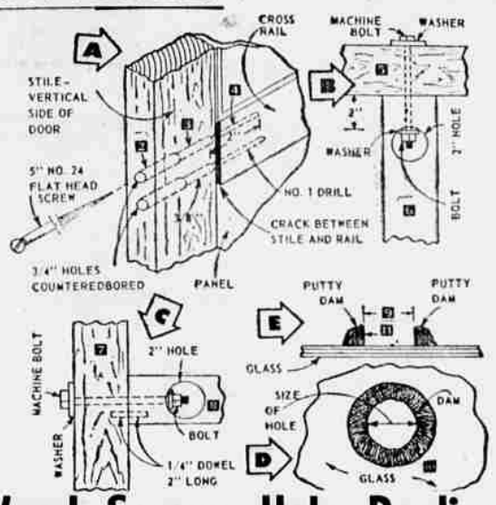
DO-IT-YOURSELF



Wood Screws Help Realign Weathered Exterior Doors

By J. RALPH DALZELL

Exterior doors in many of the older homes and apartments are usually of the kind that feature stiles, crossrails and panels. When exposed to the weather and not properly maintained, the ends of the cross rails often pull away from the stiles and cause cracks as shown in picture A. If not repaired, the cracks will eventually ruin the door. Here is an easy and effective way to repair the condition.

Drive two No. 24 flat head wood screws through the stile and into the cross rail as shown in picture A. Note that the holes for the screws at 2, 3 and 4 are of different diameters so the screws can be driven tightly and to best advantage. The screws will pull the cross rail snugly to the stile and hold firmly.

The work can usually be accomplished without removing the door from its hinges. The three-quarter inch holes can be enlarged, if desired, so thin wood plugs can be glued over the screw heads. The door may be painted after sandpapering any rough spots.

Picture B shows how two pieces of wood (5 and 6) can be fastened together with a machine bolt. For example, if 2x4 stock is involved, a three-eighths by six and a half inch bolt, plus two washers, could be used. This means of fastening creates rigid joints which can be taken apart with ease.

Picture C shows the same methods of fastening except that a piece of doweling is used to prevent piece 8 from twisting out of square with piece 7. No glue is necessary and the joint can be disassembled.

Many readers have asked how to drill holes in glass, as in the bottom of bottles. Holes of exact dimensions require specialized tools which most home craftsmen do not have. If the holes required need not be exactly round or have an exact diameter, here is a procedure to follow.

Use stiff putty to make a circular dam at the place where the hole is wanted. See pictures D and E. Form the putty (10) to make the size of opening (9) desired. The inside edge (11) of the dam should be vertical. Fill the dam with high test gasoline (not ethyl). Light the gasoline. After it has burned out pour cold water into the dam. The glass will crack in the shape of the interior edge of the dam. Repeat the process if the cracks do not extend all the way through the glass. When the cracks do extend through the glass, several taps with a hammer will remove the glass to form the hole.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. — Can we apply calcimine over wallpaper?

A. — Yes, if the wallpaper is stuck tightly. However, if the wallpaper has colorful patterns some of the color may show through the calcimine.

Q.—Is there a way to assure that a stained floor will be the same color throughout?

A.— Yes. Mix one quart of turpentine with about one-third quart of boiled linseed oil and give the floor a coat of the mixture before applying the stain.

Math Can Dispel An Electronic Ghost

Do you live in a haunted house? Simple arithmetic may help you drive the ghosts away.

By haunted, we mean a house where "something" is making fuses blow with irritating frequency. Or where lights blink mysteriously for no apparent reason—and electric appliances often perform in weird fashion.

How can arithmetic rout the phantoms?

First make a check list of all electrical appliances in your home. This done, estimate the number of watts needed to operate each of them.

And don't get the idea that just because an appliance is small in size it needs little electricity whereas large appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines need much more electricity.

"HAUNTED" CHECK LIST

That's not always the case. Here is a check list:

Electric blanket	160
Washer	700
Toaster	1,000
Vacuum cleaner	650
Electric iron	1,000
Water heater	2,000
Deep freezer	300
Refrigerator	250
TOTAL	6,060

The addition, as you see, comes to more than 6,000 watts and we haven't even counted the usual lights, the television set and several other appliances.

LOOK FOR MAIN SWITCH

Now let's go down to the basement and try to find out why your house is "haunted."

The main switch and the fuse box form the heart of any wiring system and they're located near the spot where the power cable comes into your home.

Meters come first in today's wiring system but in this house the system had been installed in the 1930 sequence, meaning that the power cable came down into the basement, went to the main switch and then over to the meter and down into the fuse box.

The name plate of the main switch read "2 wire, 30 amp. 110-120 volts." This also was typical of wiring installed 25 years ago, and told us that only two wires came in from the power line. There wires are considered necessary today.

SAFETY POWER LOAD

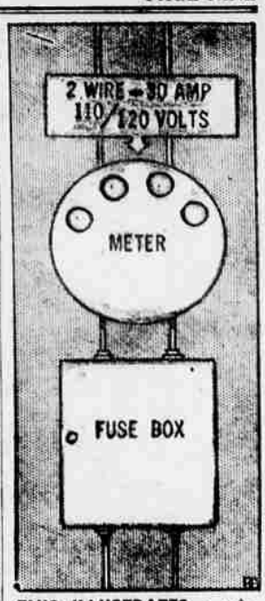
The information on the name plate indicated that the quantity of current these wires could safely carry were 30 amperes—(100 amperes is considered adequate today)—at a pressure of 120 volts.

Volts multiplied by amperes will show the total wattage or electric power that should safely be coming into the house at any one time. In this case the 120 volts multiplied by 30 amperes came to 3,600 watts.

Against a need of more than 6,000 watts, the wiring system was inadequate.

The phantom had been found.

If you wish to find out whether your house is haunted, too, merely multiply the amperes and volts labeled on the main switch; then estimate the number of watts needed to operate all of your appliances.



THIS ILLUSTRATES a wiring system in the 1930 sequence, with two wires coming from the power line. Three wires are considered necessary in today's wiring systems.