The Basics of Euro Hinges:

Step 1

Determine the style of cabinet for your application. There are 2 basic styles of cabinets that are widely used, Face Frame (Western Style) and Frameless (Euro Style)

![Face Frame Cabinet Construction](image1)

![Frameless (Euro) Cabinet](image2)

Step 2:

The next step is to determine the type of door application.

Doors are typically of two types, overlay, or flush/inset type.

Here is how to determine which style you have.
An overlay door is a door that is larger than the opening that it covers and installs on top of or over the face of the cabinet. The cabinet below features a ‘full overlay’ door.
A flush or inset door is the exact size of the door opening (minus a very small amount) which allows for the door to sit inside of the opening and be flush to the outside face rather than cover the face of the cabinet.

As a rule, overlay doors are considered easier to build and install as there is more room for error and are less difficult to adjust.

Inset doors require more diligence to achieve the very limited amount of error and consistent look of all the doors having the same reveal.
How much overlay do I have?

The amount of overlay is determined by how much the door covers the opening. For example, a 20” opening that uses a door that is 21” wide, overlays the opening by ½” on each side. This is a ½” overlay.

In the case of a double door, we will say the opening is 24” and each of the two doors is 12-1/2” (a total of 25”) thereby still providing a ½” overlay.

The hinge that would be required for these applications would be a ½” (13mm) overlay hinge

A door that is 1-1/2” larger than the opening which covers ¾” past the opening would be a ¾” overlay.

Further confusion is sometimes encountered when talking overlay specifications as many production applications will call for a ‘half overlay’ or a ‘full overlay’. This term is used primarily in Euro style cabinets.

Since the common material used in cabinet box construction is ¾” (18-19mm) plywood, the term ‘half’ overlay refers to door covering half the width of the panel material or 3/8 (9mm).

A ‘full’ overlay is approximately ¾” or 18mm. (see picture above of ‘full overlay’ door example) These dimensions are nominal.

Types of Euro hinges:

There are two common types of Euro hinges.

‘Compact’ and ‘Clip on’.

Compact type hinges. These hinges are typically more economical and can ONLY be used on face frame applications. There are single piece and two piece applications, but the end result is essentially the same. These hinges allow less adjustment than most clip on style and the reveal between the door panel and the face frame is typically about 1/8” with very little adjustment. These are used widely in production cabinet application for residential face frame cabinetry.

Clip on style:
These hinges are the life blood of the euro style hinges. They can be used on both face frame and euro style cabinetry. With an almost infinite application, these offer the most
versatile range of custom application and adjustment. In a nut shell, the type of hinge and specific plate is determined based on the desired overlay by a combination of the base or mounting plate and a variety of hinge options. These hinges are designed in such a way that the hinge disconnects from the mounting plate via a simple ‘clip’. This allows for the doors to be removed and/or re-installed quickly without tools once the hardware has been installed to the cabinet and door panel.

Clip on style hinges have many configurations that will allow for inside or outside angles, Lazy Susan doors, and other special applications.

Many of the hinges talked about here are available as free swing, self closing, or soft closing.

Almost all concealed Euro style hinges utilize a 35mm cup in the door panel for installation. There are some special application hinges that use a smaller size. These are not especially common in most cabinet building, however, one may encounter these in special applications such as thin door panels or mobile home, travel trailer, motor homes etc.

Having this basic information at hand will help greatly with selecting the proper hardware to achieve the desired results on your project.

Edensaw Woods, Ltd proudly sells BLUM™ concealed hinges and BLUM™ Tandem under mount drawer slides.