DESIGN VU

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

DESIGN-VU Outdoor Panels

36" x 72" Panels

Please read entire instruction sheet before you begin.
Follow these instructions and recommendations to install panels within warranty, and to avoid panel damage.

Easy to Install

Panel measurements:
36" x 72" x 5/16"

A typical project uses 12-24 panels.

Find panel weights, sizes, and other details on our website. Click on your pattern name.
design-vu.com/patterns

Examples shown in this document are installation suggestions. Adjust installation configurations to meet your project requirements. If in doubt, consult a professional.

DESIGN-VU Decorative Modular Panels are suitable for pro builders and DIY crafters.

Easy-to-Install
Manageable sizes; easy to cut and drill; easy to install with conventional tools and construction methods.

East-to-Attach
Attach to frames and flat surfaces with DESIGN-VU Panel Screws or exterior decking screws w/ washers.

Sustainable
Solid 100% poly*; from 100% recycled materials & 100% recyclable.
* Material similar to vinyl fencing

Durable
Engineered for outdoor applications; weather-proof throughout North America; termite proof.

We recommend following best building practices for installing the panels. *Check with proper authorities about building codes/standards that may apply to your project.* ***If in doubt, consult a professional.***

DESIGN-VU Decorative Modular Panels have a 15-Year Limited Warranty *for material integrity when installed in accordance with their intended purpose – on a vertical plane, as on a wall or fence. Installations on a horizontal plane, as a roof or ceiling, are not covered by the warranty.* ***Installers assume responsibility for ensuring installation is within warranty.***

Frames & Support Structures

DESIGN-VU Decorative Modular Panels must be mounted to a frame or an existing surface or structure. They are not a stand-alone structural product.

Read through this entire section **before planning your project.**

BENEFITS OF USING A TIMBER FRAME

Frames allow for the sturdiest and most versatile panel installation, and result in a professional, polished look. Build frame structures to almost any size and orientation – simple or sophisticated (see p. 2). Attach frames to walls, fences, and other flat surfaces, or build as free-standing structures.

Timber frames are most economical, yielding overall lower project costs.

- Facilitate precise panel alignment and squared edges.
- Limit damage to surfaces when adjusting or adding/removing panels, and reduces number of screws into existing surfaces.
- Offset panels from surfaces allowing for airflow and expansion/contraction, create a dimensional effect, and provide space for LED backlighting. (NOTE: Use only LED light sources.)

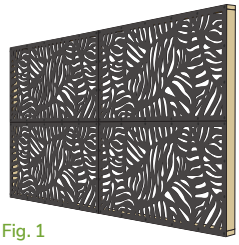


Fig. 1

1. Plan Your Design & Panel Configuration

Read through this entire section **before planning your project.**

Learn more about configurations and pattern orientation at
design-vu.com/patterns

Find design ideas at
design-vu.com/design-gallery

See installation photos at
design-vu.com/installation

= This icon indicates materials to add to your shopping list.

PATTERN ORIENTATION

Mount panels in any orientation. Check for pattern repeats and flows as you plan.


Fig. 2

Rotate or flip panels for unique patterns.

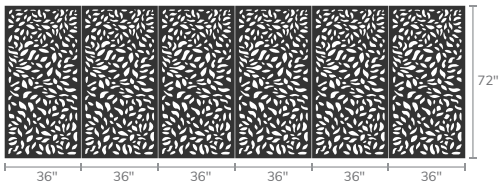

Fig. 3

PANEL CONFIGURATION

Vertical and horizontal configurations compose standard heights and widths.

Horizontal side-by-side

Vertical side-by-side



Horizontal stacked

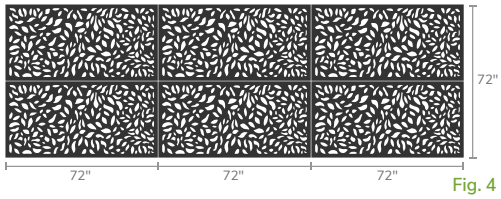


Fig. 4

15-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY DESIGN-VU warrants to the original purchaser that our panels will be free of structural faults due to defects in manufacturing for a period not exceeding 15 years from date of purchase. This limited warranty does not cover damage resulting from misuse, improper storage or handling, improper installation, or any horizontal roofing/ceiling applications. See full warranty at design-vu.com.

2. Choose Your Frame Type & Mounting Style

DESIGN-VU Decorative Modular Panels must be mounted to a frame or an existing surface or structure. They are not a stand-alone structural product.

Read entire section **before choosing frame type and mounting option.**

FRAME TYPES

Surface-Mount Frame

Mount a frame with panels on fences, walls, and other flat surfaces (Figs. 5 & 6).

