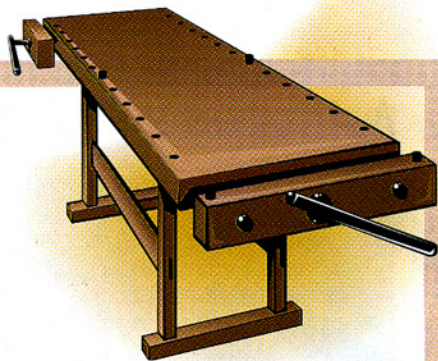


In the Shop



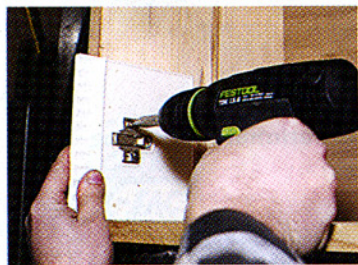
Hinges in a minute

by William Sampson
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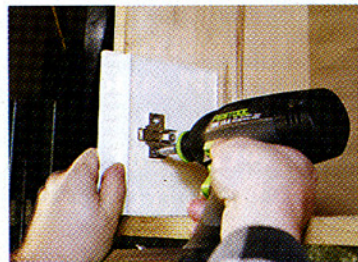
EZ-Mount jig is designed to make quick work of hinge installations

Installing hinges and hardware in cabinets is one of those jobs that always seem to take more time than it ought to. Now, a new product invented by a cabinet-maker is intended to make at least part of the hardware operation go quite a bit faster.

The EZ-Mount hinge plate jig and door-hinge centering guide is one of those items that make you say, "Why didn't I think of this?" In fact, when I first saw it and talked with inventor Stan Klonowski, I compared it to a quickie wooden jig I use in my shop. But it turns out there's a lot more thought put into the EZ-Mount than my bang-together shopbuilt affair. He developed the jig in his own cabinet shop and has applied for patents. The EZ-Mount is deceptively simple, but that's why it works so well.



Precisely positioned — The EZ-Mount hinge plate jig allows for quick installation of Blum hinges. The hinge plate snaps into the jig, and then the jig is held in position against the cabinet side, bottom or top, and front edge.



Less than a minute — After using a centering drill to pre-drill for screws, the screws are driven into place. The entire installation takes less than a minute.

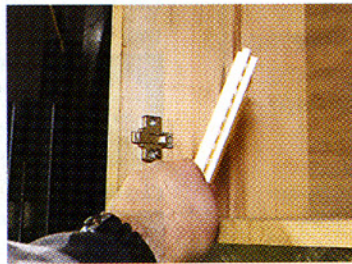
How it works

The key difference between the EZ-Mount system and simple drilling jigs is that the EZ-Mount actually holds the hinge plate in place, making the hinge plate become its own drilling jig. You snap the hinge plate into the plastic jig, then hold the jig in place in the cabinet box with the jig resting against the bottom or top of the cabinet for lower or upper hinges. Flanges on the jig simply and securely position the hinge plate. Center lines on the jig can be used to position center hinges.

With the jig and hinge plate in position, we used a centering bit to pre-drill for the screw holes. Next, we drove the screws into the hinge plate with the jig still in place. Finally, we just snapped off the jig, leaving the hinge plate precisely installed in less than a minute and ready to clip on the door.

Where it works

The original EZ-Mount we tested was designed to work with Blum hinges in frameless applications. We understand plans are in the works to make new versions of the jig to work with other makers' hinges. The guides come with two jigs, one for inset doors and one for full overlay doors. The jig retails for about \$20. Considering the time-savings, it wouldn't take but a few cabinets to pay for that. For more information, circle 282 on the Reader Service Card in this issue or go to www.ez-mount.com. □



It's a snap — The final step is to snap off the jig, leaving the hinge plate quickly and precisely installed.