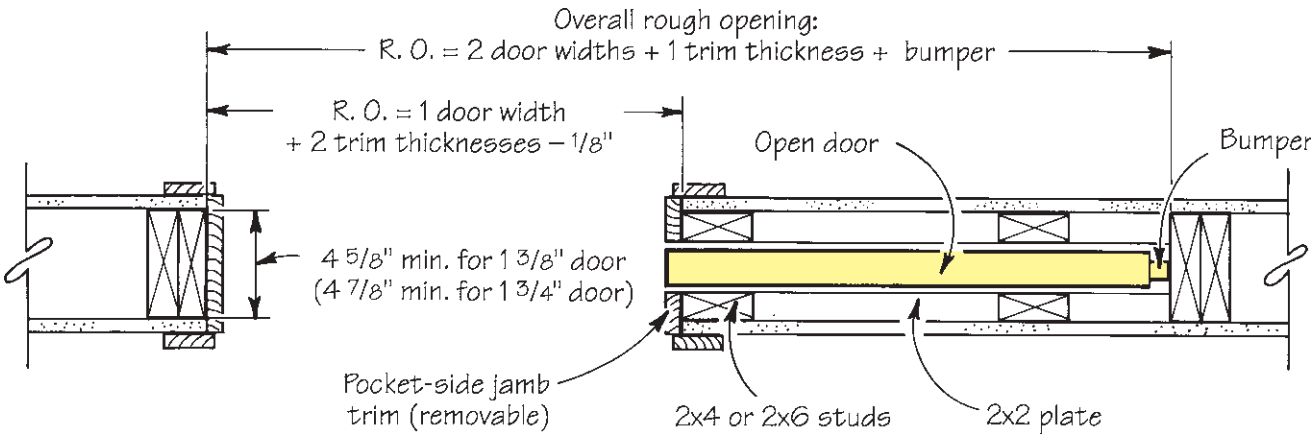
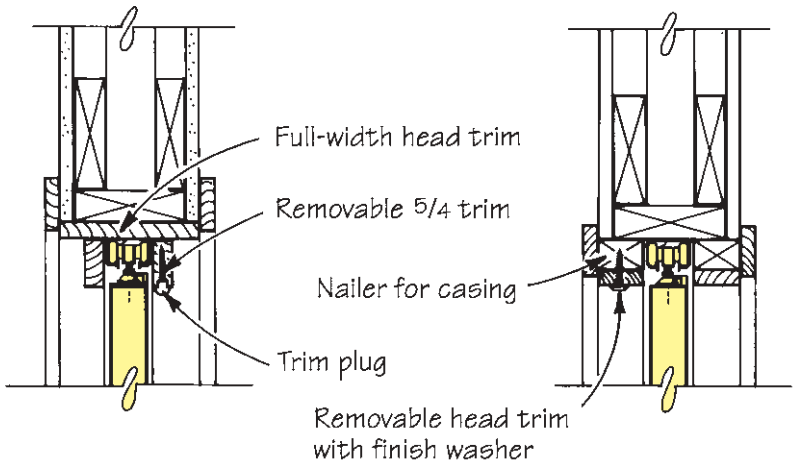
Framing a Pocket Door



To stick-frame a pocket door, use 2x2 sole plates and 2x4 or 2x6 studs on edge. Rough-opening dimensions may vary, so consult the track hardware installation instructions. ("Pocket Door Primer," 2/93)

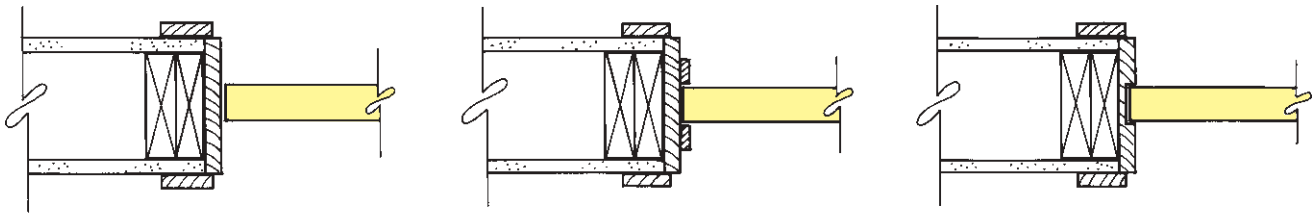
Head Trim Details

Conceal surface-mounted track and hangers with a piece of trim on edge (A). Make one side removable using oval head screws and finish washers or recessed fasteners covered with buttons. A recessed track (B) makes the finish opening look more like that of a hinged door. Provide a separate nailer for the casing, and make one side of the head jamb removable. ("Pocket Door Primer," 2/93)