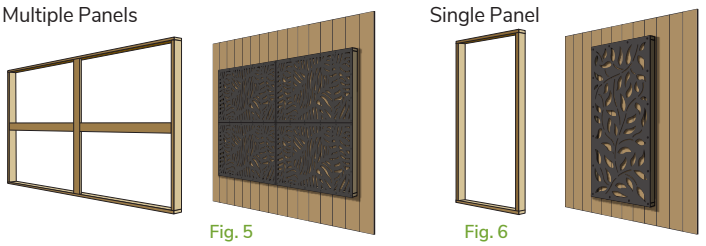


Fig. 5 Fig. 6

Free-Standing Frame

Create a divider or fence using panels on a frame with posts set in cement (Figs. 7 & 8).

Examples shown are installation suggestions. Adjust for your project's requirements. Some installations may require professional assistance.

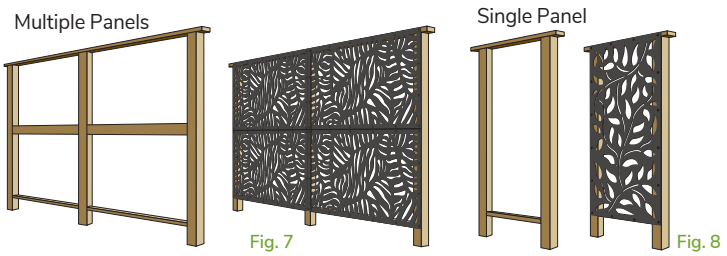


Fig. 7 Fig. 8

MOUNTING STYLES

Face-Mounted Style Suited to DIYers.

Attach panels to front of frame for surface-mount (Fig. 9) and free-standing (Fig. 10) installations. Mounting panels to the face of a frame is the easiest method for keeping panels straight and square.


Fig. 9 Fig. 10

For Face-Mount Style: Continue through Steps 3– 7.

Window-Mount Style

Suited to highly skilled DIYers and building professionals.

Set panels inside a frame with a recessed channel or casing to hold panel edges (Fig. 11). This style is most effective in free-standing installations.

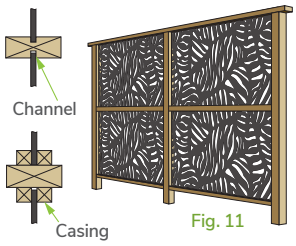


Fig. 11

For Window-Mount Style: Skip to page 4.

Face-Mount Style

3. Plan Your Frame Size & Lumber

IMPORTANT: Plan and measure your frame so it will match the exact width and height of your panels, including a 3⁄16" expansion gap between panels.

Read entire section **before determining frame measurements and selecting lumber.**

See installation photos at design-vu.com/installation

FRAME MEASUREMENT & PANEL SPACING – Face-Mount Style

A. Overall Frame Width = Total width of all panels + 3⁄16" space between each panel

B. Overall Frame Height = Total height of all panels + 3⁄16" space between each panel + post legs for free-standing frames

C. Screw Spacing = 12" to 18" on all 4 sides of each panel

D. Expansion Gap = Mandatory 3⁄16" between each panel for weather-related expansion

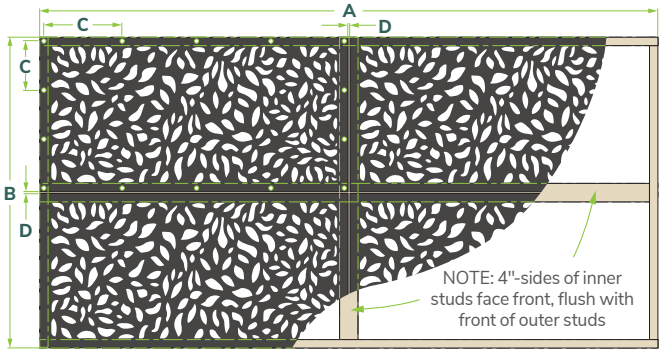


Fig. 12

Window-Mount frame measurements: see page 4.

FRAME LUMBER – Face-Mount Style, Single or Multiple Panels

- **Surface-Mount Frame:** 2" x 4" Posts & Rails
- **Free-Standing Frame:** 4" x 4" Posts & 2" x 4" Rails
- **Face-Cap or End-Cap:** Add trim boards or moulding as needed (Fig. 23).

Window-Mount lumber: see page 4.

Face-Mount Style

4. Screws

Read entire section **before selecting your screws.**

SCREWS Mounting hardware is not included with DESIGN-VU panels.

