

What is a European Hinge?

Originally designed in Europe, these hinges were designed to reduce the material required to make cabinets. Limited availability of natural wood and the invention of man-made wood panels from saw dust and wood particles combined with this new hinge made the frame around each door and drawer opening unnecessary. This new cabinet is referred to as a frame-less cabinet resulting in a hinge design that is concealed from view when the door is closed because it is fastened to the inside side of the cabinet.



How are European Hinges fastened to the door?

European Hinges are different than traditional hinges in the way they fasten to the door. For them to be concealed from the outside, a 35mm diameter "cup hole" is drilled into the back side of the door and the hinge cup is inserted into it. Two screws fasten the hinge to the door.

Can European Hinges be used on face frames?

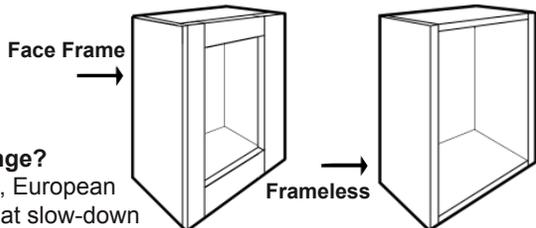
In order to satisfy the needs of the North American market, European Hinges have been designed with special mounting plates to attach to face frames. There are different designs and costs so ask when considering these hinges.

What is a Face Framed Cabinet?

A face frame is an assembly of narrow boards that 'frame' the door and drawer openings of the cabinet. Think of it similar to how a picture frame surrounds a picture. The frame is fastened to the side panels and adds stiffness to the front of the cabinet and a pleasing door and frame look to the overall view of the kitchen.

What is a Frame-less Cabinet?

A frame-less cabinet is constructed of only a bottom and two side panels and a top fastened together and closed on the back by a thin panel usually stapled or nailed on. The front edges of the panels are covered with thin tapes or real wood veneer to hide and seal the internal glued structure of the panel. It offers several advantages including easier construction, easier installation and better use of space for the home owner. These cabinets are easier to clean too because there are no trapped corners when there are no face frames.



What is a Soft Close Hinge?

In recent years, European Hinges have that slow-down spring-close feature. This has eliminated the usual BANG when the door is allowed to close under the internal spring tension. These hinges actually close the door slowly.

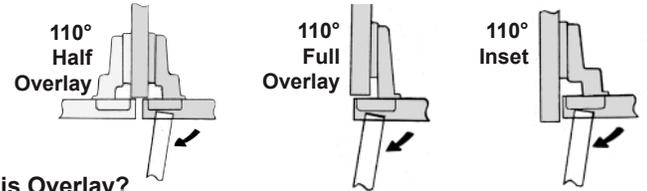
Why are they called 110 degree?

Since European Hinges are concealed inside the cabinet when the door is closed, they limit the angle the door can open. The most common opening angle is 110 degrees which means the door opens a little past the straight out position. Hinges with higher opening angles up to 170 degrees are more substantial in structure. They are used when it is necessary for the door to open farther around - for easier access to the cabinet or as in a lower corner cabinet corner where 2 doors are connected together to avoid a corner post.

What is Inset?

Inset means the cabinet door or drawer front is positioned inside the front of the cabinet. There is no overlay when an inset exists.

Older cabinetry was usually of inset design and is characterized by the use of butt hinges on doors. Today, European Hinges can be used and the hinge is completely concealed from sight.

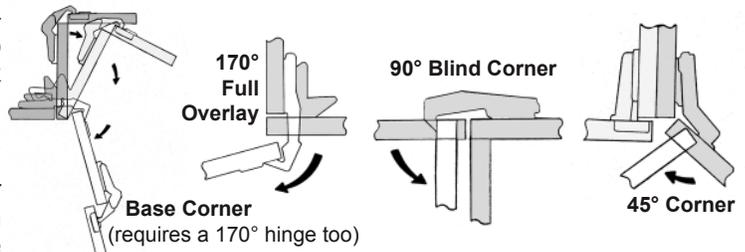


What is Overlay?

Overlay is the amount of door that rests against the front of the cabinet. Usually it's referred to as full overlay or half overlay. Since most cabinets are made today using 5/8 thick side panel material, the use of hinges designed for 5/8 overlay is common. A half overlay 5/8 hinge will overlay the 5/8 material half way. A cabinet with a partition in the middle for the 3rd or 4th door to hinge off of will require the use of half overlay hinges on that partition.

Why is door thickness important?

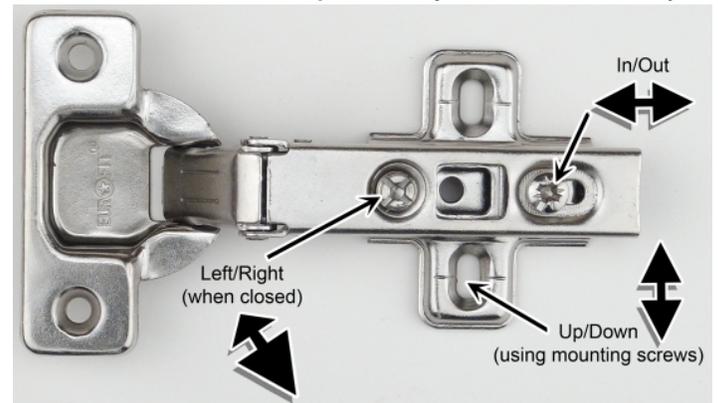
European Hinges are designed for doors 5/8 to 3/4 thick. Thicker doors require special hinges.



How are European Hinges adjustable?

Perhaps the most convenient part of the European Hinge is that they are adjustable in 3 axis once mounted. Space and level doors with the twist of a screw driver.

Left/Right adjusts the overlay of the door. **In/Out** adjusts the space between door and cabinet. **Up/Down** adjusts the door vertically.



Also available - quick & easy cam adjustment for aligning doors.