A. Surface-Mounted Track **B. Recessed Track**

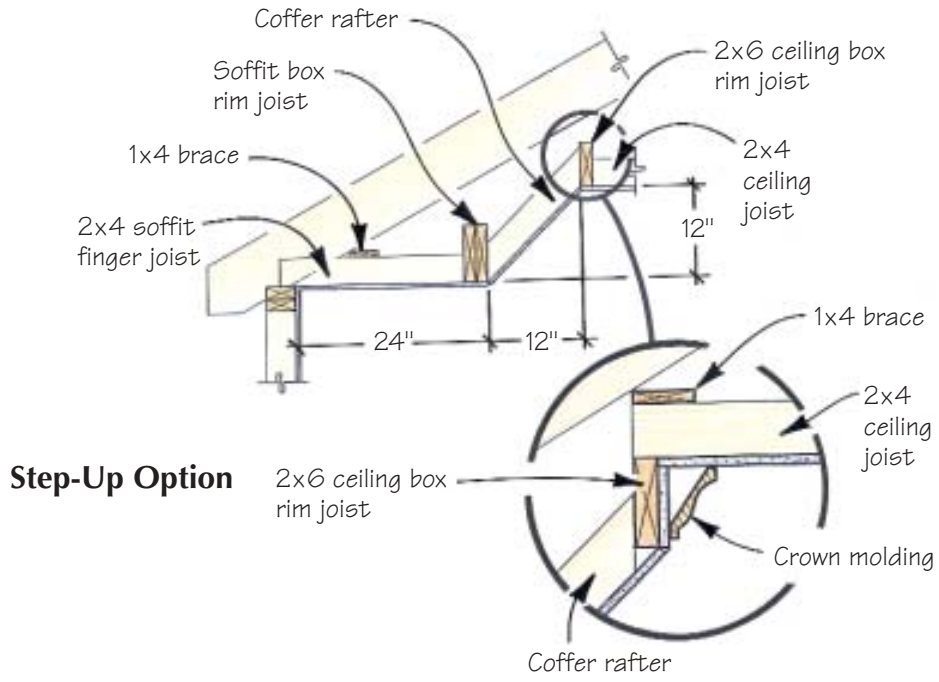
Lock Side Trim Details



A. No Stops **B. Applied Stops** **C. Dado**

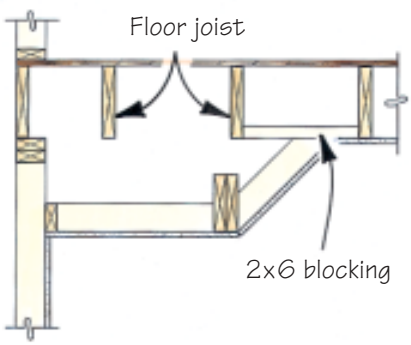
A flat jamb at the lock side (A) may allow light to show when the door is closed. To solve this problem, apply shallow stops (B) or route a dado to accept the edge of the door (C). ("Pocket Door Primer," 2/93)

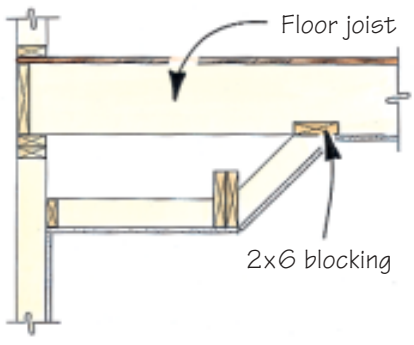
Framing a Tray Ceiling Section



The perimeter of the recessed ceiling can be either a simple angle or a vertical step-up trimmed with a crown molding. (“Framing Recessed Ceilings,” 5/97)

