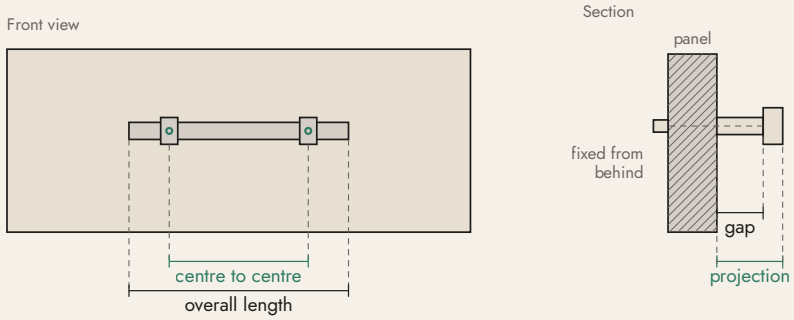
Handles *and pulls*: sizes, projection, specification

Sizes by centre-to-centre, the three measurements that describe a handle, and what changes on fire and accessible doors. The size bands are retailers' rules of thumb.

AT A GLANCE

Centre to centre	Typical use (retailer guides)	Note
96 mm (3 x 32)	Small drawers, narrow doors, bedside units	Retailer rule of thumb: drawers under 300 mm wide.
128 mm (4 x 32)	The general-purpose size	Named the universal size by one retailer.
160 mm (5 x 32)	Standard cabinets, 300 to 600 mm	Retailer: 160 mm or more on integrated appliances.
192 mm (6 x 32)	Large drawers, tall doors, heavy appliance doors	Retailer: for leverage on heavy doors.
224 mm (7 x 32)	Large drawers in kitchens and bathrooms	Retailer guide.
256 mm and above	Largest pieces and built-in storage	256 = 8 x 32; 320 = 10 x 32.
Knob	Single fixing: size is diameter and projection	No c/c; check it still clears a finger.
Edge or finger pull	Sized by length and profile	Fixings hidden; check the reach.

Sizes in the 32 mm series (multiples are our arithmetic). Size bands are retailers' rules of thumb, read 7 November 2026, not standards. Fire and accessible doors: see the sections below.



A bar handle seen from the front and in section: centre to centre, overall length, projection, finger gap and fixing from behind. Schematic, not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

REMEMBER

Order by centre-to-centre in millimetres, and write overall length, projection, finish, fixings and position. Inch handles do not fit the 32 mm series. Fire door handles must be on the doorset's certificate.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

HANDLE SCHEDULE LINE

Handles: [maker, ref], [160] mm centre to centre, [190] mm overall, [32] mm projection, finger gap [ ] mm, finish [name, code and key], base metal [ ], M4 fixings through-bolted from the back in [18] mm panels, [2] per [door], quantity [ ].

POSITION

Handle positions to be dimensioned on the shop drawings from [door edge / top edge]; vertical on [doors], horizontal on [drawers] unless drawn. Projection and swing of adjacent doors to be checked on the drawings.

FIRE AND ACCESSIBLE DOORS

Handles on fire-rated doors to be those listed in the doorset's certificate. Latch furniture on accessible routes to be operable with a closed fist and contrasting with the door; height [ ] mm to be confirmed by [access consultant].

APPROVAL AND SPARES

A handle in the specified finish to be approved before the full order. Finish batch to be recorded; [ ] spare handles with fixings to be supplied from the same batch.

TERMS USED

Centre-to-centre
The distance between the centres of a handle's fixing holes, which is how handles are sized; the handle's overall length is longer.

32 mm system
A cabinet-making convention of drilling rows of small holes at 32 mm spacing so shelves, hinges and runners can be fixed at standard positions.

Projection
How far a handle stands out from the face of the door or drawer front to its furthest point.

Finger gap
The clear space between a handle's bar and the face of the door or drawer, which has to admit the fingers.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- gov.uk: Approved Document M volume 2 (2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments): 2.17, 3.10, 4.24, 4.30, 5.4. Read 7 Nov 2026.
- DHF and GAI: Code of Practice, Hardware for fire and escape doors (Issue 5, Nov 2024): section 8. Advisory. Read.
- BS EN 1906:2012; BS 8424:2004; BS EN 1670:2007; BS 8300-2:2018: BSI Knowledge, 7 Nov 2026: EN 1906 under review; 8424, 1670 and 8300-2 current. Standards not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/handles-and-pulls. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.