The *De Wils* Guide to Designer Series Framed Cabinetry Installation

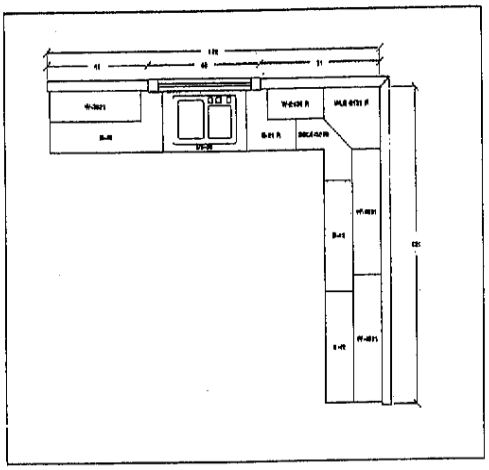
DeWils

CUSTOM CABINETRY

1959

www.dewils.com

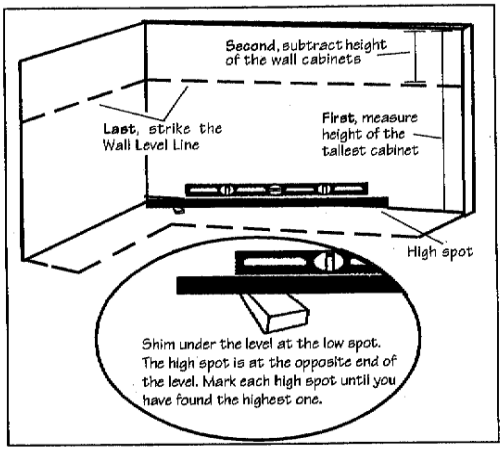
Step 1 Preparation

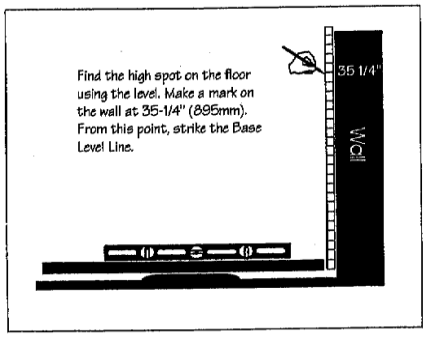


The first step in the cabinetry installation process is to prepare both yourself and the work areas for the new cabinets. Begin by familiarizing yourself with the kitchen drawings. Make sure you know where each cabinet will be placed in your new kitchen and check them against your list to ensure you have each item. If you are remodeling your kitchen, prepare the work space by removing all existing appliances, cabinets, sinks, and anything else which may be attached to the walls or floor. Be sure to turn off the water and electricity before removing the sinks and appliances. If you are planning on replacing the flooring, electrical or plumbing, or repairing and painting the walls, this work will be much easier if it is done prior to the cabinet installation. It is also important to protect the new floor with tarps or cardboard during installation of the cabinetry.

Step 2 Determine the High and Low Spots

One of the most important steps in cabinetry installation is to begin with a level foundation for the cabinets. Since not all floors and walls were created with smooth, plumb surfaces, it is critical to locate the high spots. Once found, you may either level the spots to the low areas or shim the cabinets to make the installation plumb and square. To determine locations of high spots, place a carpenter's level on top of a 4' to 6' long straight edge. Beginning in a corner, move the straight edge and level around the room on the floor along the wall, marking where the bubble in the level indicates high areas. Repeat the procedure 21" out from the walls until you have found the highest spot.





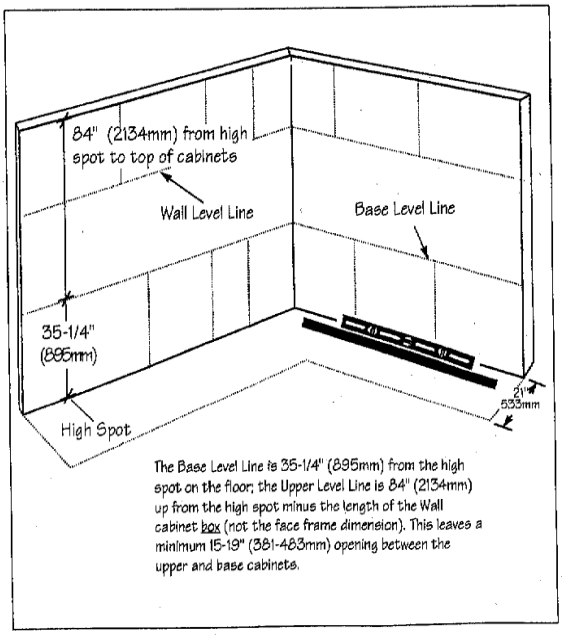
For wall cabinetry, it is also imperative to ensure a smooth base. Utilizing the same method as you used for finding the high spot on the floor, check for unevenness in the walls and soffits. The low spots should be shimmed even with the high point to obtain a smooth, even wall.

