open and remove the cat door and so get into our home. Oops. Note to yourself: buttons from the inside! It also allows you to stick a flap from the inside of the room ... (yes, you can latch on. This is a 4-way adjustment: open both ways, locked, opening only inwards and opening only outwards.) In the picture above, you can see how the device fits into the window. There are several sizes of these doors available to accommodate different window sizes, and useful measurement instructions are given on the Ideal website. I was a little apprehensive because our window was close to the extreme one size range, but as you can see, the fit was perfectly good. The cat door is equipped with plenty of weatherstripping to seal the gaps and eliminate the drafts. The installation is a bit uncomfortable, although I don't think it's the fault of the designers-it's just going to be a bit of a challenge to support the unit and then get the removal cut right at length and pressed straight, firmly, and without bubbles throughout the length of the opening. (As usual, weatherstripping is a foam rubber strip with glue on the back. You cut it to length, remove the paper from the glue and press it down or up, as in this case.) Ah, good luck! Weatherstripping made, buttons and latch safely inside where they belong ... Wait, what's the wire coming from the outside? When talking about drafts, there is a source of which you need to deal with the gap between window panes as below screenshot shown. The cat door is compatible with the internal panel, allowing cold air to infiltrate the interior and exterior surfaces into the room. Instructions have been given to resolve this situation, but as we were fit to allow a wooden connection, I decided to use a solid strip to block this avenue. To do this, I removed the latches hardware on top of the belt -- a simple operation. This allowed for a with wood screws, increasing the security of the window. You can see the bar in the image below. It's been quite effective. Partly (but not entirely) because of this change, I stopped some leftovers. All told, the installation of this unit probably took well under two hours, and could be done much faster. (I was very careful at every step! Well, every step after putting the door back initially, at least.) Installing this device should be well within the ability of most readers. We haven't passed this crazed beagle test--and are making a strenuous effort not to do so in the future. But this unit has performed well in all other respects. As you can see, the primary user is quite happy with it! He's leaning towards the yard... This article is accurate and true to the best author's knowledge. Content is only for information or entertainment and does not replace personal counseling or professional counseling in business, financial, legal or technical matters. CommentsDoc Snow (author) from Camden, South Carolina on April 27, 2019: Love, GadgetGirl! Simple, economical, efficient. DIY your best! Too bad you didn't get the pictures! GadgetGirl on April 27, 2019: We installed one of the first species of the procedure. From the kitchen to the garage. My cats weren't big. Very average cats the size of cats. It seemed comically great pointing to your toes to match through the cat strainer we fitted. So we removed it and went home completely done. Since it wasn't a security issue, we cut a nice rectangular hole they could carry without ballet. We closed the space between the walls of the plasterboard, spackled and painted so that it looked like walls. We bought two little souls and two glasses of flat glass. Cats loved sitting in the garage and watching us in the kitchen. The longest part was waiting for painted plaster wall parts to dry. Doc Snow (author) from Camden, South Carolina on August 07, 2018: Thank you, Pet Door. Readers should be aware that the link given in the comment below is a pretty clearly commercial one. But it doesn't offer useful tips, even though it's all focused on one of the company's products, so I'm letting it stand.mariebastian884 on January 30, 2013: Thanks so much for this article! I've been looking for ideas on how to make your ... and doors installation in Calgary and this is just what I needed! Thanks again! Doc Snow (author) from Camden, South Carolina on September 10, 2011: This is an idea of chic. What I should have measured – even once – was the door tunnel. Believe me, everything I *did * measure was done according to your advice! Steve Mitchell from Cambridgeshire on September 10, 2011: The rule is if installing something or cutting is a measure twice and cut once it seems you could do that as the next fitting cat door. Very though and prevents other people from making the same mistakes. Doc Snow (author) from Camden, South Carolina on February 06, 2011: Thank you, hello! Yes, it would be good to find a unit that was better designed for wall installation. But I think it actually works well (and it's doing it now, as far as the cat is concerned!) It looks pretty good, actually. (Which reminds me it's beautiful today, so it should be a good day to get a better picture so I can update that last image.) The question I have is, how will it hold up over time? One more thing I thought was pretty funny. The other day I was in the room and heard the cat door operate (the door is closed with magnets, and there's clicking noise when it opens or closes.) I looked around to see the cat... and instead I found myself staring into the eye of our 40-pound dog, Rambo! His whole head to his eyebrows was in the room. He can't fit through the door, but apparently he wanted to see what was going on inside. I'm glad he didn't get his head in the way when he pulled it out! Hi, hello, from London, UK on February 06, 2011:This is definitely how it shouldn't be done lol lol lol