

weekend project:



FRENCH DRESSING:
Retractable screen doors affords an unobstructed view through these French doors.



ScreenEx® retractable screen door

Whether they swing on creaky hinges or bump along on wobbly wheels, screen doors require an inordinate amount of care. And in cold weather regions, they must be taken down and stored each winter.

For this project, we freed ourselves from much of this future maintenance by installing a ScreenEx Retractable Screen Door, which opens and closes as smoothly as a window shade. This retractable screen consists of a fiberglass screen rolled up inside a 2-in.-sq. aluminum case, or storage cassette. The cassette is installed vertically along the door jamb. Aluminum tracks are mounted along top and bottom of door opening to support the edges of the screen.



1 Fasten two metal mounting clips to the side jamb head casing over the doorway. Use one screw per clip.

We installed the Screenex Model SP3882 in front of a kitchen door. Other models are available for doors ranging in width from 3 to 8 ft. And, French doors are easily screened with a pair of side-pull screens. Add a lock to heavily used French doors for easy access and exit. There's even a way to use ScreenEx doors to enclose a two-car garage or open-air porch. Doors are available in white, almond, black and brown.

The manufacturer recommends using one of its side-pull models for high traffic doorways, like a front entryway or sliding patio door. Consider using one of its pull-down models on doors that have "limited" traffic or if you cannot have a bottom track. The pull-down style has the cassette mounted above door with tracks mounted vertically. ScreenEx also makes a line of 60-in. long retractable window screens that come in widths from 24 to 72 in.

Before purchasing a door, measure the inside width of the doorway at the top and bottom of the opening. If the door frame is out of square by 1/4 in. or less, you can go ahead and order the screen door. If it's out by more than 1/4 in., you'll have to adjust the jambs to square up the frame.

Side Pull* INSTALLATION STEPS

Determine operating direction (opens left or right side). Screw two metal mounting clips to the side jamb where the cassette will be mounted (photo 1). Make sure the curved lip on each clip faces in towards the doorway.

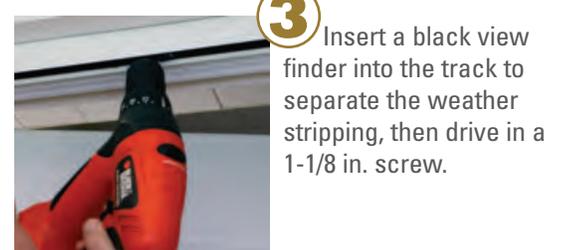
Carefully lift up the storage cassette and snap it into the two clips (photo 2). Make sure that the cassette is mounted level and plumb.

Slip the upper and lower tracks into place under the ends of the cassette and secure each one with two 1-1/8 in. screws (photo 3). Be sure that these are mounted level and plumb. Test the door by sliding the screen side to side a few times (photo 4). Check to make sure that it remains within the tracks at all times and latches securely.

Note that the tension on the screen is preset at the factory. However, if it ever needs to be adjusted, call the factory for instructions.



2 Snap the storage cassette into the mounting clips, then mark its position on the side jambs with a sharp pencil.



3 Insert a black view finder into the track to separate the weather stripping, then drive in a 1-1/8 in. screw.



4 Test the screen door by pulling on the handle. It should glide without hesitation.

* Pull down screen installation is similar with a few changes:

- Cassette mounts at top of opening.
- Screw two mounting clips to the head casing over the door.
- Slip the side tracks into place under the ends of the cassette.
- There isn't a track at bottom of door.