If the walls and floors are straight and level to begin with, it will eliminate misalignment of doors and drawers due to racking (twisting) the cabinets. **This is a critical step!**

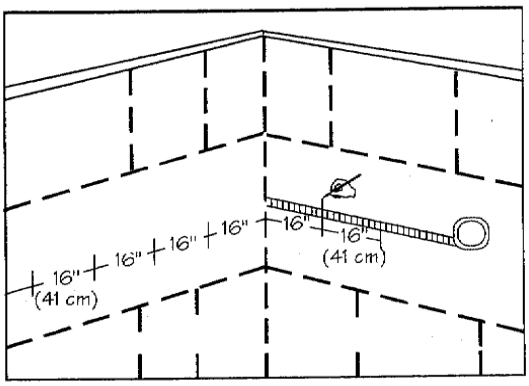
Step 3 Find the Base & Wall Level Lines

From the high spot, measure up the wall 34 ½" or 35 ¼" if installing base height cabinets; 30 ¼" if installing vanity height cabinets. With the chalk line, strike a level line, called the "Base Level Line", around the room on the walls using the highest spot as the starting point. This is the point to which the tops of the base cabinets should be level. Because DeWils customizes cabinet heights, it is best to unwrap one of the cabinets and measure from the bottom of the toe kick to the top of the cabinet to determine how far up from the high spot you should strike the Base Level line.

Measure 84", 90", 96", or the height of the tallest cabinet according to the finished height of the cabinetry from the original high spot. Subtract the height of the wall cabinets and make a mark on the wall. Move up the wall 1" from this mark and strike a line on the walls parallel to the Base Level line. This is called the Wall Level line and it is the line along which the bottoms of the wall cabinets should be level. Please note that the recommended clearance between the top of the base cabinets and the bottom of the wall cabinets is a minimum distance of 16" and a maximum of 19". Please be sure the distance between your installed wall and base cabinets fall within this range.



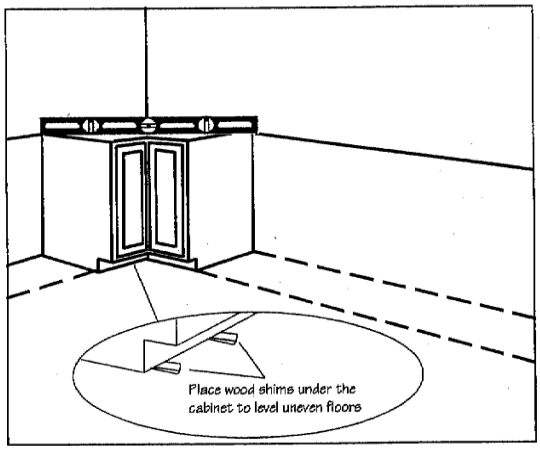
Step 4 Find the Studs

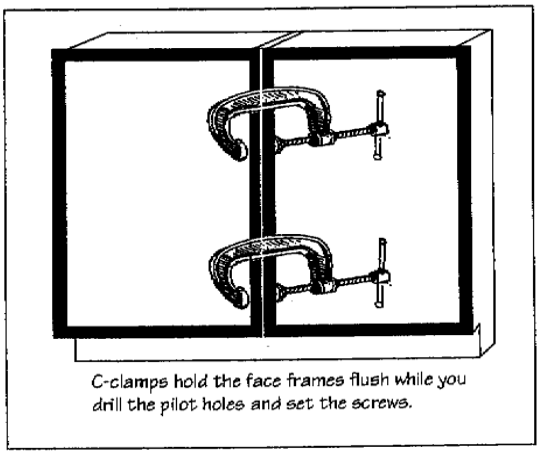


Next, locate the wall studs using either an electronic or magnetic stud finder or by measuring in 16" increments starting in a corner or next to a doorway. Ordinarily, studs are located 16" apart (from the center point to center point of the stud) in each wall. You can ensure you have located a stud by pounding a small nail into the wall. If it is solid, you have found a stud. Mark the studs with a pencil approximately 2" above the Base Level Line so you can see where they are located when installing the cabinets. Marking the walls within 2" of the countertop will ensure the marks are concealed by the countertop backsplash.

