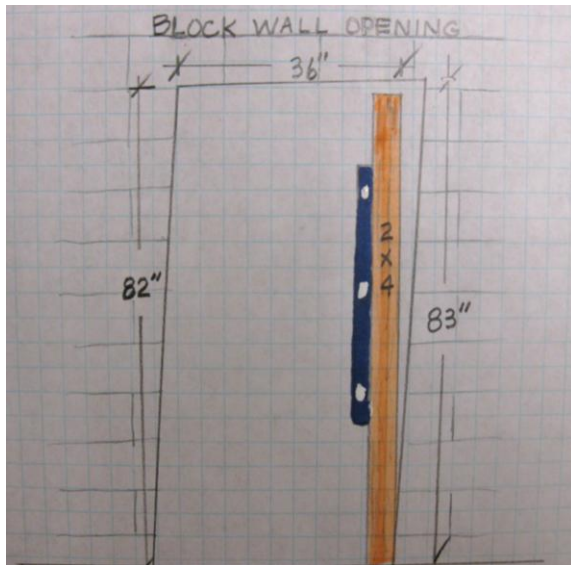


ROUGH OPENINGS



I had two veteran carpenters go out to a 30 year old building and measure a rough opening for a door and door jamb we were going to build.

They went to an opening almost exactly like the one above and measured the opening 38"x83".

They spent 4 hours building the door panel and jamb. They took it to the site and nothing worked. This happens a lot on remodels and new construction, more than you door hangers think, even by 30 year vets as these two were.

Lumber yard reps, with no door hanging experience, go and measure openings for doors, width and height, order the doors (pre-hung) and some fit, some don't.

These carpenters didn't even look at the jamb or they would have seen the opening was out of plumb. They knew what they should have done. But they simply measured and went to cutting wood. The measurement they should have come back with was 36"x82", as the drawing shows.

The rough opening for any door is the largest plumb rectangle you can get in the opening.



These are door shims I use. They are 5/16"x1 1/2"x2 1/2" long. I use 1 or 2 and sometimes even 3 to shim the door jamb to the frame.

I cut some 2x12, into 2 1/2" lengths, ripped 2x12 won't work. I set the miter saw for 4° and flip the piece to get these shims.



When I have only 4" left I throw it away, it is very dangerous cutting this piece without a clamp.

Be careful making these shims. Some go to sleep cutting these shims and the miter saw grabs the piece and wakes them up with two less fingers.

By the way, I'm hanging most of my hollow core interior doors with a 2 1/8" Senco brad nailer, 1/4 on the casing.

Bob Johnston, carpenter
www.carpenterbooks.com

