

Save Time and Money with **Knock Down Drywall Elevations**

DOOOR AND HARDWARE
PROFESSIONALS KNOW
THAT KNOCK DOWN (KD)
DRYWALL FRAMES ARE

the best choice for many interior installations. They cost less to transport, eliminate a welding operation, and can be installed after most other trades are finished on a jobsite. In these ways, they save both time and money.

KD drywall frames are such an obvious choice that they are used for the majority of interior office projects. Despite the widespread acceptance of KD drywall three-sided frames, KD drywall sidelites, borrowed lites and transom frames have yet to gain the same acceptance.

by Steve Adams

KD Drywall Elevations

Is it really true that KD drywall sidelites, borrowed lites and transom frames can make your job easier? Absolutely! They can give you the same benefits of KD drywall three-sided frames and can make a job run smoother.

KD drywall three-sided frames in standard sizes have the convenience of being in stock at most distributors. This is true for KD drywall elevations as well. Most distributors have a main or secondary factory source that can get any KD drywall frame or elevation shipped to you on lead times as fast as the same day.

Here are some advantages of a KD drywall frame project versus a welded one:

- Save time: The contractor can build and finish walls before frames are needed.
- Save more time: KDs are easier to transport to each opening, especially if that opening is on the second floor or higher.
- Save money: KD frames are less expensive.
- Save more money: KD frames cost up to 50 percent less to ship.

Distributors gain other indirect savings in time and money, as KD drywall frames and elevations do not use up valuable shop time and resources like their welded counterparts do—no welding supplies like gas, welding wire, grinding pads, etc. They save labor dollars as well, since KD frames require no skilled shop labor. KD frames also take up less warehouse space and truck space.

Although KD frames are not suitable for every project, they are great for office retro-fits, medical office buildings, retail, and many similar applications. The time and financial savings they offer create a compelling case to use them wherever possible.

Installation Procedures

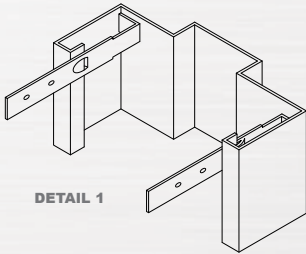
Most installers know how to install a standard KD drywall three-sided frame. Installing a KD drywall sidelite frame is similar, so let's start with these two products.

Installing KD Drywall-Type Sidelites (and Three-Sided Frames)

The following instructions show how to install a standard KD drywall three-sided frame. The added instructions in **red** are needed for installing a KD drywall sidelite frame:

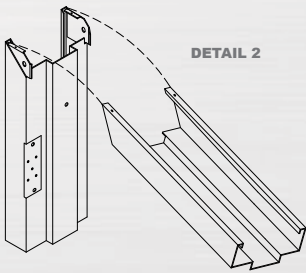
1) Verify rough opening is correct and is plumb, true, and square.

2) Install base clips on bottom of jambs (see detail 1)



3) Install hinge jamb

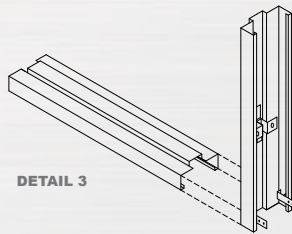
4) Install head and engage hinge jamb corner gusset (see detail 2)



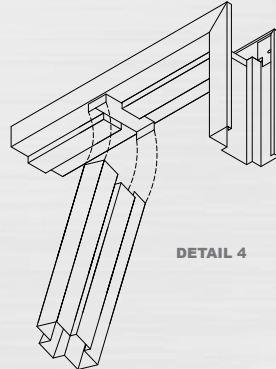
5) Install outside (or sidelite) jamb and engage corner gusset at head

6) Make compression anchors hand-tight

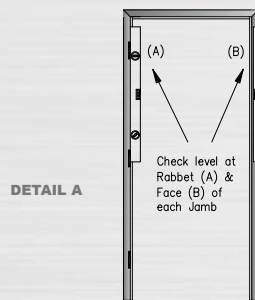
7) Locate sill in place on floor beside outside jamb (see detail 3)



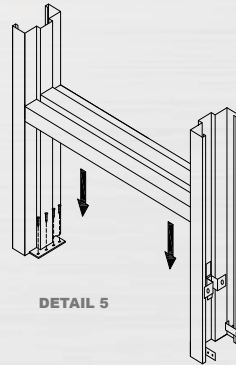
8) Fit top of vertical mullion over bracket in head (see detail 4)



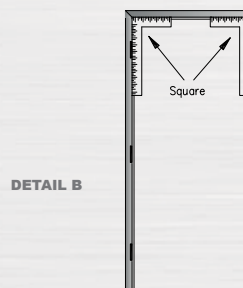
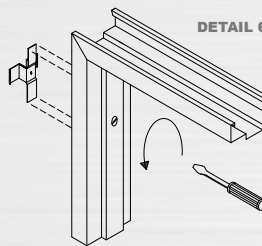
9) Swing vertical mullion into place — plumb, true, and square (see detail A)



