

FITTING GUIDE: 14.4 - SIDE FIX

Step 1: Fitting the frame



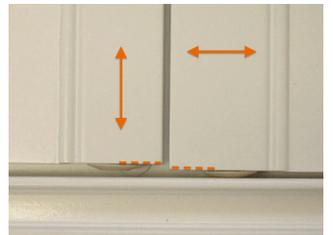
Assembling the frame - In addition to the interlocking keys, screw the corners of the mitres together, when you are fixing the frame sideways. This will help prevent the mitres from opening up if they flex against the wall.

Plain frames - If you don't have the side insert to fix the frames you will need to drill your own fixing holes. Pilot your holes in the light stop of the frame.

Lift the frame into your recess and position it where you would like to fix it. Wedge the frame in place so it does not fall out.

Level the frame at the bottom and sides using a spirit level, by moving the wedges in or out.

Step 2: Fitting the shutters



If you have bi-folding shutters, connect the bi-folds together first.

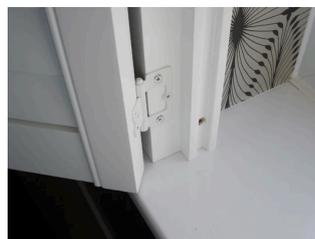
Lift the left set of shutters into the frame and connect the two parts of the hinge together and repeat for the right hand set of shutters.

Ensure the shutters fit squarely within the frame, you might need to re-align the frame with the wedges now the shutters are fitted. The hinges are adjustable and can also be moved up or down.

The panel feet should just be touching the bottom of the frame and there should be an equal gap between the bottom of the shutters and bottom frame.

Ensure the frame is still wedged securely in place then open and close the shutters slightly to ensure they rub evenly on the panel feet and are not too tight.

Step 3: Fixing into plaster or brick



Mark the frame position with a pencil in a few places.

Take a note of the frame level within the recess and how it's wedged into place, the smallest and biggest gaps etc as you will need to remove and re-fit the frame.

Remove the shutters from the frame, put a screw into each pilot hole and tap the end with a hammer to mark the fixing holes in the wall. Pull the screw or screws back out of the holes slightly and remove the frame from the window.

Drill 6mm holes in the plaster or brickwork and insert raw plugs for brick or screw in plasterboard fixings for hollow plaster walls.

Lift the frame back into position and line it up with the pencil marks you made, insert the original wedges to level it. Screw the main top left/right and bottom left/right screws in, do not screw them in tight at this stage, just take up the slack.

Fit the shutters back in the frame and re-level/wedge the frame back into the original position. Insert some permanent flat packers between the wall and frame above the fixing holes (to stop them falling down).

Open the shutters and start tightening the main screws, not too tight at first, do this gradually while checking that the shutters still open and close correctly with in the frame.

Use a combination of tightening and loosening screws and different thickness of packers to achieve the perfect fit. If you are happy with how the frame is fitted in the recess, screw in the rest of the screws and add packers above them before the frame is screwed in tightly.

Step 4: Fixing into wood

Lift the frame into your recess and position it where you would like to fix it. Wedge the frame in place so it does not fall out.

Level the frame at the bottom and sides using a spirit level and by moving the wedges in or out. As you will not need to remove the frame to insert any raw plugs or plasterboard fixings you can slide in some permanent packers ready for fixing. Make sure these packers are not protruding past the front or back of the frame.

Fit the shutters in the frame as detailed on the previous page in step 2.

Remove the shutters for fixing on large openings, with smaller windows and if the frame is wedged in place tightly, the frame can be fixed into position without removing the shutters. Open the right hand side first, taking care to support the weight otherwise it could pull the frame out of the recess before it's fixed.

Screw the top right screw into place, close the shutter and open the left shutter, screw the top left screw into place. Don't tighten these first two screws fully as the frame might still need to be packed or adjusted.

Screw the bottom left and right screws into place, then use a combination of tightening and loosening screws and different thickness of packers to achieve the perfect fit. If you are happy with how the frame is fitting in the recess, screw in the rest of the screws and add packers above them before the frame is screwed in to tightly.

Step 5: Finishing touches



Check the shutters still operate correctly, before screwing the last small hinge screw 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.

Insert strips - Replace the insert strips into the frame to cover the screw heads, the strips 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.

Filler - Use some decorators caulk to neatly fill the gap between the frame and wall, fill any large gaps with filler first, then run a steady even bead of filler all round the gap, use a damp cloth to wipe the excess filler neatly away.

Infills - Cut the top and bottom infills to length and stick them in position using a fast mitre glue. Cut the side infills to length, if you are using infills with a rounded edge, measure the length 3mm longer than you need and then chamfer the back edge so it sits over the curve of the top and bottom infills.

The final and most important step!

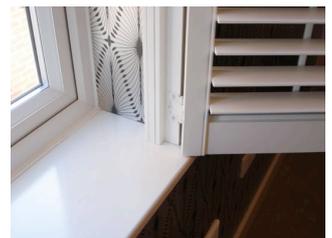
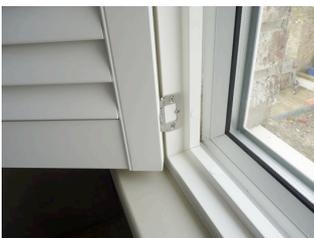
'Take some photos of your finished shutters and email them to me along with a some comments about my service, website and shutters you received, I would love to hear from you'

Regards Sam

Please share



Examples: Side fixing examples



Tips: Side fixing tips



Out of level windows - Plain or side fix frames can be planed to fit into the recess, if you have having trouble lining up the shutters within the shutters frame it may be because you can not get the frame square enough within the opening. Check where the frame is touching the walls, remove it and plane the edge of the frame to fit. It may just be the back edge of the frame that is tight, so check the recess is not angled first.

Drill holes - When drilling your own holes, line them up with the centre of the hinges so they match either side.

Screw the frames - Screwing the frame mitres together will stop the mitres being pulled apart.

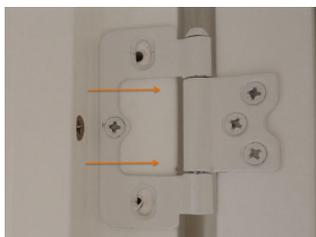
Packers - Keep the packers in place by sticking them with tape to the side of the frame.

Size maters - Drill out the pre-drill holes with a 5mm or 6mm drill bit, this will provide more flexibility in adjusting the frame on large windows or plasterboard recesses where the fixings might not go in straight.

Bending the hinge pin slightly with pliers will stop shutters creeping open (tap back in).

Mini clamps can be useful when fitting half height or top opening shutters.

Tips: Hinge adjustments



Hinge packers - are provided to help line up the shutters within the frames. If you have an out of level window and you need to fit your frame slightly out of level to get the best look, use hinge packers to pack out the panels to help align them.

Hinge adjustment - To help line up the shutters on half height designs or twisted windows, move the left top hinge forward and the right bottom hinge forward or vice versa so that they protrude from the frame slightly. Remove the 2 screws, slide the hinge forward (while supporting the weight of the shutter) and re-fix with the centre screw. Once happy, replace the outer slotted screws. A 3mm pilot drill may help.