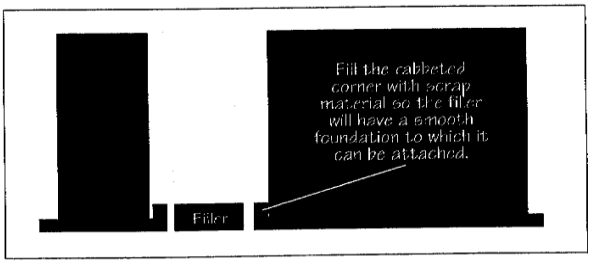
Step 5 Install the Base Cabinets

The primary goal when installing base cabinetry is to make sure it is level with the Base Level Line. Starting with the cabinet located in the corner use thin wooden shims (can be purchased at local lumberyard) placed under the cabinets as needed so that the cabinet top is perfectly level with the Base Level Line. If necessary, place shims between the cabinet and the wall to ensure a flush fit and that the cabinet is plumb. Check the cabinet with a carpenter's level to be certain it is level and plumb. Fasten the cabinet to the using 2 ½" wood screws (recommended) placed through the "nailing strip" on the upper inside back of the cabinet. Re-check the cabinet with the level to make sure it is still level after screwing it to the wall. Moving along either wall, place the next cabinet flush to the corner cabinet. Secure the cabinets together using C-clamps, making sure the cabinet face frames are slush both top and bottom as well as along the front. Drill a pilot hole through eh face frame of the second cabinet and into the first. Fasten the cabinet together with 2" to 2 ½" wood screws. Shim the second cabinet until it is plumb and level, then secure it to the wall. Cut shims slush with the toe kick and conceal them with the toe kick cover. Repeat this procedure following the floor plan provided until the cabinets are completely installed.



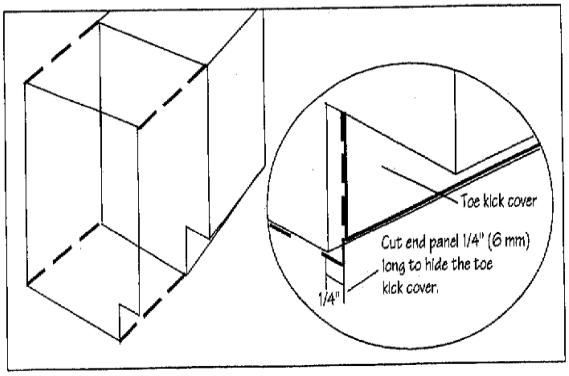

C-clamps hold the face frames flush while you drill the pilot holes and set the screws.

Step 6 Install the Fillers & End Panels



When installing a filler onto the rabbeted face frame of the cabinet, place a ¼" piece of material behind the rabbet so that the filler can be attached to a flat surface. Following this will provide a smooth, solid base to which the filler can be attached and will eliminate any "filler cupping".

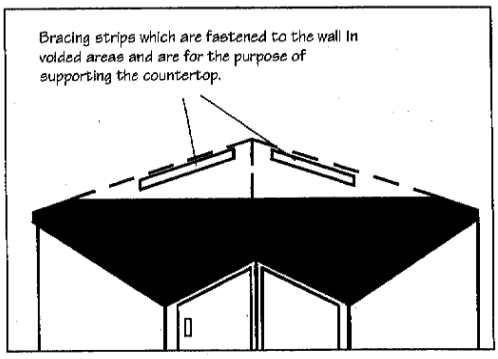
At the end of the cabinet run, a finished end panel is necessary to cover the unfinished end of the cabinet. To install end panels on site, place the panel flush to the back edge of the face frame of the cabinet. Scribe the panel to the wall and make the cut. Each end panel is cut ¼" wider than the actual depth of the cabinet so that you can scribe (cut) the panel to match the wall thus eliminating any gaps. Next, cut out the space of the toe kick, however be sure to allow an extra ¼" to cover the toe kick cover. Fasten the end panel to the cabinet with carpenter's glue and finish nails or contact adhesive.



