

Split Kit with Flange Installation Instructions for Round Fiberglass Columns

SPLIT COLUMNS ARE NOT LOAD BEARING.



1. Measure the opening where column is to be used. Cut the column 1/2" – 1" shorter than the opening height. Measuring from the top of the column shaft towards the bottom, mark the column for cutting to length.

NOTE: THE SPLIT COLUMN IS NOT STRUCTURAL AND MUST NOT CARRY ANY LOAD!



2. Separate the 2 column halves. If purchased pre-installed, aluminum flanges will be attached to one of the halves. Place edges down. Cut each shaft half to length with carbide tipped blade. Carbide blade will cut fiberglass and aluminum. Slowly cut through the (2) aluminum flanges as you cut the column shaft to length. (see Note 1)



3. After cutting column halves to length, screw the aluminum flanges to the column approximately 2" up from where you cut the column off. Use your 1/8" diameter twist drill to drill holes. Use 3/8" diameter countersink bit to countersink the hole for screw. Install screw to secure flange.



4. Aluminum flanges that run the length of column may have been fastened tightly to column for shipping. Use cordless drill and #2 Phillips driver bit, loosen screws fastening the 2 flanges to the column by approximately 1/4". Pull each flange back away from inside face of column so there is a gap of approximately 1/4" between the face of each aluminum flange and the inside face of the column.



5. Use a caulk gun to inject a continuous bead of construction adhesive in the 1/4" space between each aluminum flange and the inside face of the column. Now run another continuous bead of construction adhesive on the exposed face of each aluminum flange for the entire length of the column.



6. Set the column half with the aluminum flanges in place around the structural post. Slide the second column half into place, over the aluminum flanges, until the cut edges of the 2 column halves meet.



7. Take one of the 3 ratcheting tie down straps and put it around the center of the column. Tighten it until is snug enough to hold the column halves completely together, but not fully tight.



8. Check to make sure neck molding at the top of each column half is aligned. Adjust column halves up or down accordingly. With remaining 2 ratcheting tie downs, clamp the column 12" +/- from the top and bottom. If necessary, slap side of column firmly with your hand to get final alignment of column edges. When 2 column halves are properly aligned, complete the tightening of the 3 ratcheting straps.



9. Along the length of column, gradually retighten the Phillips screws to pull the aluminum flanges back tight against the inside face of the column. Do not over-tighten. Check to make sure cut edges remain in alignment. Loosen screws and readjust if edges go out of alignment.



10. Use 1/8" diameter twist drill bit to drill holes for attaching the second column half to the aluminum flanges. Measure 3/4" in from the cut edge and mark opposite each screw that was installed at the factory. Drill completely through the column shaft and completely through the aluminum flange that backs up to the inside of the column.

Tools and Supplies Required for Split Column Installation

1. Cordless drill
2. #2 Phillips driver bit
3. Circular saw with carbide blade
4. 1/8" diameter twist drill bit
5. 3/8" diameter countersink*
6. 3/16" diameter masonry drill bit
7. (3) ratcheting tie-down straps
8. Tape measure
9. 10 oz. caulk gun
10. Putty knife
11. Spring clamp
12. Denatured alcohol for cleanup

* 3/8" diameter masonry drill bit or twist bit may be used as substitutes for countersink

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11. Take the countersink bit and use the 1/8" diameter holes you just drilled as pilot holes. Drill recesses deep enough for the head of the #8 flat head screws to be slightly below the surface of the column shaft. Use the factory drilled countersink holes as a gauge for the proper depth. If you do not have a countersink, a 3/8" diameter twist drill or masonry drill will work as substitutes. However, EXERCISE EXTREME CARE THAT YOU DO NOT DRILL TOO DEEPLY.

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12. Take the #8 self drilling screws and insert them into the 1/8" diameter holes and along the length of the column, gradually tighten the Phillips screws. Do not over-tighten. Check to make sure cut edges remain in alignment. Loosen screws and readjust if edges go out of alignment.

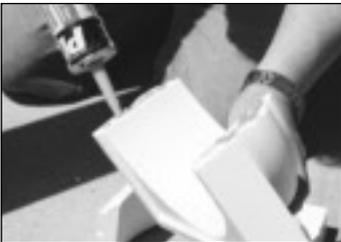
13. Remove the 3 ratcheting straps. Once glue has dried, scrape off any excess squeeze-out with a putty knife



14. Bottom L-brackets should be attached with included screws to substrate and column. Use included blue Tapcon® screws for attaching brackets to substrate. Use pan head screws to attach L-brackets to column shaft. See Note 2



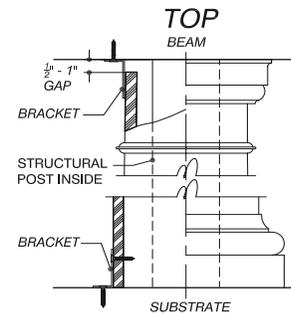
15. Optional: Install 2 top L-brackets (SEE NOTE 2). **DO NOT FASTEN TOP BRACKETS TO COLUMN SHAFT WITH SCREWS.** Screw through top angle brackets into beam only and friction fit to column shaft. The cap, once installed, will secure the top of the column if optional L-brackets are not used.



16. Apply construction adhesive to both cut edges of the split cap and split base. Nail or screw cap and base halves together. Caulk holes and where cap and base meet column shaft.

NOTE 1: If installation kit with flange was purchased separately, you will need to install the flange to both edges of one half column. After you separate the column halves, cut the column to length. Space 4' flange section evenly, line up index line with the edge of the column, clamp in place. Pre-drill holes at one foot intervals starting at one end. loosely secure flange with included screws. Continue installation from step 5.

NOTE 2: Depending on what you ordered, some columns come with 2 L-brackets. If L-brackets are not included, you will need to purchase them separately. A column installation kit is available that includes 4 L-brackets and screws (column installation kit #17040) or you can purchase L-brackets from your local hardware store.



BOTTOM

ATTACHMENT NOTE:

Do not fasten top clips to column shaft with screws. Attach to beam, friction fit to top only. Bottom bracket should be attached with included screws to substrate and column.

Tips

1. Temporary shims can be used to help align column halves. Place shims under column to assist in alignment.
2. Do not force screws into material. Tightening a screw too tight or forcing a screw into a hole too small can result in breaking the material.
3. If using split column shafts for pilaster, cut each L- bracket in half, rotate bracket to attach column shaft halves to wall.
4. When tightening screws attaching column shaft to aluminum flange, tighten them all, gradually. If you tighten each screw all the way before moving to the next screw, you increase the chances of misalignment of the faces of the column shaft halves. **DO NOT HIT THE COLUMN HALVES WITH A METAL HAMMER TO ALIGN THEM!** You may need to slap the faces of the column hard with your hand or strike them with a rubber mallet to fine tune the alignment along the cut seam.
5. If installing more than one column, mark each half with a corresponding number or letter (ie #1, #2, A, B, etc.). If halves are mixed up they will not fit together properly

After adhesive has fully cured:

1. Remove any excess adhesive with putty knife.
2. Fill screw holes, gaps or voids with automotive body filler.
3. Caulk all joint and holes in cap and base.
4. Caulk joints where column shaft meets cap and base.
5. Sand all joints and patches prior to painting.
6. Refer to Column Installation Instructions for surface preparation and painting instructions.