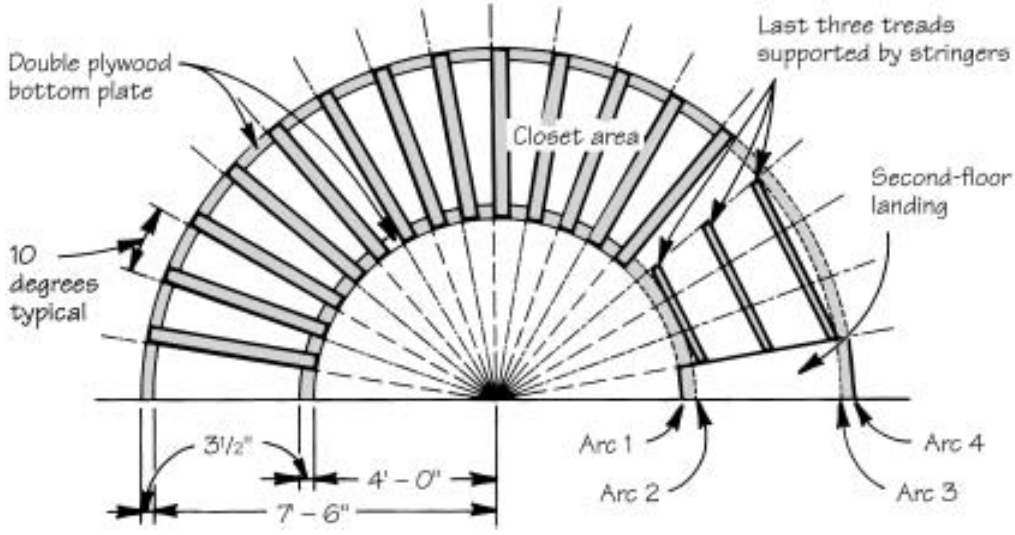
Framing a Tray Ceiling Below a Floor





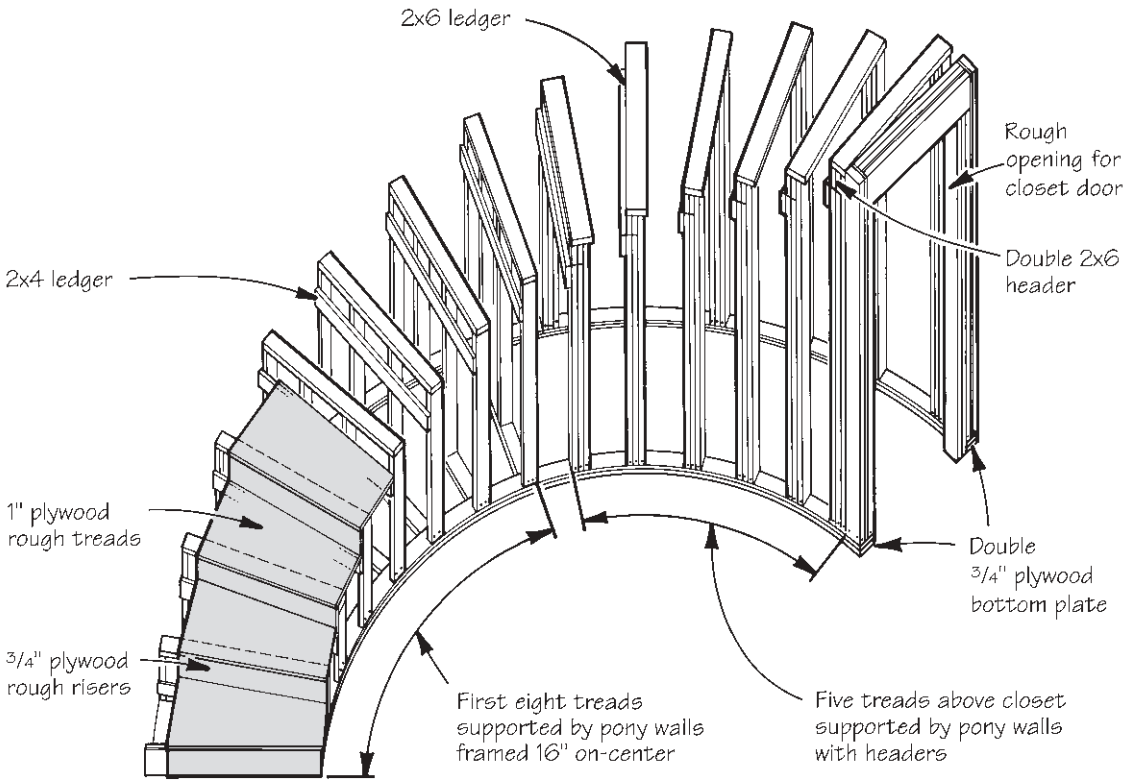
When framing a coffer below floor joists, use a ledger at the wall to catch the finger joists, and 2x6 blocks between the floor joists to catch the coffer rafters. (“Framing Recessed Ceilings,” 5/97)