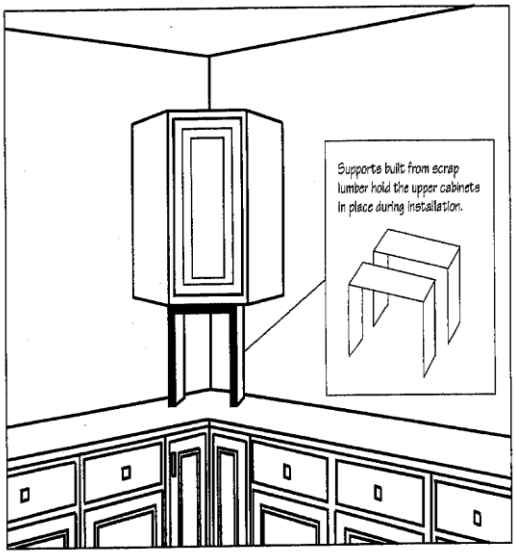
Step 7 Countertops

The countertops can be installed after the base cabinets have been installed properly. Please note it is better to adjust the drawer head alignment before installing the countertop. Depending on which type of countertop is selected, there will be different installation instructions. Please consult your countertop dealer or countertop instruction guide for details.

Regardless of which countertop in being installed, if installing the countertop over a lazy susan or in areas where there is a void (such as an area in which the cabinet is pulled away from the wall), adequate support must be provided along the wall in the form of wood wall cleats. These cleats can be made out of scrap material and fasted to the walls with wood screws. Attach the countertop to the cleats for extra strength.



Step 8 Install the Wall Cabinets

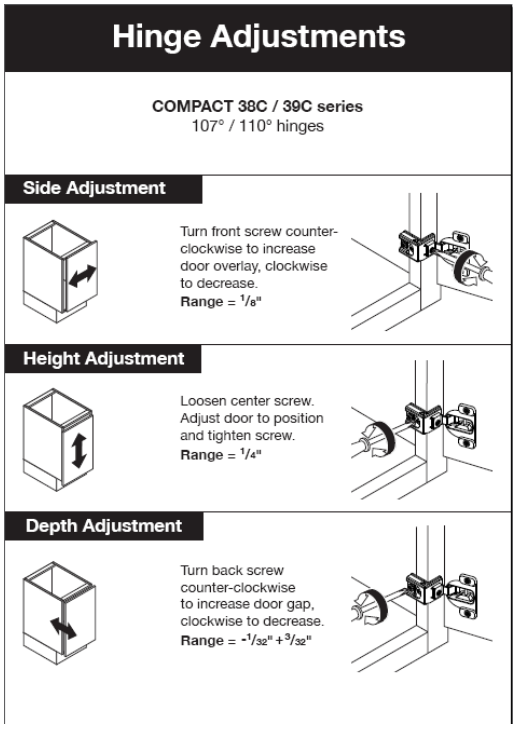


Construct cabinet supports from scrap material. These should be the same height as the height from the top of the base cabinets to the Wall Level Line. Beginning in the corner, place the supports under the first cabinet. Use wooden shims to level and plumb the cabinet as needed. Fasten the cabinet to the wall using 2 ½" wood screws (recommended) driven into studs. As you tighten the screws, check the cabinet with a carpenter's level to be sure the cabinet is properly shimmed, and is plumb and level. Each cabinet under 24" wide should receive four screws inside of the cabinet, two at the top and two at the bottom. Cabinets that are larger than 24" should receive two screws per stud. Follow directions in Step 5 to finish installing wall cabinets.

It is important to note that when installing a single cabinet or if there is only one wall stud located behind the cabinet, place at least three screws through the cabinet into the stud to ensure that the cabinet will have adequate rigidity and will be attached to the wall with adequate strength.
This is an important safety point!

Once the cabinets are installed, check them again with a carpenter's level to be sure they are level and plumb, and that the doors and drawers fit properly. If there are an tight drawers or doors which do not fit properly due to racking, loosen the screws holding the cabinet in place and adjust it using shims as needed so the torque on the cabinet is eliminated.

Step 9 Final Adjustments



Now that your cabinets are installed, the doors and drawer fronts must be adjusted to ensure perfect cabinetry lines. Beginning with the doors, loosen the appropriate screw, adjust the door into position and tighten the screw again. DeWils Designer series cabinets uses two main types of hinges with the most prominent one pictured at left. Repeat this until all doors are adjusted properly.

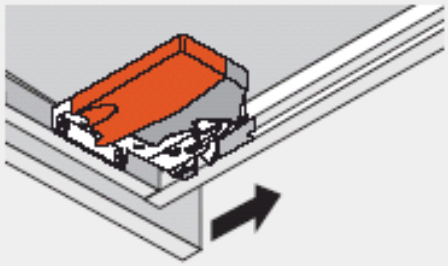
Next, align the drawer fronts. The following two pages will guide you through the proper alignment of the two drawer systems offered by DeWils.