- **Frames:** Determine appropriate screws/nails to build a frame to support weight of panels.
- **Face-Mount: Design-Vu Panel Installation Screws are recommended** OR deck screws with **min. 1⁄8" thread Ø x min. 1 5⁄16" length,** with 3⁄4" washers to cover drill holes (Fig. 13).
- **Screws:** Enough screws to place every 12" to 18" on all 4 sides of all panels (Fig. 12). For aesthetics, paint screws to match panel color.
- **Window-Mount:** No screws required.
- **Brick and Masonry:** Attach frame with masonry screws (Fig. 25).

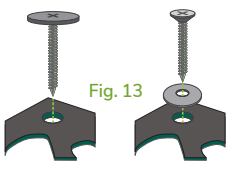


Fig. 13

Face-Mount Style

5. Construct Your Frame

Read entire section **before starting your frame build.**

FOR ALL FRAME TYPES

Build your frame laying on a flat surface so you can check dimensions, square alignment, and mark panel joint 3⁄16" spacing. This allows you to easily raise/lower, reposition, and level your frame when attaching to fence or wall.

IMPORTANT FOR FREE-STANDING FRAMES

Post height, weight, and footing requirements vary, so measure and consider load weight carefully.

Find panel weights, sizes, and other details on our website's Patterns page: design-vu.com/patterns

Check for underground services and features before digging.

SURFACE-MOUNT FRAME

1. Plan frame measurements to include 3⁄16" expansion gaps between panels (Fig. 12).
2. **Multiple-Panels:** Construct frame with outer studs' 2" side front-facing and interior studs' 4" side front-facing and flush with front of outer studs. Position center lines of the interior studs where panel edges will meet, with 3⁄16" expansion gaps (Figs. 14 & 23).
3. **Single-Panel:** Construct frame with 2" side of posts & rails front-facing (Fig. 15).
4. With a helper, lift your frame into place on a fence, wall, or other flat surface. Make sure the entire frame is level, then attach.

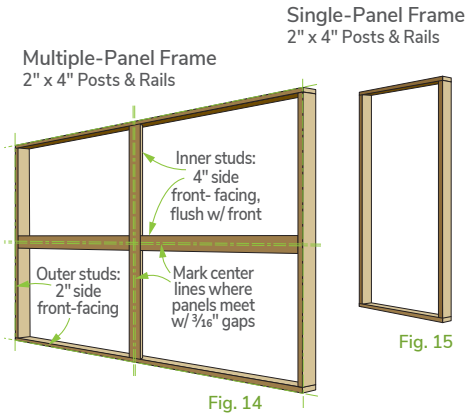


Fig. 14 Fig. 15

FREE-STANDING FRAME – Set in Concrete

A free-standing installation requires a strong structural frame.

1. Plan frame measurements to include 3⁄16" expansion gaps between panels **+** additional length of posts for legs and footings (Fig. 12).
2. **Multiple-Panels:** Construct frame of 4" x 4" posts and 2" x 4" top & bottom rails, with middle rail's 4" side front facing, flush with front of outer studs. Draw center lines on the interior studs where panel edges will meet, with 3⁄16" expansion gaps (Figs. 16 & 23).
3. **Single-Panel:** Construct frame with 4" x 4" posts and 2" x 4" rails (Fig. 17).
4. With a helper, lift your posts into footing holes, straighten vertically, check spacing between posts, and add post-hole concrete.

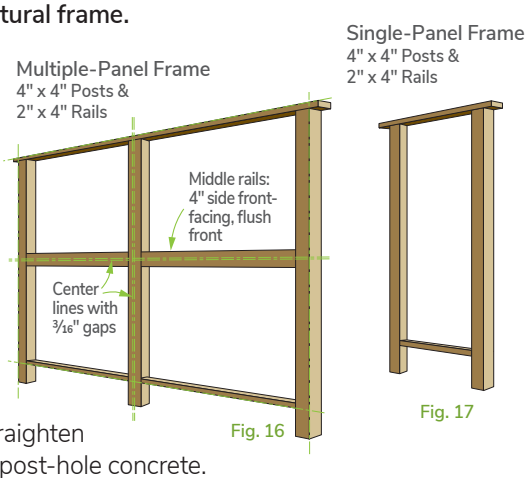


Fig. 16 Fig. 17

Face-Mount Style

6. Prepare Panels

Read through this entire section **before cutting and drilling panels.**

MEASURE & FIT PANELS

Measure for panel fitting and, if needed, cut panels straight or diagonally with a circular or table saw (Fig. 18).