Radius Stair Layout



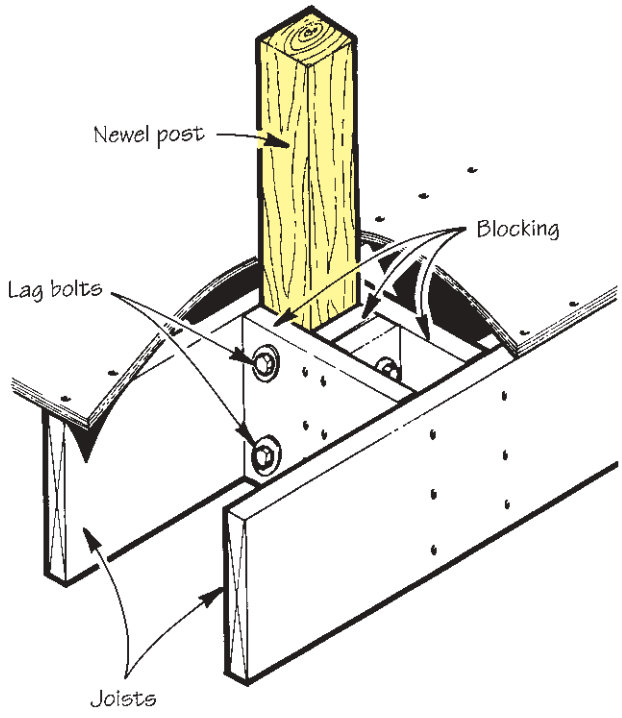
After locating the radius point of the stair, the author laid out four concentric arcs, marking the bottom plates of the stair structure. Arcs 1 and 2 mark the inside, open wall of the stair. Arcs 3 and 4 mark the floor-to-ceiling bearing wall on the outside. (“Framing a Radius Stair,” 2/93)

Radius Stair Construction



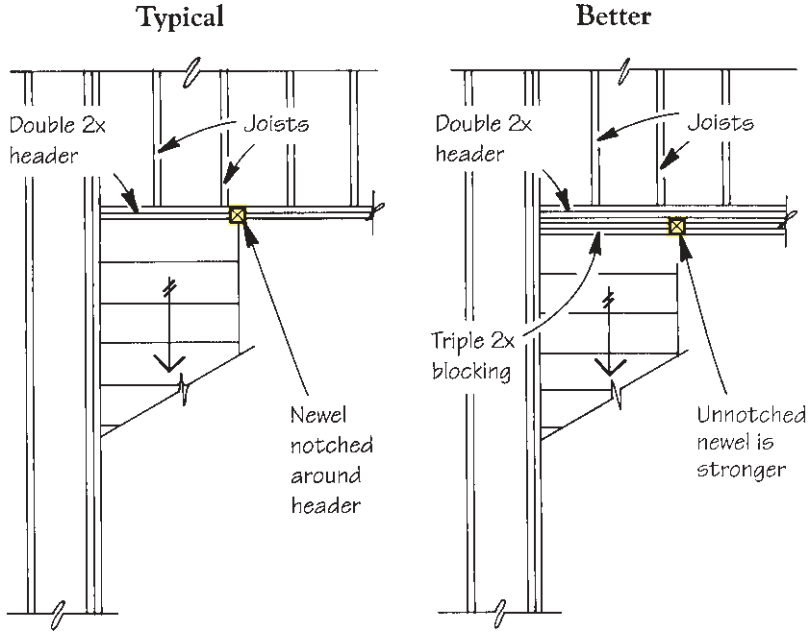
Simple pony walls, framed 16 inches on-center, support the first eight treads of the stair. The next five pony walls include a header to span the closet opening. A 2x ledger fastened 6⅛ inches below the top of each wall supports the back of each tread. (“Framing a Radius Stair,” 2/93)