10) Lift sill and fasten mullion bracket to floor (see detail 5)

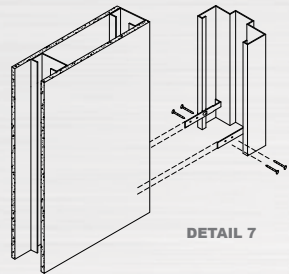


11) Finish tightening compression anchors in both jambs, alternating counter-clockwise turns of compression anchors to assure head remains square (see details 6 & B)

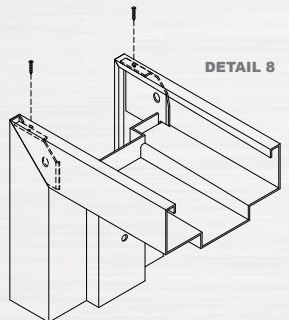


12) Verify opening width at top, middle, and bottom

13) Fasten bottom of jambs to wall, assuring they remain plumb, square, and true (see detail 7)



14) Install screws in corner gussets (see detail 8)

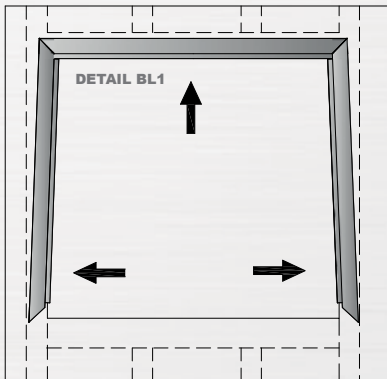


15) Secure or save glass bead for installation of glass and glazing

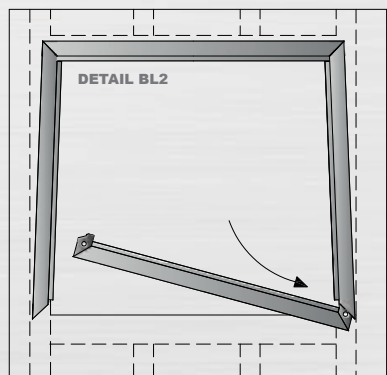
Installing a KD Drywall Four-Sided Borrowed Lite Frame (Mitered sill for installation off the floor)

1) Verify rough opening is correct and is plumb, true, and square

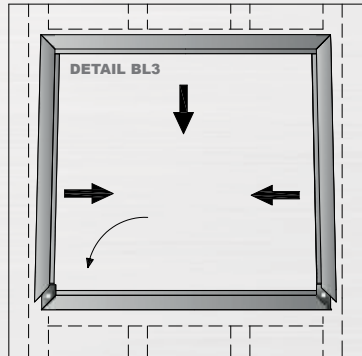
2) Install a jamb, head, and other jamb — be sure to push bottom of jambs all the way up and out of opening (see detail BL1)



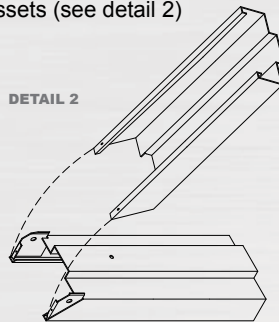
3) Angle sill into opening and push it toward wall as far as possible (see detail BL2)



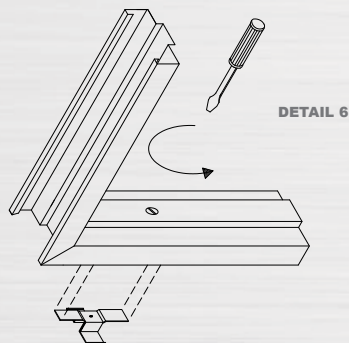
4) Swing other side of sill down past jamb and into place (see detail BL3)



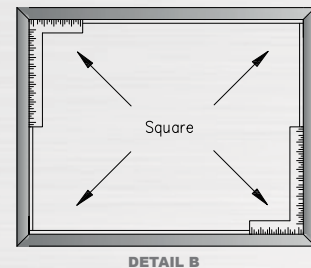
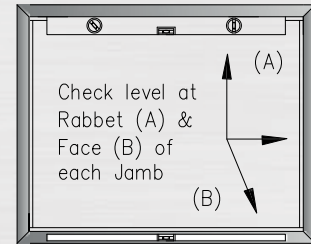
5) Pull jambs and horizontal pieces together while engaging all corner gussets (see detail 2)



6) Make compression anchors hand-tight, assuring sill is level (see detail 6)

