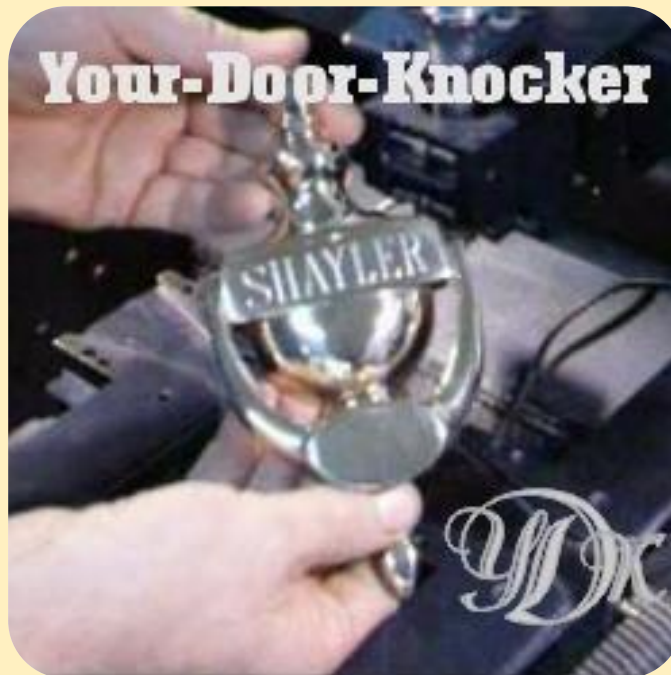




**Your-Door-Knocker**  
*Specialists In Hand Finished Engraved Door Knockers*

# Door Knocker Installation

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## Door knocker installation

A door knocker is very easy to install. If you are replacing an existing door knocker there may be a couple more things to consider. Be sure to see this chapter at the end of this publication.

### What is needed?

A few Basic home owners' tools are all that is needed.

- Electric Drill & bits (don't forget the safety glasses)
  - Screwdriver
  - Level
  - Ruler
- Small Crescent or socket Wrench (if cap nuts used)
  - Hack Saw (through the door mount)
  - Vice (through the door mount)
  - Pencil
  - Paper about 4" x 10"

### Common Installation Methods

There are two common methods used to install door knockers. Surface mount and Through the Door mount.



**Surface Mount** (pictured left) door knocker installation uses screws that go through the front of the door knocker and then screw into the surface of the door.

**Through the Door** (pictured right) installation requires holes be drilled through the door so bolts or similar hardware can be used to hold the door knocker the opposite side of the door.



Both methods are explained in detail later.



## **Where To Install Your Door Knocker**

Let me first say, the door knocker should be installed on the door, not next to the door, unless it is there solely for decoration. If you expect your door knocker to be functional and heard on the inside you need to mount it on the door itself. It will not resonate through the door jamb like it will through the door.

The design of the door will in all likelihood dictate where the door knocker is placed. It should be placed in a position on the door that is the most attractive as well as within reach of the average user.

Some doors have windows, some have panels and others are plain. Each circumstance will affect where the knocker should be placed.

In general it should be centered horizontally on the door from 4 to 5 feet from the floor. If the door allows it, I like it about 4-1/2 feet from the floor.

### **Door Knockers With Built In Eye Viewers**

Door knocker installation with a built in eye viewer could present the problem that it is either too high for the knocker or too low for the eye hole. It is for this reason I prefer the eye viewer to be a separate piece and mount higher than the door knocker. If a door knocker with a built in eye viewer is your choice, follow the instructions for the appropriate mounting method adding the hole for the eye viewer.



## Surface Mount

Surface mount door knocker installation can be used in many instances where you do not want hardware visible on the inside of the door. Many through the door mount door knockers can be converted to surface mount.

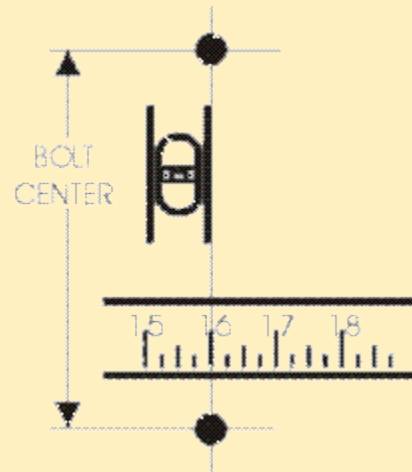


Surface mounting involves 2 or more screws that pass through the casting and into the door. A through the door style door knocker can usually be converted to surface mount by drilling and counter sinking holes in the casting and obtaining matching screws.

The bottom screw can usually be hidden under the clapper but the upper one is usually exposed. If the screw is a good match to the knocker this is not a problem and may even add to the appeal of the knocker overall.