Fastening a Starting Newel



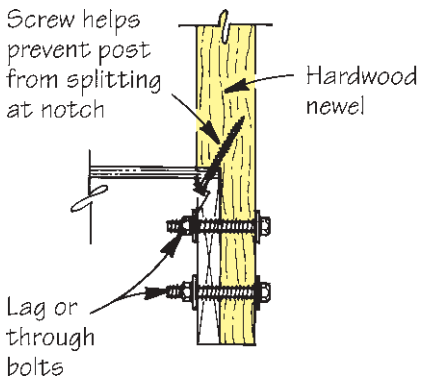
For the strongest possible newel, arrange the floor framing so that starting newels land over a joist bay. The landing newel can then be bolted to the front of the header without needing to be notched. The author mortises newels by wedging them in place with wood blocks. ("Fastening Newel Posts," 5/94)

Attaching a Landing Newel



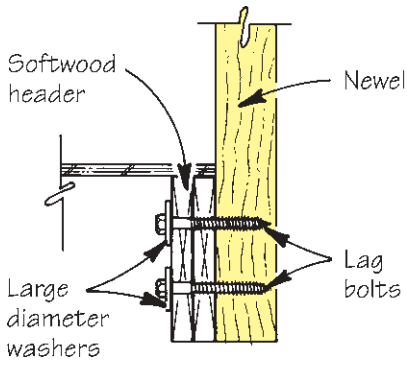
When stair landings are framed with a double two-by header at the edge, the landing newel must be notched around the header (left). For a stronger installation, the author holds the header back so that the newel doesn't have to be notched, then adds blocking to fill out the landing width (right). ("Fastening Newel Posts," 5/94)

Notched Newel



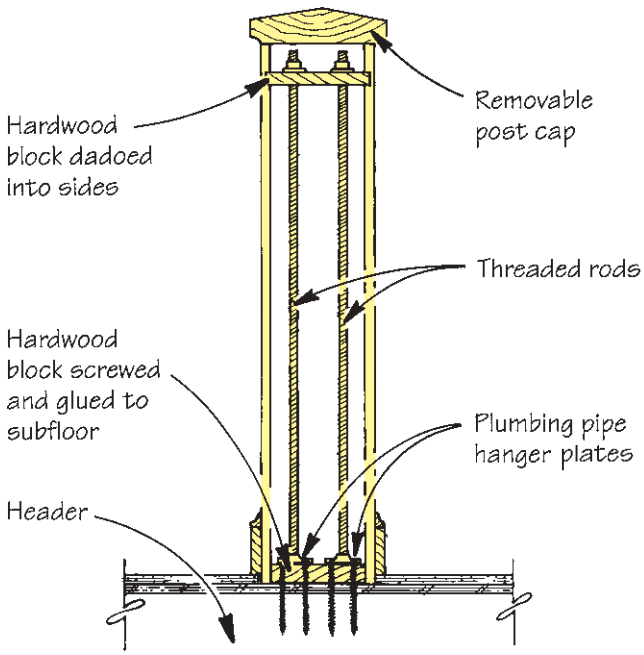
Screwing from below helps strengthen the shoulder of a notched newel, as long as you can get a tight fit. ("Fastening Newel Posts," 5/94)

Bolting Tips



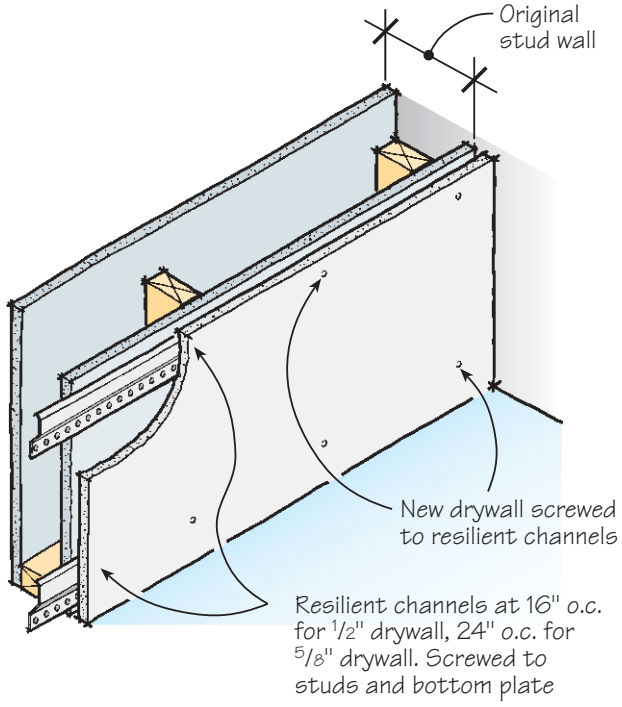
Lags hold better in hardwood than in softwood, so the author always lags through the framing into the hardwood newel rather than vice versa. Large washers or hardwood blocks prevent the lag head from crushing the wood fibers in the joist and loosening the newel. ("Fastening Newel Posts," 5/94)

