

# Deep-Wall Window Opening


by Lindsay Suter

**D**eep walls — those over 6 inches — pose a problem for the carpenter installing windows: How do you create a window opening that is both efficient with time and materials and looks good? Over the last few years, I've developed a way to produce beveled, or flared, openings for deep-wall windows that is quick, easy to build, and attractive. Though I developed the method for 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch-thick structural stress-skin panel walls, the design works with windows designed for 2x4 walls in any wall from 6 inches thick on up. It makes the

wall look even thicker than it is, and greatly enhances the quality of light in the room.

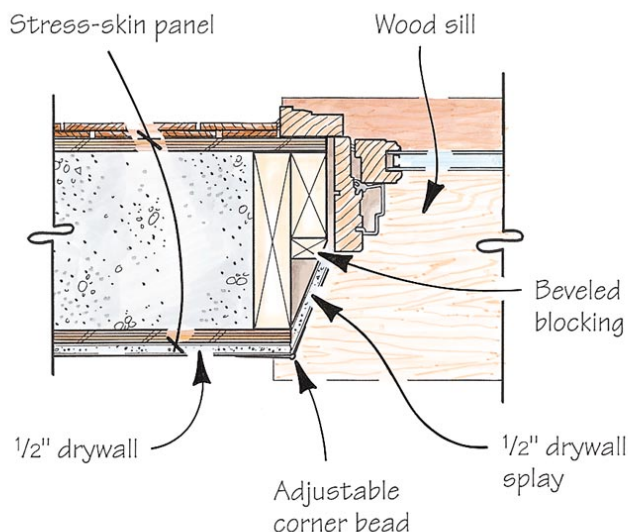
The key is to frame the rough opening 3 inches wider than called for by the manufacturer's specs. Inside the rough opening — which in the figure here is built with 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch stress-skin panels — create another, smaller "rough opening" by nailing a 2x4 flush with the exterior edge of each jamb, on the inside face of the exterior sheathing.

Next, measure the angle from the 2x4's inside edge to the inside corner of

the stress-skin panel or wall framing and use that angle to cut a piece of beveled blocking. The blocking provides backing for the drywall where it tucks behind the window unit's finish jamb. The top of the opening gets drywall as well. After applying metal bead and mud, finish the sill with a nice piece of 5/4 stock, and you've got an attractive, low-glare opening that provides some space for plants or knickknacks. 

**Lindsay Suter** is an architect and contractor in New Haven, Conn.

## Detail of Window Jamb



The author uses 2x4s to create a 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch-deep rough opening inside a deeper wall (one 2x6 or larger), then spans the gap with drywall to create a smooth and simple splayed opening that reduces glare and increases the apparent depth of the wall. The top and bottom of the rough opening are framed normally. The rough jamb at the bottom is dropped enough to allow a wood sill extension to slip under the sill of the manufactured unit.

