

Achieving Balance

The Door That Closes On Its Own

You can banish the poltergeist responsible for closing interior doors in your home using a matchbook cover. And there's no need to ever strike the match. But before resorting to a cardboard shim (or matchbook), try rebalancing the door by tightening any loose screws in the hinges on the door and the door frame. This simple adjustment sometimes does the trick.

If not, a cardboard shim probably will work. Make this repair by loosening rather than removing screws entirely, to keep from having to call in reinforcements to help position and hold the door. Once the screws are loosened, hold the bottom hinge away from the door frame just enough to slide a small cardboard shim underneath the hinge.

Cardboard from a book of matches works well, but any small piece of cardboard can substitute.

Then tighten the hinge back to the original position on the door frame. If the door closes properly, the problem is solved. If not, you can add a subsequent piece of cardboard underneath the hinge. Using more or less cardboard will help fine tune the door adjustment to the point that the door will remain open on its own.

