

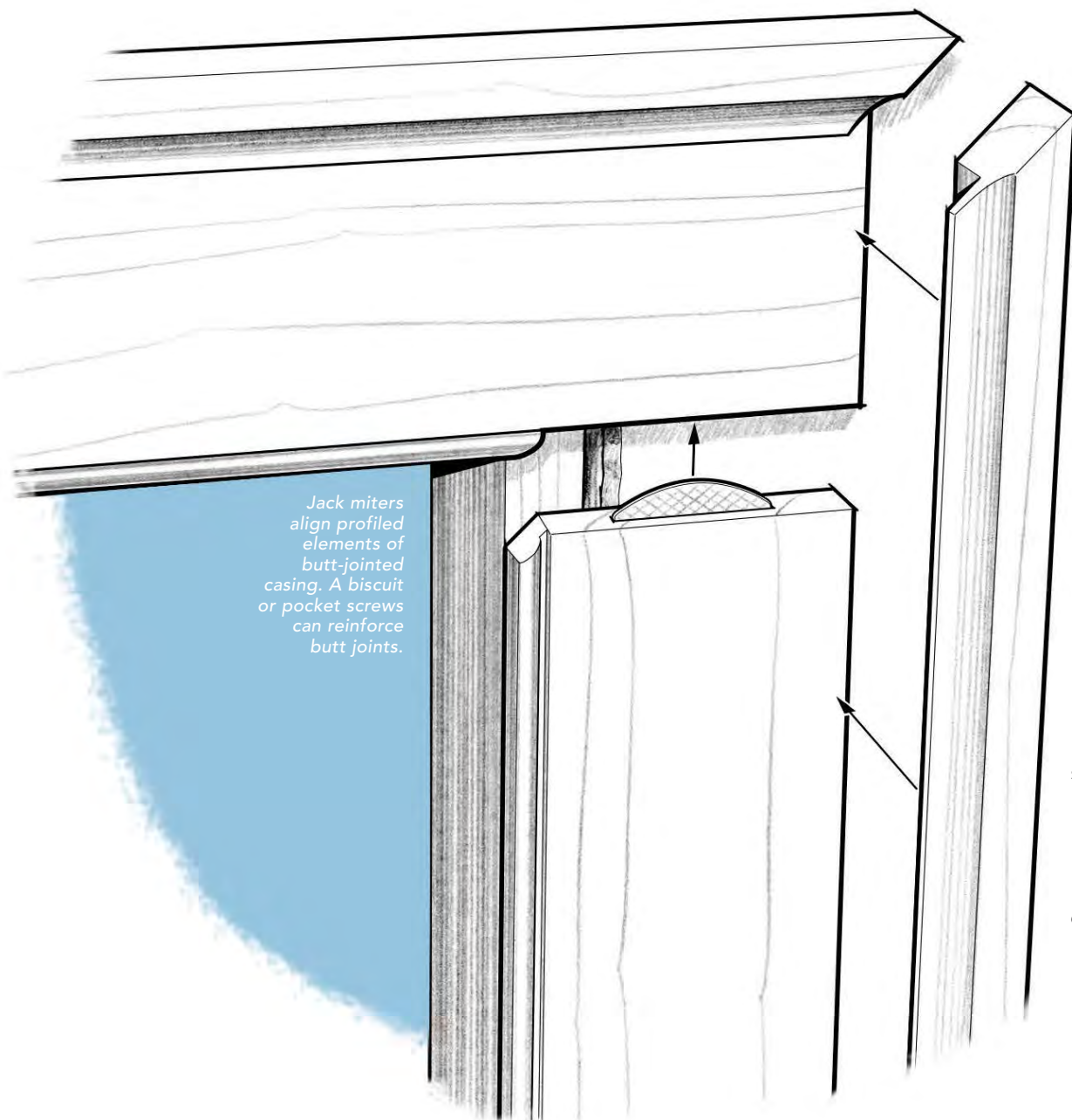
MINIMIZE MITERS

ADD A BACK BAND

Butt joints hide seasonal movement and are more likely to stay closed than mitered joints, especially if the joint is strengthened with tenons, biscuits, or pocket screws. Without the miter, the wood casing can expand and contract with changes in temperature and humidity without pushing apart the joint. Back bands

are a way to dress up and hide the end grain of butt-jointed casing using a mitered joint. The back band can be a molding made for this application or an outside corner molding. Because of their geometry, outside corner moldings have an advantage. One of their legs is flat sawn and one leg has vertical grain typical of quarter-

sawn stock. Use the vertical grain on the face of the casing and wood can expand and contract without opening the mitered corners. Check the grain orientation before cutting and make the back band a few hundredths of an inch longer than the casing. This small space between the backband and casing allows for seasonal movement.



Jack miters align profiled elements of butt-jointed casing. A biscuit or pocket screws can reinforce butt joints.

Rabbeted band molding dresses up butt-jointed casing.

USE JACK MITERS

Jack miters are another hybrid casing option that combine a butt joint and a small miter at a profiled part of the same molding. The butt joint allows the head and leg casing to move independently while the joint stays closed in comparison to a regular miter joint. For further stability of the butted part of the casing, you can join the two pieces on the back side with pocket-hole screws.