Wood Drawer Box Adjustments

Tandem Installation, removal and adjustment information

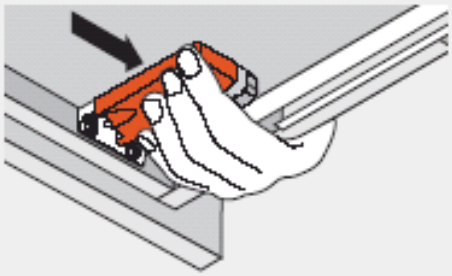
Drawer installation and removal

Installation



Place drawer on runners and close. Locking devices automatically connect to runners.

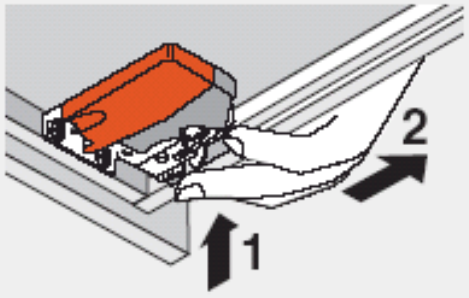
Removal



1. Squeeze orange handles on locking devices.
2. Pull drawer out and up.

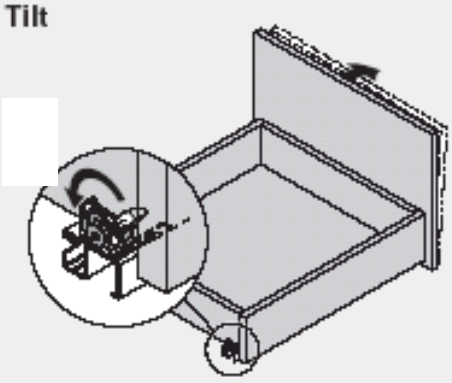
Adjustments

Height



1. Press up on adjustment tab.
2. Push towards back of drawer. Max. **3mm** (1/8") rise of drawer.

Tilt



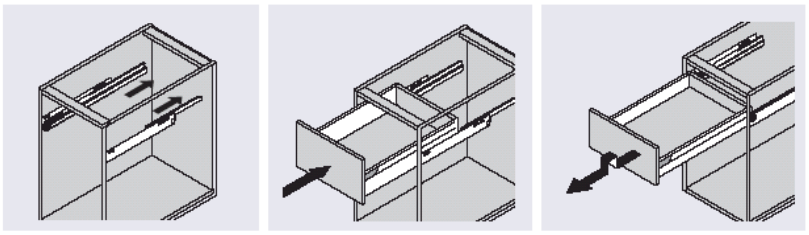
Rotate the tilt adjustment dial on the rear of each profile to tilt the top of the drawer front forward.

DeWils reserves the right to make changes to products without notice

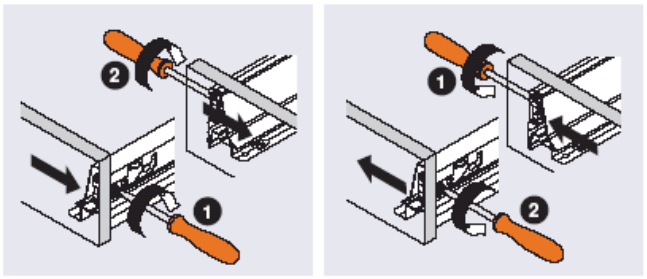
Stainless Steel Drawer Adjustments

Installation, removal and adjustment

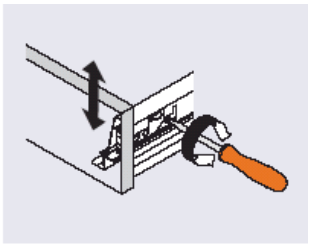
Drawer insertion and removal



Side Adjustment – Grey Plastic Cam – Turn both cams equally



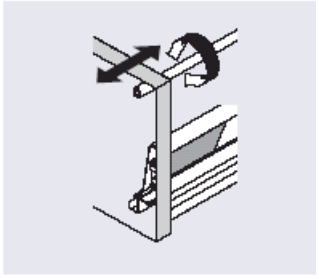
Cam Height Adjustment –Gold Color Screw - Loosen and move Drawer head, retighten



Tilt Adjustment For Larger Drawer Heads

Twist the chrome rods clock wise or counter clock

Note: drawer heads 8” and larger will have one rod per side. Drawer heads 12” and larger will have 2 rods per side



DeWils reserves the right to make changes to products without notice. July, 2008