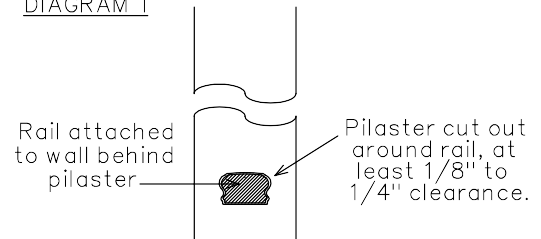


## **POLY-CLASSIC® COLUMNS**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLING SPLIT COLUMNS AS PILASTERS**

NOTE: If installing with ornamental capitals, we suggest that you trim/install column shaft first, then slide capital in place rather than trying to attach the capital to the shaft. Split columns/pilasters are not load bearing, nor can they be considered structural in any way, even when installed according to these instructions. Do not attach railing or other items requiring support directly to the column/pilaster: these must be connected to a structural member inside the column/pilaster or the wall behind the pilaster (see Diagram 1). When used as pilasters they must have room to shift for expansion, building settling, etc. American Porch does not provide a warranty on split columns.

DIAGRAM 1



1. Measure the exact height at the location the column is to be installed. Be sure to include any draft angle your installation requires. **COLUMN SHOULD BE TRIMMED TO 1/4" or 1/2" LESS THAN EXACT HEIGHT.** (The Tuscan or Roman Doric cap will cover the gap so it won't be visible.)
2. Transfer these measurements to the column. Any excess must be trimmed from the bottom of the column.
3. Set column shaft in place temporarily, and scribe shaft to fit building wall correctly. This must be done to ensure a close fit without gaps where the column shaft engages the wall.
4. Install L-brackets on each side of the column, two on the bottom and two on the top (if using Tuscan or Roman Doric caps). Pre-drill the column to insert the bolts and do not over tighten the nuts as the column may fracture.
5. For columns with ornamental capitals, it may be necessary to attach blocking on the building wall to which the column will be attached, both at the top of the shaft, and where the capital will be installed (Diagram A on reverse). For tall columns, blocking may be permissible at the mid-point of the shaft (Diagram B on reverse).
  - a. Blocking used is typically 2x4 pressure-treated lumber, about 4" long.
  - b. Set column in place temporarily. Trace the outside edges of the column where blocking will be attached, and mark that location on the shaft as well. Remove shaft.
  - c. Pre-drill and countersink holes in the column shaft at locations marked in step 4a (only one screw per block.) Screw holes should be enough bigger than the screws to allow for column expansion and building settling.
  - d. Measure thickness of shaft at the pre-drilled holes. Allowing for the shaft thickness as measured, and the curve of the shaft (round columns) and about 1/8" free space, attach blocks with two non-corrosive screws.
  - e. Set column in place over blocking. Column should not be tight - if it is, remove column and adjust blocking so there is about 1/8" free space. (Column shafts may expand/contract with temperature changes.) Attach with non-corrosive screws. **DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN SCREWS.**
6. Attach angle brackets at bottom of column with Tapcon screws, and if using Tuscan or Roman Doric caps, attach top of column angle brackets with wood screws. (If using decorative capitals, see separate installation instructions. Capitals may be pre-drilled/countersunk and attached to blocks just like the shaft instructions in step 5.)
7. Flash cap or capital if necessary\*. Apply construction adhesive to the top and back of the cap. For Tuscan and Roman Doric caps, push the cap up against the ceiling surface and flush with wall. If using ornamental capitals, attach to blocking (if used). Apply construction adhesive to the bottom and back of the base. Push the base down against the floor surface and flush with wall.
8. Use premium quality paintable latex caulk to finish any visible holes where screws were installed. Caulk the joint between the cap and the column shaft and the joint between the base and the shaft. Caulk along edges of shaft where it engages the wall. (Be sure your caulk is compatible with the paint you will be using.)
9. Column must be painted. Follow the recommended procedure on the instruction sheet included with the cap and base.

\*If this column is installed where it could collect water or debris, the top of the column and cap **MUST** be flashed (covered) to prevent such collection. Use lead, copper, aluminum, galvanized, etc. flashing cut slightly larger than the cap, and fold the edges down over the top of the cap during step 6. It is not permissible at any time to fill the interior of the column shaft with sand, concrete or any other material.

