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## A GUIDE TO: *Buying and Fitting Mortice Latches*

There is a huge choice of latches available on today's market so choosing can be a bit of a minefield and depending on what purpose you are looking for will relate to the type of latch you need. For a detailed questions and answers on this subject please see our F.A.Q. page on the website which provides as much information as possible. It is always advisable to speak to someone in the know in case you are a little unsure of exactly what you need so consulting a carpenter, joiner, builder, door supplier or call our technical team for as much help and guidance as you need.

These step by step instructions are designed as a guide only and the steps can be varied depending on what it is you are fitting. For the purpose of this guide we have fitted a 2.5" Heavy Duty Tubular Mortice Latch to a solid oak door and using Lever Latch Handle but the same principles apply for all latches, deadbolts and a number of door locks with some variations in steps depending on the product.



**Disclaimer:** These fitting instructions are designed as a guide only and no responsibility can be taken by From The Anvil or it's stockists regarding damage to your property or product. It is advised that you seek professional advice before attempting this process.



Step 1 is to mark out the position of your latch.

This is decided by the height at which you want your door handle/knob to be and can be varied depending on what is a comfortable height.

Mark a cross at the required height and centrally on the edge of door.



With the square face plate held onto the latch position on your pencil mark and centrally on the edge of the door.

Draw around the square faceplate with a pencil taking care to make sure all is central and not too close to the edge.



Using your pencil cross which should be centred in the outline of the latch faceplate drill into the door edge using an auger drill bit. The size of bit depends on the size of the latch casing so make sure it is big enough so that the latch will slide into the door easily. It is worth doing this drilling now as when you start chiselling all pencil marks will be removed.



Depending on the thickness of your door it may be worth bracing the door with some scrap wood and a G clamp as the latch faceplate might be very close to the edge of the door.

Start by carefully chiselling around the outline pencil marks of the faceplate.



Once the outline has been made begin to carefully chisel out enough of the door edge so that the latch and faceplate will sit flush with the surface.



Using the pre-drilled hole you may want to re-drill using the same auger bit just to make sure the latch casing will fit properly and to the right depth also.



The next step is to get position for the spindle which passes through the door latch and connects your two handles together.

Start by holding the latch along the face of your door in the correct position to line up with the drilled hole etc. Using a pencil, draw a mark through the spindle hole in the latch.



Using the mark you have just made through the spindle hole of the latch it is time to drill all the way through the door. This allows the spindle to pass from one handle through the door, operate the latch and connect the handle on the other side.

Using an auger bit drill a hole big enough for a 7/8mm spindle to pass through.



Now is the time to insert the latch with its faceplate into the edge of the door and make sure everything fits flush.

Hopefully if every step is followed all should fit well at this stage.



With the faceplate in position drill pilot holes and fix the latch in place using the screws provided.



You can now fit your handle or knob set at this stage if you so wish and also time to hang your doors with butt hinges (see our other fitting guides for these processes).

Now is the time to fit the receiver or keep into the frame of the door. Start by closing door up to the frame and marking where the latch hits with a pencil.



After marking the top and bottom of the latch open the door and continue the marks around the door frame to get final resting position of your latch.



A good trick here is to hold up the receiver plate to the position of the faceplate on the latch and mark on the reverse of receiver where the edge of the door sits.



After step 13 hold up the receiver plate to your door frame so it is centralised with your latch lines on the wood and the door line on the back of your receiver. This gives excellent position for fitting the plate.



Hold the plate firmly in position and with a pencil draw around the outer part of the receiver, the two fixing holes and the hole (for the latch to fit into).



Using the outline you have just drawn hold up the black plastic latch tidy to the frame and position centrally in your outline.

This is used to tidy up the appearance of the door frame once you have chiselled and drilled out the wood.



With all your marks made it is always a good idea to drill any holes need before you begin any chisel work as all marks will be removed.

Drill pilot holes for the two fixings and for a guide to drill out the frame for the latch to actually sit in.



Using your guide hole in the centre drill out using an auger bit enough space for the black plastic latch tidy to fit comfortably into.



Chisel out the main square area deep enough for the tidy to fit snugly into and proceed to carefully chisel out the outline previously drawn for the receiver plate to sit flush with the surface of your frame.



Position the latch tidy in place to confirm it all fits well and place the receiver over the top of this.



Using your pilot hole from before fix both the tidy and the receiver plate in place using the fixing screws provided.



Now is the moment of truth to see if all the steps have been taken and all your hard work has been worth it. If you have fitted your handles or knob set then it is time to test the latch out. Simply close the door and all being well it should close easily, fit perfectly into the door frame and open just as smoothly.



This guide is about mortice latch fittings but the same principles and steps can be taken when fitting differing sizes and types of latch but also many types of locks. It is always best to seek professional advice before taking on something like this and always refer to manufacturers instructions regarding the more complicated or multi-point locks.