

# MINI Track Installation

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**Hartsville, TN**- Contractor Steve Donnelly needed to screen a porch at his sister's newly constructed one story house in Hartsville, TN near Nashville. The 1,920 square foot house sits on Old Hickory Lake and has a 1,128 square foot porch that extends the length of the home. The 94 by 12 foot porch sits 4 to 5 feet off the ground on one side and 3 to 4 feet on the other.

Donnelly decided to install three by five feet of one-half inch laminated glass at the bottom of the porch and then screen another three by five foot area up to a railing one foot from the ceiling. Installing the glass, Donnelly reasoned, would protect the porch from the high wind that blows off the lake. He said the screened in area would enhance the beautiful view of Old Hickory Lake without any obstructions.

Donnelly postponed the project for a few months since he felt the traditional method of screening the porch from the exterior using a ladder required three to four days and, as he said, "really wasn't that appealing."

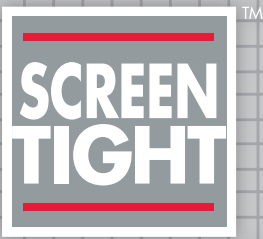
Just by chance Donnelly searched the Internet for porch screening systems and discovered the MINI Track™ two-part extruded porch system from Screen Tight™ based in Georgetown, S. C.

"I couldn't believe what I was reading," Donnelly said "and called Screen Tight™ to make sure what they were saying on the Internet was true. I couldn't believe a system existed that was that easy to install."

Donnelly confessed that the system really got him excited. "It was like a dream come true," he said. "I liked everything about it, the flexibility and how it fit with the project. It was perfect for what I needed to do."



Contractor Steve Donnelly installed the MINI Track™ Porch Screening System on his sister's 1,920 square foot home on Old Hickory Lake in Hartsville, TN.



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Contractor Steve Donnelly was pleased with the ease of the MINI Track™ installation. “It was real unique and I am really glad that I found something like this,” Donnelly said.

He ordered the MINI Track™ system from his local home improvement store along with six Anderson™ 12 foot double slider doors, 40 12-foot posts, almost 800 square feet of gray nylon screen to cover the porch, six ceiling fans that he would place in front of each of the six doors, screws and grumets to complete the job and 1,500 square feet of a gray-colored outside carpet.

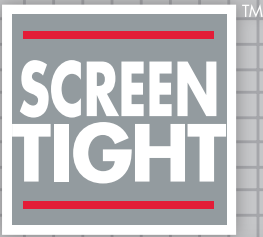
“My sister sits on the porch a lot and I wanted to make it as comfortable as I could for her,” Donnelly said. “I just live down the road and am a frequent guest.”

## Installation Described

Donnelly and a helper installed the glass paneling around the deck on the lower half of the porch and completed the framework for the screen by square cutting the 12-foot wood treated posts down to the size needed using a miter saw. Once the framing was complete, Donnelly had 25 openings that needed to be screened. The openings were 3-feet-tall and 5-feet-wide.

Handrails were constructed using 2 by 8 foot pieces of board and installed throughout the porch to separate the glass paneling on the bottom and screen on the top. The leftover parts of the 12-foot posts were butted and joined together to create parts of the handrails and additional pieces of the frame.

The frame needed to be covered and capped before the screen could be rolled on to it. The MINI Track™ package includes ultra low profile clips that were screwed to the porch frame every 10-inches and



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2-inches from the corners. The flat side of the clips was parallel with the frame. Donnelly selected mostly 8-foot bronze MINI Track™ channels but also needed three 10-foot length channels.

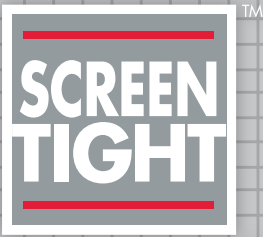
After cutting the channels to length, Donnelly installed the left and right channel vertically by snapping over the clips and tapping them with a rubber mallet. Next, he installed the top and bottom of the MINI Track™ horizontals.

The spline was then rolled into the groove of the MINI Track™ channels to hold the fabric in place. Donnelly started from the top and worked his way to the sides and bottom. At the end, he trimmed off any excess screen mesh. Repeating this process, Donnelly completed screening all the remaining sections. It took a day to fully enclose the porch from floor to ceiling. Tools needed for the project included a miter saw, roller knives, spline, screwdriver, drill and rubber mallet.

Finally, six double slider doors were assembled which latch in the middle and cover the 12-foot opening. Ceiling fans were installed at each door location.



Overall view of the 94 by 12 foot porch extends the length of the 1,920 sq ft. home. Steve Donnelly used the MINI Track™ to install screen on the front and side of the home. The porch sits 4 to 5 feet off the ground on one side and 3 to 4 feet on the other.



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## Easy to Install

Donnelly noted that the installation was very easy and that you never had to pull on a screen to get it tight because the screen tightened as he rolled the spline into the spline grooves of the Mini Track™ channels.

“It was real unique and I am really glad that I found something like that,” Donnelly said after the installation. “With other screening systems, I would have had to go outside, stand on a ladder and install the screen from the outside. MINI Track™ did not require a high ladder and we stood right on the porch to install it. It cut installation time by at least two days.”

Since the porch was installed, Donnelly said he has not had any problems. “My sister and I are very pleased with how easy the MINI Track™ was to install,” Donnelly said. “It is unbelievable how easy and fast it was. I could only imagine how I would have had to do it years ago. It worked just like Screen Tight™ said it would on the Internet. I would highly recommend it to anyone.”



The MINI Track™ two-part extruded porch system from Screen Tight™ took Steve Donnelly, a local contractor, and one assistant a little over 24 hours to install.

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