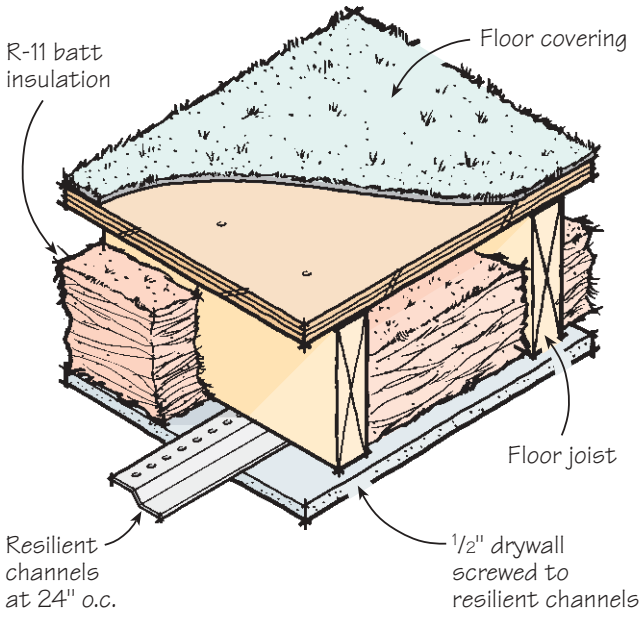
Attaching Hollow Newels



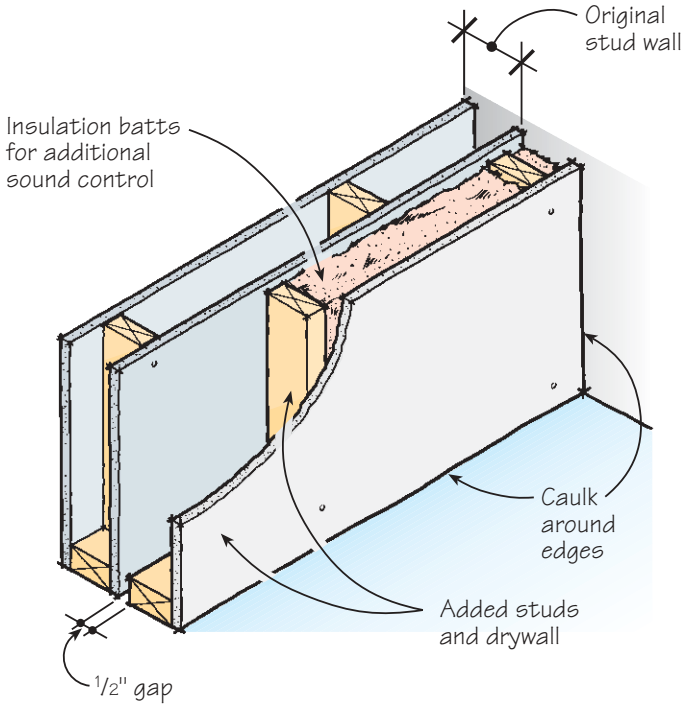
The author secured these hollow newels to the floor with hardwood blocks, plumbing pipe hanger plates, and 5/16-inch threaded rods. ("Fastening Newel Posts," 5/94)

Using Channel to Cut Sound





Double Wall Soundproofing



To improve the sound-dampening ability of an existing stud wall (left) or ceiling (right), add a second layer of drywall supported on resilient channel. The channel helps isolate the new wall or ceiling surface from any vibrational noise that might be carried through the original framing and drywall, reducing sound by around 40%. (*By Design,* 10/99)

A better sound-dampening option is to build a new wall alongside an existing wall, separated by 1/2 inch to break the sound path. Adding batt insulation will additionally cut down on airborne sound between the rooms. (*By Design,* 10/99)