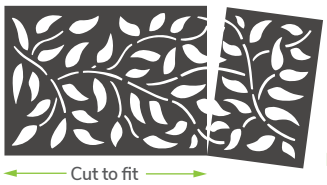


Fig. 18

PRE-DRILL PANELS

- Pre-drill panels with **holes ¼" larger than screw thread** Ø to allow for weather-related expansion and contraction (Figs. 19 & 20).
- **If using Outdeco Panel Screws, drill a hole at least 7⁄16"Ø** (Fig. 20).
- **Position center of drill holes ¾" from panel edges** (Fig. 21).
- **Space holes every 12" to 18"** on all four sides of each panel (Fig. 22).

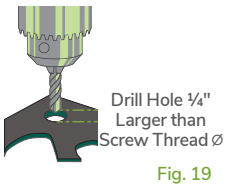


Fig. 19

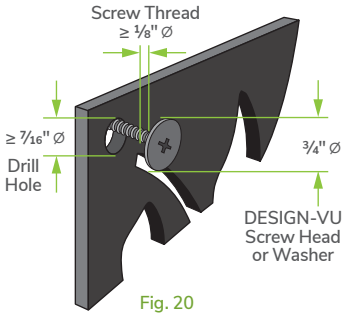


Fig. 20

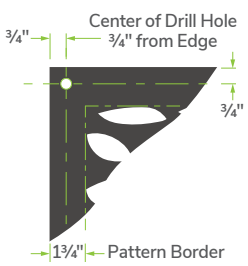


Fig. 21

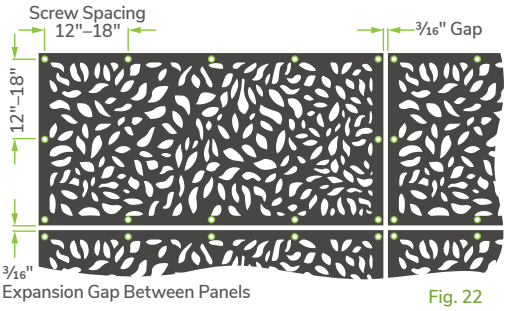


Fig. 22

Face-Mount Style

7. Attach Panels

Read through this entire section **before positioning and attaching panels.**

Fig. 25

ATTACH PANELS

1. Use 3⁄16" spacers to position panels on center lines of interior studs with 3⁄16" gaps where panels meet (Figs. 12 & 23).
2. Clamp panels to frame and attach with screws every 12"–18" on all four sides (Fig. 22).
3. **IMPORTANT: Drive screws at top (not in center) of the drill holes** to allow for panel expansion (Fig. 24).
4. To avoid panel damage and allow weather-related expansion, **do not overtighten or counter-sink screws.**

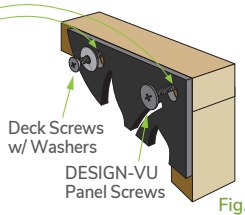


Fig. 24

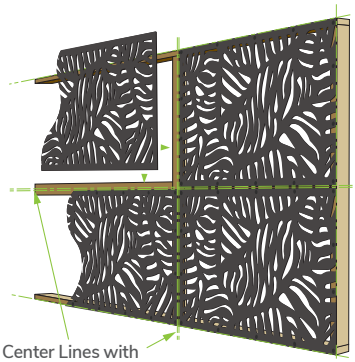


Fig. 23

Attach to Masonry or Large Gates, Heavy Garage Doors, etc.

Check that wall/surface is flat and level, and can support the panels' weight. Build a timber frame (see page 3). Pre-drill wall with a masonry bit and attach frame to wall with masonry screws (Fig. 25).

Attach to Skeletal Structure/Stud Wall

Create a face-mount or window-mount frame. Attach to structure's studs.

Window-Mount Style

Suited to highly skilled DIYers and building professionals. See more notes for Free-Standing frames on p. 3.

FRAME SIZING – Single-Panel & Multiple-Panels

A. Expansion Gap: Mandatory 3⁄16" space above and on both lateral sides for vertical and horizontal weather-related expansion (gap space is already included in measurements shown).

