

How To Install A Drawer Knob

Techniques and Tips To Make Installing A Cabinet Drawer Knob Easy

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Introduction

This eGuide was created to help you properly install knob hardware into new cabinetry by detailing step-by-step the necessary functions needed to install cabinet knobs in a methodical and professional manner.

Improper installation can damage to the knob threads or worse, cause hundreds of dollars damage to the finished cabinet face.

Safety Information

It's very likely that you'll choose to use power tools for this project. Power tools can cause serious injury or death, so be VERY careful. Before you use any power tool, it's very important that you carefully read all of the manufacturers operating instructions and safety guidelines.

If you don't feel comfortable using power tools, it's imperative that you stop and find that confidence through practice.

This eGuide does not offer advice on how to safely use the tools featured in it. Lastly, it's important to note that you should NEVER use a power tool if you're using medications, drugs or alcohol.

It's also important that you not use these tools if you're feeling angry, tired or emotional.

Recommended Tools

For this project, there are several different tools that you can use.

1. Corded or cordless drill
2. Proper sized drill bit
3. Screw and drill bit size gauge
4. Screwdriver
5. Tape measure
6. Pencil

Common Mistakes [VIDEO](#)

1. Not measuring or laying out your knob locations properly
2. Not having the proper length or size screws when installing knobs.
3. Improper size drill hole which can damage the screw or knob thread.
4. Aggressive drilling resulting in damaging the cabinet.

What To Buy

Cabinet knobs typically require 1 hole for installation. Parts included will be 1 knob, 1-1" screw, usually an 8-32 type, sometimes the unit will come with an escutcheon that fits between the door or drawer facing and the knob.

NOTE - When you purchase your knobs make sure you measure the thickness of the cabinet doors and drawers so you know what length screws to buy. [See VIDEO](#).

Drawers typically require a 1-3/4" long screw and cabinet doors require a 1" screw. The reason there is a difference is that most drawers have a face plate installed.



Lumberyards sell a break-away screw that measures 2" long. These screws allow you to custom cut the length you need.



This is also the time to buy the correct drill bit to fit the screws you will be using.

Measuring The Screw And Drill Bit:

If you already own drill bits and want to use them, I suggest you purchase a screw / drill bit size gauge. These items sell for less than \$10.00 but take the guess work out of using too big or too small drill bit.



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I first measure the knob screw to determine which size drill bit to use. Make sure to choose a hole that the screw loosely fits in without any friction or having to “screw it in.”

I also take the time to check the drill bit to ensure that it fits the same hole.

Take the time to properly size the drill bit. Using too small a drill bit may require you to have to re-drill or try to hammer or screw in the screw through a smaller hole. Both of these can cause damage to the screw and possibly damage the knob threads.



Layout Knob Locations:

Establish where you want your knob placement. Placement is entirely up to you. There are some basic guidelines, but this is an area where your creativity takes over.

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The most common locations for knobs and pulls common position is 2½" to 4" down from the top corner on the opposite side to the hinges.

For wall cabinets, the common position is 2½" to 4" up from the bottom corner of the opposite side to the hinges.

Another common method is to mount either a knob or a pull in the center of the edge opposite the hinges.



Measuring The locations To Drill Holes



Determine the location of the hole(s) to be drilled from the side and bottom edge of doors, (for drawers measure from both sides and from bottom and top for centering) mark the hole positions on the masking tape.



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Mark the intersection of these two measurements with pencil and make a “+” mark.





For repetitive holes in the same sized cabinets or doors, you can use a store bought drilling jig or a combination square set to the measurement you will be repeating. Use the combination square for drill hole marking.



Drill The Holes

Determine the drill bit size and drill your knob holes at the “+” mark that you have made.

It's important to mention that all of your drilling must be done from the front of the cabinet. Drilling from the back may cause splintering and damage the finished face.

[Drilling Video](#)



Be careful not to push the drill in too aggressively. You want to avoid the drill chuck from touching and damaging the finish on the cabinet face.



