



# DO YOU KNOW

by Alan Howe

When a door is made, it is made just under the size of the opening. There should be an allowance of  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch, so when the workman is fitting it he would have very little to plane off. Often the door frame is made  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch bigger than the door size.

The first thing to do when fitting a door is to cut off the bottom haunches; a common error is to make the door a fraction short in doing so. Rather than do this, leave  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch on.

Next stand the door in the frame to see how the length is. If it is clear that the door will be long enough, carefully cut off the top haunches. If it is the first door that you have fitted, it may be as well to leave these top haunches on for a while.

Having also tested the door for width, shoot the edges with a trying plane; to shoot the edges means to plane the door edge straight. A trying plane is used as it is a long plane and it is best to plane straight. When shooting the edges have the edge on a bevel so that the door will go into its opening in the manner of a wedge.

This is the principal secret in successful door fitting; let this bevel be, say  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch, in the thickness of the door.

Having shot the edges, the door should now go into the opening. The thing to watch for now is that the door is parallel with the frame. If not, plane the door edge where it is not parallel. Keep trying the door in the frame and make sure you are not taking too much off.

Now make sure the bottom of door fits the floor parallel. If this is right, look at the top and see if this is parallel with the frame head.

Before cutting the top haunches, be sure that the door is going to be long enough. It will be possible to glue a slip on to the top edge of a door if short.

Having cut the top haunches, fit the top edge. Having done this, take the door out and apply the hinge stile to its place. Place a penny between the frame and the door, push the door right into the frame, take another penny and you should be able to just get it in between the lock stile and the frame. The door will be the right fit with the clearance of the thickness of a penny all round.

Now check out for your hinges. The top hinge should be 7 inches from the top of the door and the bottom hinge 11 inches from the bottom of the door. These sizes are for a 6 ft. 8 in. door.

There should be just under  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch clearance at the bottom of the door and if you are having carpet in the room, the door should be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch short of the timber floor.

It is a good point when hanging the door to put two screws in each hinge on the frame, then try the door for fit. If you have checked too much out of the frame for the hinge, loosen the screws a few turns and pack out the hinge with a piece of cardboard, then tighten up the screws.

Once you have the door right, you can screw in the rest of the screws.

The lock may now be fitted and this is placed today 4 ft. 6 in. from the floor.

A good tradesman should fit and hang a door in an hour and should fit the lock in a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, depending on the type of lock—so next time you hang a door just see how you go for time.

If any of you would like any help on building or any hints on doing a job write to me c/o. *Dawn* and I will do my best to help you.



Henry Hunter, of Bourke, is determined to keep the lawns looking trim