### FIBERGLASS COLUMNS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Determine the load to be evenly distributed over the bearing surface of the shaft.**
   - If building code requires uplift protection, contact your supplier for recommendations.
   - To preserve and protect the column it is necessary to paint with one coat of high-quality exterior Primer followed by two coats of an exterior paint.

2. **2nd floor balconies should NOT be attached directly to the side of any fiberglass column.**
   - Concrete should never be used to fill Fiberglass Columns. This will void the warranty.

3. **Stairs to length, make sure to always trim from the bottom end only.**
   - A circular saw with an abrasive blade can be used to make this cut. (Make sure to use personal protective equipment.)

4. **Circular saw is shipped from the factory with matching blades wrapped together.**
   - Keep the columns halves together as packaged and marked with the set numbers so that they cannot be mismatched.

5. **The Split Kit includes everything needed to install a split fiberglass column.**
   - The cut at bead loss and the decorative capital is left in place.

6. **Ordering fiberglass columns used with decorative capitals.**
   - The cut at bead loss and the decorative capital height must always be taken into consideration.

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### A. SPECIAL NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS

- Be sure to use personal protective equipment.
- There are several considerations to be made when installing a split fiberglass column:
  - 1. Secure column to sawhorse or table using scotches. Scotches should be wrapped with cloth material to provide cushion and to avoid scratching column.
  - 2. Place the scotches snugly against the column ensuring that the column will remain in place while being cut.
  - 3. After column is secured, a chalk line should be applied to the column. To lay the chalk line, place a string over the base end diameter of the column to the center of the string ensuring that the string is centered. Mark the columns on the top where the string is centered.

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### B. CUTTING TO OVERALL LENGTH

- **CUTTING TO OVERALL LENGTH**
  - **Columns can be field trimmed to a specified length.**
    - When trimming a round fiberglass column shaft to length, make sure to always trim from the bottom end only. A circular saw with an abrasive blade can be used to make this cut. (Make sure to always wear personal protective equipment.)

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### C. ALTERING COLUMNS

- **ALTERING COLUMNS**
  - 1. Select desired location and trace short lines at the top, midpoint, and bottom on both sides of the column. Place a string over the base end diameter of the column to the center of the string ensuring that the string is centered.

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### D. JOINING SPLIT COLUMNS

- **How to join split columns**
  - **1. Place column in a vertical position with load centered over column shaft with even distribution around bearing surfaces.**
  - **2. If installation requires that column be secured in place prior to bearing load, use small L Brackets.**
    - Note: To secure brackets to column, drill hole into shaft and use through bolts. Do not use screws. Do not over tighten.

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### E. HOW TO ATTACH A SPLIT FIBERGLASS/WOOD COLUMN TO A WALL AS A PILASTER

- **How to attach a split fiberglass/wood column to a wall as a pilaster**
  - **1. Secure column to sawhorse or table using scotches. Scotches should be wrapped with cloth material to provide cushion and to avoid scratching column.**

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### F. HOW TO ATTACH A SPLIT FIBERGLASS/WOOD COLUMN TO A WALL AS A PILASTER

- **(If you are installing Decorative Capitals, see “Decorative Capital” section for a detailed drawing. Of the capital attachment.)**
  - **1. Select desired location and trace short lines at the top, midpoint, and bottom on both sides of the column.**
  - **2. Gage the thickness of the column wall and trace lines to show where the inside wall will be at...**
**FIBERGLASS COLUMNS INSTALLATION continued**

The top, midpoint, and bottom. Note: Wall thickness on fiberglass columns at the top is widest. Because of the flare just above the bead.

3. Attach six wood blocks (two screws per block) to the building wall just inside the traced lines. You must mark the 30° angles. 2. The block dimensions should be approximately 3/4" x 1 1/2" x 3".

Make sure that the top and bottom blocks are placed within the heights of the cap and base so that the head of the screw will be slightly Below the surface of the column wall. 4. Drill six holes in the column wall at the points where the screws will line up with the blocks installed in step three. Holes should be countersunk so that the head of the screw will be slightly Below the surface of the column wall. 5. Place the split column in position and fasten it to the wood blocks. Screws should be snug. Do Not over tighten because the column wall can be damaged. 6. Attach split cap and base/plinth using dry wall Screws. Make sure to pre-drill Holes. Fasten cap and base/plinth to wall, ceiling or Floor. 7. Caulk joints and seam Where the column edge meets The wall. 8. Patch over the countersunk Screws at the midpoint of the Column using a two-part filler (i.e. “Bondo”, Fiberglass Boat Repair Kit). The cap and base/plinth will cover the Counter screws at the bottom And the top.