As you drill the hole through the door make sure to keep the drill perpendicular to the cabinet.

Types of Knob Attachments

The green knob has a permanently attached threaded rod and used a nut and washer for attachment.



The chrome knob is more of the standard and relies on a screw attachment.



Insert Screw And Attaching A Non Standard Knob

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This knob style has a threaded rod with a nut and washer. This knob is inserted through the front of the drawer face and the washer and nut are added from the rear.

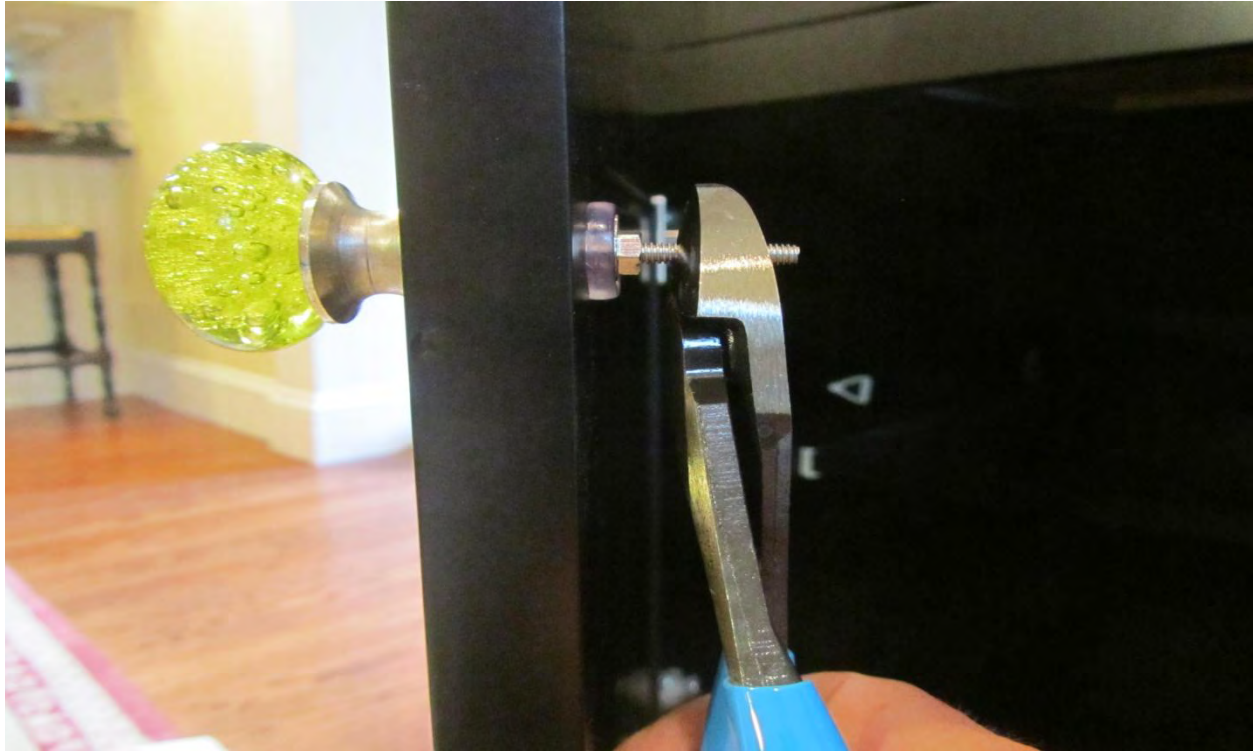


Finished installation below.



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If the threaded rod is too long use end pliers to cut it shorter.



Attaching A Standard Knob

Most knobs require the screws to be installed through the back of the cabinet into the knob or pull, tighten the screws and you're done.



Don't Over Tighten The Screw

Note – Many people use power tools to insert and tighten the knob screws. I advise against this. If the clutch on the power tool is not properly set, you can damage the screw or snap it off in the knob.



Finished Knobs

