

Cabinet Door Templates

Perfect Roman and Cathedral Arch doors are easy to produce with BlackJack's 17100 Roman Arch Set or 17101 Cathedral Template Set.

Each set includes a total of 10 matched template sets to produce doors with panel widths between 8" and 18". Panel to rail offset is built into each template set so all you do is trace, cut and trim route your rails and panels. Durable PVC construction.

Thank you for purchasing this door template set. The following is supplied to be used as a guide rather than formal instruction.

These templates are specially designed to compensate for the overlap required when making paneled doors. You will see the mating templates in fact, do not have the same curved profile. What you see is an allowance for a 3/8" overlap required by the panel onto the rails and styles.

Prepare your door components by cutting them to appropriate lengths, widths and thicknesses. Panel doors have three options.

1- The panel can be the same thickness as the rails and styles. You will need to cut both front and back sides of the panel to maintain the panel position centered on the rails and styles.

2- The panel can be thinner than the rails and styles by the thickness of the back recess. You don't need to cut the back side of the panel.

3- The panel can be the same thickness as the router bit cutting the groove in the rails and styles resulting in a flat panel.

Allow room between the panel and the rail for natural wood expansion and contraction annually. In fact, ask us about #30020 Space Balls®. Space Balls were developed to maintain this allowed space, keeping the panel centered within the rails and styles and keeping the panel from rattling during dry periods of the year when the panel has shrunk in width. Commercial woodworkers, as well as hobbyists, are using Space balls® successfully in paneled doors today.

How much room do you leave around the panel for expansion depends on the dryness of the wood used for the panel. The absolute minimum if you are not using Space Balls® should be 1/8" per 12" of panel width. If you use Space Balls®, you need to add an extra 1/8" to the number regardless of panel width as room for the balls. This number will vary with moisture content of your wood. Please note these numbers are only for reference.

Some woodworkers prefer to cut components to exact size and trim off the profile to those exact sizes. Other woodworkers prefer to cut the rails and panels slightly oversize - profiling them to these templates - removing material through the entire length of the cut. Which method you use is up to your own personal preference.

Each template has been identified as rail or style. With your door components in front of you, measure the width of the panel you are working with and choose the set of templates that include that width.

Centre the template marked panel onto the width of the panel. The earlier discussion about choice of cutting the materials to exact size or slightly over size comes into play here so keep this in mind when you position the templates on the wood.

Centering the template by drawing a centre line down the middle of the panel and aligning the center cut in the template to that line. Once centered, draw the profile onto the panel with a dark lead pencil. Similarly, mark the matching rail with the rail template.

Secure the template firmly to the wood.

You will notice the template is quite a bit wider than the panel. The reason for this is some woodworkers will use these templates in conjunction with a bearing guided trim router bit on their router to make the final trim to size of the components. The extra template width allows for lead in and out on the bearing.

Note: the useful life of the templates will be shortened dramatically if a bearing guided router bit is used against the template.

If you plan to use the trim method, cut the profile leaving 1/16" beyond the line for the trimming operation otherwise, cut along the line, so that a quick drum sanding will "trim" the wood to profile. A band saw is the preferred machine for this operation but a scroll saw or jig saw and a careful operator works just as well.

If required, cut the end copes on the rails, the moulded profiles on the sides of the rails and styles, and the raised panel profile on the panel.

Trial fit your doors prior to applying adhesive, checking for any unforeseen errors. Look for any problems that would be difficult to repair once the door is glued together.

Use a contoured sanding block that matches the profile to sand raised panel profiles and flat panels prior to assembly.

Prepare your clamping area and clamps. Apply adhesive sparingly (it can be a headache to clean up!) and assemble your door.

If you are using Space Balls, you will need to install 2 per side of the panel (8 in total) to keep the panel properly positioned for the life of the door.

Once cured, unclamp the door and sand as required in preparation for finishing.

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