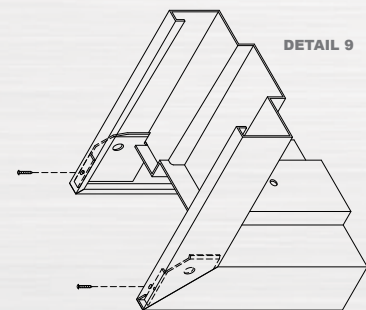


7) Square jambs to sill and make sure head is level and square (see details A & B)




8) Finish tightening compression anchors at head and sill while making sure opening stays level and square

9) Install screws in jambs at corner gussets (see detail 9)



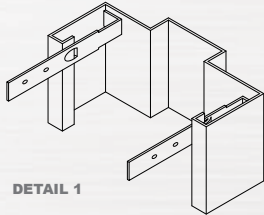
10) Secure or save glass bead for installation of glass and glazing

Most manufacturers provide detailed drawings, installation videos and a rough opening calculator on their websites. These are great resources for everyone involved in the selling and installation processes of these products. 

Installing a KD Drywall Transom Frame

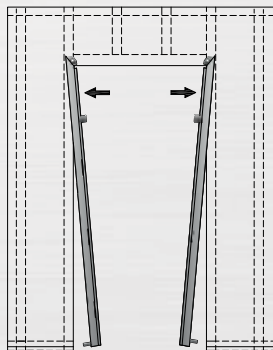
1) Verify rough opening is correct and is plumb, true, and square

2) Install base clips on bottom of jambs (see detail 1)



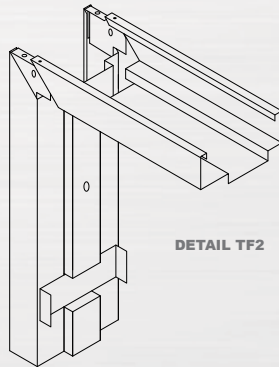
3) Install hinge jamb and strike jamb

4) Push tops of jambs toward each wall as far as possible (see detail TF1)



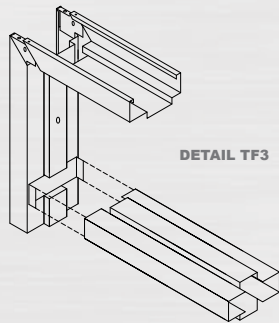
DETAIL TF1

5) Push head onto wall above jambs, but do not engage corner gussets at this time (see detail TF2)



DETAIL TF2

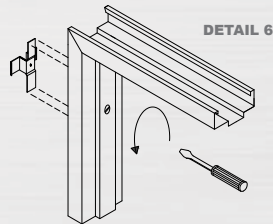
6) Fit one side of transom mullion over bracket in jamb (see detail TF3)



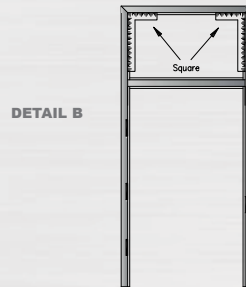
DETAIL TF3

7) Swing transom mullion into place and pull jambs toward mullion to engage brackets (see detail TF3)

8) Make compression anchors hand-tight, assuring jambs are square to head and transom mullion (see detail 6&B)



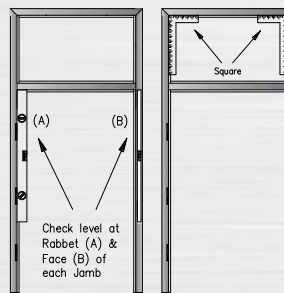
DETAIL 6



DETAIL B

9) Verify opening width at top, middle, and bottom

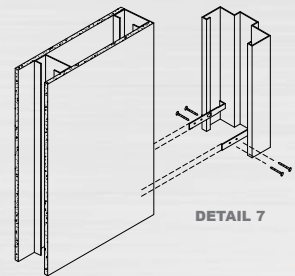
10) Finish tightening compressions anchors while making sure jambs and mullion stay plumb, square, and level (see detail A&B)



DETAIL A

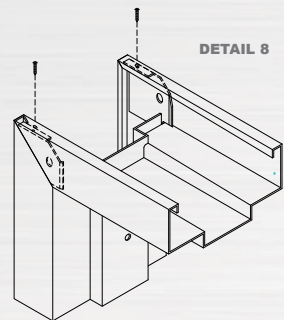
DETAIL B

11) Fasten bottom of jambs to wall (see detail 7)



DETAIL 7

12) Install screws in head at corner gussets (see detail 8)



DETAIL 8

13) Secure or save glass bead for installation of glass and glazing

About the Author: Steve Adams is vice president of sales with HMF Express, LLC, and a 30-year industry professional. To learn more about KD frame installation and product application, view Steve's material (including installation videos) at www.hmfexpress.com, call 866/452-1845, or email sadams@hmfexpress.com. To share your tips and product knowledge with the community, tweet to @HMFExpress or find HMF Express on Facebook.