Mounting Style	B. Channel / Casing Specs (Fig. 26)	C. Width between Posts (Figs. 27 & 30)*	D. Height between Rails (Figs. 27 & 30)*	E. Overall Frame Dimensions (Figs. 27 & 28)*
Channel Use 5⁄16" (8mm) router bit.	Posts: 5⁄16" W x 1⁄2" D = 5⁄16" panel edge + 3⁄16" gap Rails: Upper 5⁄16" W x 1⁄2" D = 5⁄16" panel edge + 3⁄16" gap Lower 5⁄16" W x 5⁄16" D; no gap	71 3⁄8" = Panel width – 5⁄8"	35 3⁄8" = Panel height – 5⁄8"	Frame Width = Width(s) between posts + width (3 1⁄2") of each post Frame Height = Height(s) between rails + height (1 1⁄2") of each rail + post legs and footings
Casing	Posts & Rails: 1" x 1" casing set 5⁄16" apart O.C.; 3⁄16" gap on upper rails & posts; no gap at bottom	72 3⁄8" = Panel width + 3⁄8"	36 3⁄16" = Panel height + 3⁄16"	

*Measurements shown are based on 4" x 4" posts & 2" x 4" rails. Measurements include expansion gap.

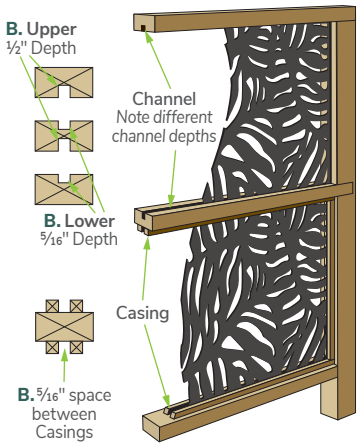


Fig. 26

FRAME MEASUREMENTS, LUMBER & CONSTRUCTION

1. Plan frame size + post legs and footings (Figs. 27 & 30).
2. **Channel-Mount:** Router a 5⁄16" wide channel in all posts and rails. See specs for different channel depths (Figs. 26, 28 & 29).
3. **Casing-Mount:** Attach 1" x 1" border casing to all posts & rails (Figs. 26, 31 & 32).
4. Build frame laying on a flat surface. Square and level as you go.
5. Slide panels into channels/casings. No screws required. **Check that panels move freely in channels/casings in the 3⁄16"gaps at top and lateral sides for vertical and horizontal expansion.**
6. With a helper, lift frame into footing holes, check levelness, straighten vertically, and add post-hole concrete.

Channel-Mount Style

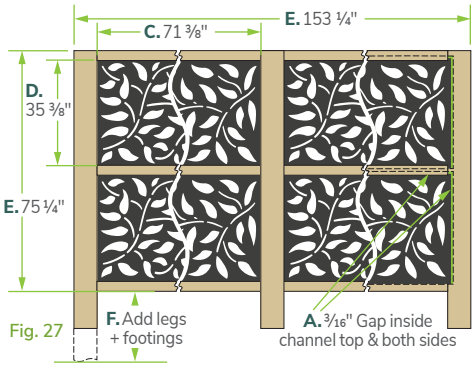


Fig. 27

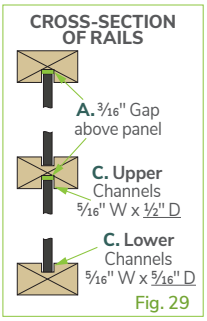


Fig. 29

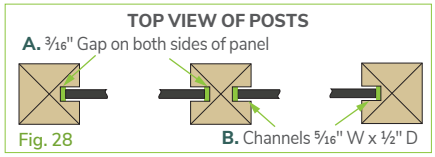


Fig. 28

LUMBER

Min. Lumber Size:

- 4" x 4" Posts
- 2" x 4" Rails
- Need 5⁄16" (8mm) router bit

Casing-Mount Style

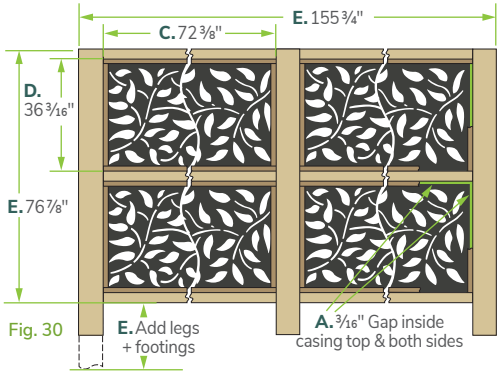


Fig. 30

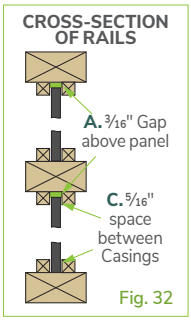


Fig. 32

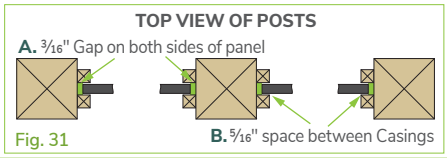


Fig. 31

LUMBER

Min. Lumber Size:

- 4" x 4" Posts
- 2" x 4" Rails
- 1" x 1" Casings