**SQUARE RECESSED PANEL FIGURES:**

**A. PAINTING AND FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Make sure all surfaces are clean prior to painting. Use mineral spirits if oil or alkyd products are used. Warm soapy water should be used if latex products are utilized. It may be necessary to sand Decorative Capitals prior to priming and painting. Some cosmetic filling may be Required.

2. Alkyd or oil based primer and paint are recommended. Latex products may be used, but Additional sanding may be required.

3. Use a good high-quality exterior paint. At least one coat of primer and two coats of final Paint are recommended.

4. Follow paint manufacturer's instructions concerning use within temperature ranges for best Results.

5. Do not use paint or solvents containing acetone.

**B. WEIGHT NOTE**

Due to the weight of Decorative Capitals, equipment may be required to lift the Decorative Capitals in position. The job site contractor and engineer should be consulted in each application.

**C. FIBERGLASS COLUMN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS WITH DECORATIVE CAPITALS**

1. Determine the position of the base/plinth by dropping a plumb line from the center of the Soffit beam to the floor. Mark this point on the floor with an “X”. This mark is where you will Center the base/plinth so that the top of the shaft and capital will align with the soffit.

2. Measure the overall height. Raise the soffit slightly with a brace for easy installation of the Column. 3. Trim column shaft on the bottom end only. Trim with an abrasive saw. (Be sure to use personal protective wear.) Finish the bottom of the shaft with a rasp or sander to ensure an even Load distribution around the entire circumference.

4. All Fiberglass Columns used with Decorative Capitals should be trimmed flush above the Bead/astragal. The capital should rest on top of the bead/astragal and will allow for a proper Fit. Columns can be ordered from the factory cut at the bead, or this can be trimmed in the Field. A circular saw with an abrasive blade can be used to trim a column at the bead/astragal. (Make sure to use personal protective equipment.) There are several considerations to be made when ordering Fiberglass Columns used with Decorative Capitals: (a) The cut at bead loss and The decorative capital height must always be taken into consideration. (b) In addition, any column Used with a short decorative capital may require that a longer shaft be ordered. 5. Slide base/plinth onto column shaft from bottom. 6. Place column in a vertical position.

**G. 2ND STORY BALCONY SUGGESTIONS**

It is not recommended that the floor joist for a second story porch or balcony be connected to a Wood or fiberglass column. The recommended technique involves the use of a structural column Or support column (sometimes referred to as a “lofey” column). A joist hanger is attached to the lolly column at the appropriate height above ground. The floor joist is supported by the lolly column. The column itself should be split and the contractor can notch the column at the job site at the appropriate height to allow the floor joist to pass through The column. The weight supported by the floor joist, however, does not rest on the bottom of the Notch. Instead, the weight rests on the lolly column. The split column is reassembled around the Lolly column. Note: This is a suggested installation technique. Please contact a structural engineer to certify Your particular application.

**H. SQUARE RECESSED PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**ATTACHING PANEL INSERT KITS and/or PANEL DIVIDER KITS:**

1. Before installation, apply the panel insert pieces to the top and bottom of each side of the column Shaft. Each column will include (4) top panel insert pieces and (4) bottom panel insert pieces. The pieces can be attached to the shaft using a construction adhesive. Follow the instructions on The package.

2. If using panel divider pieces to achieve a two-panel or three-panel column, they are attached In the same manner as the panel insert pieces. First measure and determine the placement of each Of the panel divider pieces and attach to each side of the column shaft using a construction adhesive. Follow the instructions on the package.

3. Fill the seams where the panel insert pieces and/or panel divider pieces meet the shaft with a Fiberglass boat repair kit or “Bondo”. Follow the instructions on the package.

4. Proceed to Column Installation Steps 1 through 10.

**D. JOINING SPLIT DECORATIVE CAPITALS**

1. A Apply at we-part e epoxy and join the two halves together.

2. Use strapping to hold the capitals together while epoxy is curing.

**E. HOW TO ATTACH DECORATIVE CAPITALS TO A WALL AS A PILASTER**

See Figure 2. Refer to Section F for more details.