Diagram A – for Ornamental Capitals

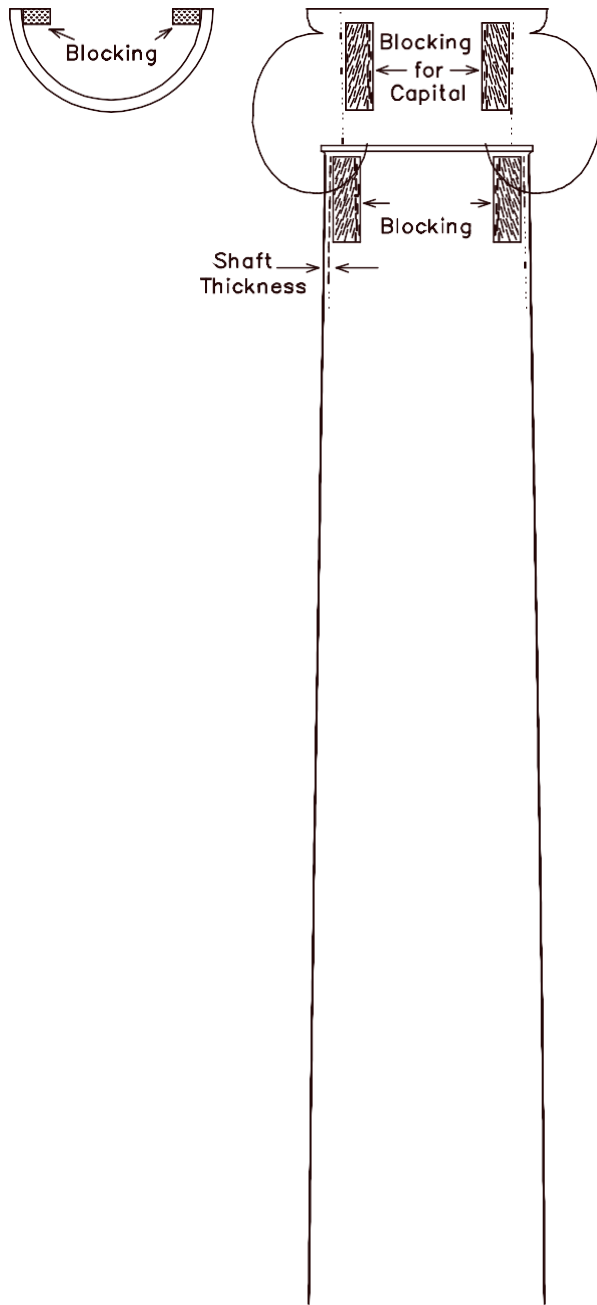
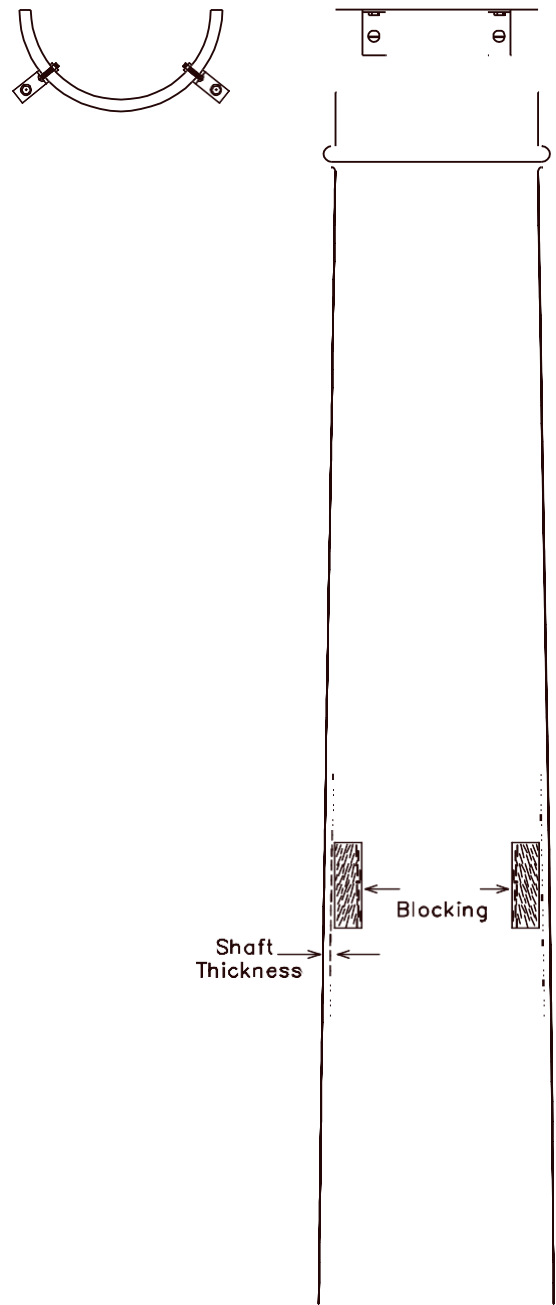
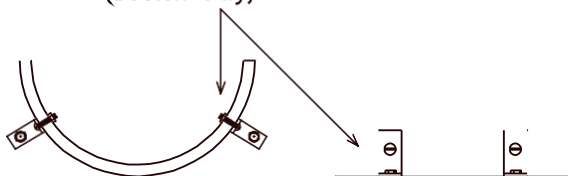


Diagram B – for Tuscan and Roman Doric Caps  
(with optional blocking half-way up the shaft)



"L" Brackets  
(bottom only)



"L" Brackets (Top  
and bottom)

