MEASURING GUIDE

shelvesthatslide.com

notes:

Clear opening width

Our pull out shelves are custom made in 1/16" width increments. We always refer to the clear cabinet opening when talking about the shelf width not the actual finished wood box. The sliding shelf width dimension that you must give us is the clear cabinet opening (dimension A) at the height the shelf will be installed (upper shelves do not usually need to clear the hinges). The is usually the distance between the cabinet face frames for upper shelves or frame to hinge for the lower pull out shelf. This dimension may be smaller due to any intrusions into the cabinet opening or door placement or overlap. It is also important to check to make sure the door opens far enough, at least 90 degrees. In some instances the door may infringe on the opening more when it is fully open. This reduced dimension is the best one to use. Always give us the clear cabinet opening when ordering and we will adjust for the sliding hardware. If you are installing an upper shelf there is no need to deduct for the hinges that are at the bottom of the cabinet. The maximum width for our premium 2 3/8" tall pull out shelves is for a 39" cabinet opening. Remember that just because the bottom pull out shelf may need to be smaller to clear a cabinet hinge it does not mean that the upper sliding shelf has to be smaller as well. It is very common for the lower pull out shelf to be smaller than the upper one.

Depth

Shelves that slide sliding shelves come in depths from as small as 9 3/4" to as deep as 35 3/4" in 2" increments. We usually refer to the 21 3/4" deep shelf as 22", a 19 3/4" is a 20" etc. A standard kitchen cabinet uses a 22" shelf and a standard bathroom takes a 20" shelf. We can go up to 36" deep but the cost per shelf can be over $130 per shelf. To measure for do it yourself pull-out shelves simply check the depth from the inside edge of the kitchen cabinet face frame (the back side of the frame, not the front) to the back wall of the cabinet (dimension B). Watch out for any protrusions such as pipes or electric wires or outlets and adjust the size accordingly. Sometimes it is better to make a pullout shelf that is not as wide but can then be full depth rather then a shelf that is full width but 3" to 4" shorter. If you have a no shelf rear socket (see below) installation, and the cabinets are over 24" deep you will need to special order deeper shelves on longer slides. Slides up to 31 1/2" long are available.

Mounting style

There are three potential mounting arrangements for a sliding shelf. Existing full shelf, a half shelf, and no existing shelf.

Base mount 4 L brackets

A base mount is pretty much as it sounds. It is mounting to an existing shelf or to the base of the cabinet. This is perhaps the easiest installation available and also the strongest. The drawer slides will have four "L" brackets attached and these "L" brackets are secured to your existing shelf or cabinet floor. We use a specially made bracket that is designed for this purpose. In framed cabinets this L brackets sits behind the face frame. This brackets lifts the pull out shelf 5/8" above the surface it is mounted to. **If you have a frameless cabinet you may need to deduct for the L bracket, see section below this paragraph.** It is suggested that if the cabinet has adjustable shelves and if the hardware for this is plastic, the hardware should be replace with metal hardware. It is also necessary to secure the back of adjustable shelves so that they can not tip up when the sliding shelf is extended. This is accomplished simply by insert a couple of screws in the back or side walls with the heads of the screws protruding enough to hold the shelf down and prevent tipping when the slider is extended. If this is your set up specify full shelf on the order page.

Frameless Base Mount On frameless cabinets there is no place for the L bracket that normally sits behind the cabinet face frame. Because of this must deduct from the clear opening width. The L brackets use 1/4" on each side. If you have a cabinet with no doors and you want to base mount you will need to deduct 1/4" from each side to allow for the L bracket. If you have a single door you will need to deduct the 1/4" just one time and if you have double doors and hinges protrude at least 1/4" into the opening you can order the clear opening with no deductions.

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Half Shelf - 2 rear brackets

Many cabinets come with an upper half depth shelf. This is a shelf that is usually 9" to 12" deep at the back of the cabinet. You can install a full depth shelf where you currently have the half depth shelf. You will use the half shelf to secure the back part of the sliding shelf while the front of the sliding shelf hardware will attach to the cabinet's face frames. The slides will have two "L" brackets in the rear to attach to your half shelf. If there are doors that protrude into the cabinet be sure to let us know the difference between the cabinet face frame dimension and the clear cabinet opening so we can include the proper spacers. In other words if you have a 15" opening and the shelf needs to be 14 7/8" because the door sticks out 1/8", we can include a 1/8" spacer for you to put between the slide and the cabinet face frame. This installation is very solid as long as the face frames are a hardwood and not a particle board. We suggest reinforcing particle board face frames with a hardwood piece placed vertically or installing a full stationary shelf to mount the slider to. Make sure the half shelf is secure so that it will not tip up when the sliding shelf is extended. See full shelf section for tip on screws in the back wall. **Half shelf installation will not work easily with full extension slides.** The front of slide can not attach to face frame and will have to be built out from the sidewall of the cabinet to use the half shelf mount. The same rules for frameless cabinets apply as they do for the base mount

What if there is no existing shelf?

Just as it sounds the no shelf installation is for locations where you want to install a Pull Out Shelf and there is no existing shelf. There are two types of no shelf installations. The first is with rear mount sockets.

Rear Mount
Plastic sockets are mounted to the end of the sliding hardware and are attached to the cabinet's back wall. The front of the slide is attached to the cabinet face frame as with the half shelf installation**. Important! Rear mount sockets will not work with full extension slides.**

Side Mount
The second method of installing with no shelf is to side mount. Spacers are used to attach the slides directly to the cabinet sidewalls. The sidewalls must be thick enough so that the screws do not pop out to the outside. If you are installing a series of shelves in one cabinet it may be better to cut a piece of wood the same thickness as the side to build it out as needed. If this wood is mounted vertically from the base of the cabinet up the installation can be very sturdy and support higher weight items such as canned food in a pantry. The same requirements for measuring apply for the no shelf install as they do to the half shelf installation. Make sure to order the spacers that you need when placing your order.

Slide Type
We offer two types of slides for our pull out shelves. The standard slides are 3/4 extension and we also offer as an upgrade full extension slides. The standard 3/4 extension slides work great for most installations. For a regular kitchen cabinet a 3/4 extension slides puts items that are in the back of the cabinet with the shelf closed, up to where the front items were after the shelf is extended. In other words 3/4 extension slides make the back of your kitchen cabinet accessible. Full extension slides do have there place. If you have a pantry and want to set can foods on a shelf and be able to access the back can the full extension slides will do that for you. The other location is if you want a media shelf with DVD or CD flip strips the full extension slides give you full access. Other than that you will really just be wasting your money to upgrade to full extension drawer slides. The full extension slides are three part and they are a little bit confusing to assemble. There is also a "bump" when the middle member is extended. It is also important to note that full extension slides will not work for the half or rear mount installations.