The most common residential door is made of wood or wood panels. Once the mounting location is chosen the screw hole centers should be located using a ruler to find the center of the door and a level to ensure the locations are straight up and down. Care should be taken to not drill all the way through the door. I like to put masking tape on the drill bit at the point where I want to stop drilling. I can see when the tape meets the door.

If a peep hole or eye viewer is part of the door knocker another hole must be drilled through the door.

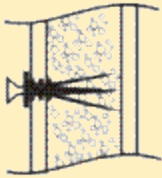


Some doors available today are made of a fill material covered by a skin of PVC, fiberglass, aluminum, steel or other material. These doors offer excellent energy efficiency as well as easy care and



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maintenance. Extra care must be taken when drilling these doors to prevent damage. If in doubt, contact the store or manufacturer for information on their doors.



If you are mounting a surface mount door knocker on a filled door you may need to use a screw anchor similar to what is used to get screws to stay in drywall. The plastic anchors are placed in the hole drilled into the door. When the screw goes in them they expand on the inside of the skin to keep the screw tight.

Without an anchor the screw cannot be made tight and the knocker will become very loose and possibly damage the surface of your door.

When purchasing your anchors check the packaging to be sure you are getting the correct size for the screw you are using and that you are using the correct size drill bit for the anchor. This is important. You do not want to drill the hole in the door too large or too small.



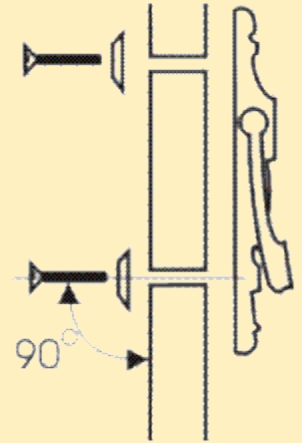
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## Through The Door Mount

Mounting your door knocker with the through the door method uses either all thread and cap nuts or stove bolts and washers to secure the casting to the door.

The all thread or bolt must be cut to the correct length to be just long enough to pass through the door and enter into the threaded portion of the door knocker.

Some doors available today are made of a fill material covered by a skin of PVC, fiberglass, aluminum, steel or other material. These doors offer excellent energy efficiency as well as easy care and maintenance. Extra caution must be taken when drilling these doors to prevent damage. Be especially careful of the exit hole on the opposite side you are drilling from. This hole may crack or deform if a slightly dull drill bit or too much pressure is used.



### Drilling the Door

A common practice to prevent damage as the drill bit exits the door is to drill small diameter pilot holes through the door at the desired locations. Using the pilot hole as a guide, drill the full size hole 1/2 way through from one side and then drill the other 1/2 starting from the other side. This prevents the larger drill bit from splintering the surface as it exits the door.

The drilling can be done with a typical home electric drill and bit. The size of the mounting bolts and inside hardware will determine the size drill bit to be used.

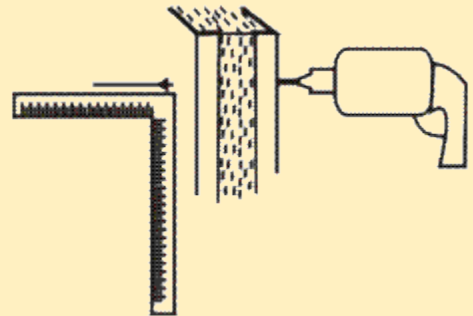
The hole must be just large enough for the bolt to pass through but not so large that it cannot be covered by the door knocker on the outside and the hardware on the inside.



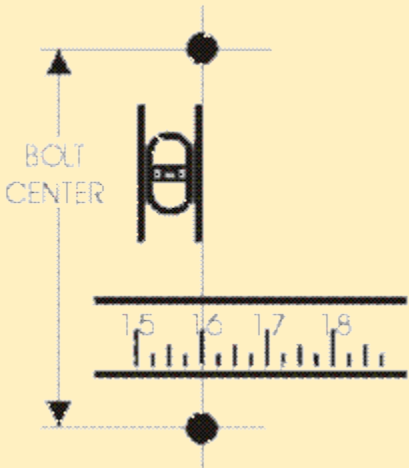
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Care must be taken to ensure that the holes are drilled squarely through the door. When the bolts are screwed into the door knocker they stick out squarely from it. If the holes in the door are drilled at an angle the door will interfere with the bolts.

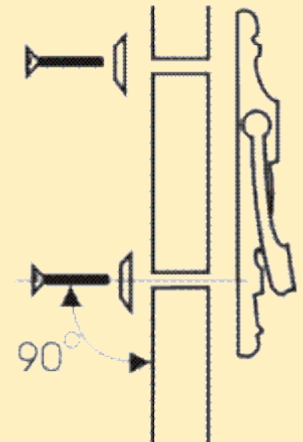


Slightly out of square holes can be compensated for by drilling the hole larger but you must be very careful to not get them so large that they cannot be hidden by the hardware. The best bet is to take your time and to do the best job you can of getting the holes drilled correctly the first time.



The distance between the holes must match the bolt center of the door knocker. A template can be made by placing a piece of paper on the back of the door knocker and pressing it into the mounting holes to make an impression. This paper can be taped to the door at the proper location to mark the drilling locations.

You must decide approximately how high to place the knocker on the door. Generally a distance of between 4 feet and 5 feet from the floor is correct. When the general location is decided a ruler is used to find the horizontal center of the door.



Mark the location of the upper hole to be drilled.

Use your paper template and a level to locate the lower drilling point. Drill the pilot hole through the door for both holes using the smaller drill bit. When these are drilled squarely through the door you can use





your larger drill bit to drill half way through the door from either the inside or the outside of the door. Be careful that the bit does not pull you all the way through the door. Go slowly for this first half of the drilling. When both holes are drilled to the finish size from one side of the door, complete the drilling by starting from the other side of the door.

On metal doors you may find it necessary to use a center punch to keep the drill from wandering while starting the hole.

When the holes are drilled the mounting bolts can pass through them and screw into the threaded bosses on the back of the casting. They should pull tight but not overly tight as to damage the door. Remember that things expand and contract from summer heat to winter cold.

Overly tightened in the summer may cause damage later. Door knockers supplied with all-thread or bolts will need the hardware cut to the proper length using a hacksaw and a vice.

## **Your-Door Knocker Universal Mounting Kit**

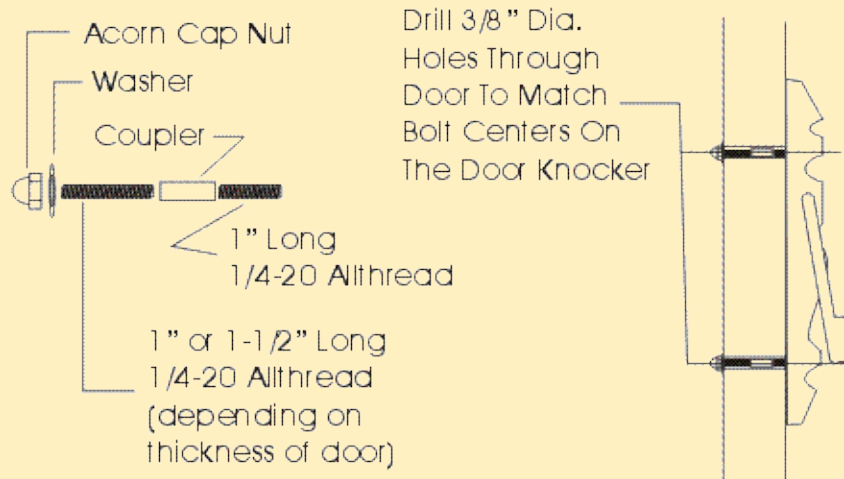
We have introduced our Exclusive Universal Mounting Hardware Kit that is now supplied with all our through the door mounted door knockers. Our exclusive universal through the door mounting hardware kit adjusts to fit doors from 1-1/2" to 2-1/4" thick. This kit eliminates the need to cut a bolt or all-thread to the exact dimension needed.



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## Your-Door-Knocker Through The Door Universal Mounting Hardware Kit

For Doors 1-1/2" to 2-1/4" Thick



Adjust the length of the hardware to fit the width of the door by combining a 1" allthread to either a 1" or a 1-1/2" allthread using the coupler supplied. Adjustment is made by loosening or tightening the assembly in the coupler. Be careful to not over tighten the hardware. The assembly should hold the door knocker snugly on the door. Over tightening may cause damage due to expansion and contraction as seasons change.

### Contents:

- 2 1/4-20 Allthread 1" Long
- 1 1/4-20 Allthread 1-1/2" Long
- 1 Coupler
- 1 Washer
- 1 Acorn Cap Nut

Per mounting point needed

Cap nuts and washers will be finished to match the door knocker they are supplied with

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Sometimes a through the door style can be converted to a surface mount with a little machine work.

The design of the door as well as how it is made may dictate which mounting method is used. A solid wood door should handle both methods but a filled door with a thin skin may not hold the screws for a surface mount.

Both methods work equally well and both have their advantages.

Through the door mounting is the most secure and adds decoration to the inside of the door. Surface mount does not require holes to be drilled through the door, only into the surface but the screws are generally visible on the knocker.

A good rule of thumb is:

**" If It Is On Your House And You Like The Way It Looks, You Did It Right..."**