



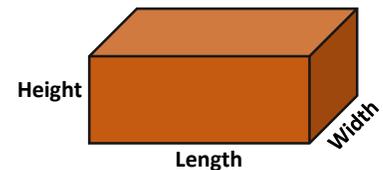
5 First Steps to Design a Framing Project

Many people get hung up on how to start an 80/20 t-slot aluminum framing project, so we created these 5 easy steps to help anyone trying to define a product or project.

Step #1: Define The 3 Main Dimensions

(length, width, height of structure)

While you may not know all of the dimensions, honing in on what the structure will do will help you define the length, width (or depth) and height of the frame. Define the 3 dimensions by size and then move to step #2.



Step #2: Determine The Bar Type

(type of extrusion you want or need)

Most 80/20 frames are made from [1"x1"](#) or [1.5"x1.5"](#) bars – but if the frame will be supporting heavy objects, you may need stronger or larger bars. Knowing the heaviest or total weight the structure will support will help us determine the right bar type for you. In general, we will add a 30% safety factor and compute the deflection of the ideal bar based on the weight you provide. You will also need to decide if you have a particular look that you want – bar sides can be grooved, smooth or closed-sided.



Step #3: Choose The Fastener Types

(how the frame will be assembled)

While there are many different types of fasteners, there are 2 main types of fasteners – **Internal** (you can't see them), and **External** (you can see them). The two most popular internal fasteners are [end fasteners](#) and [anchor fasteners](#). The two most popular external fasteners are joining strips and L brackets. Internal fasteners require machining of the bar, while external fasteners do not – so there are tradeoffs to consider.



Step #4: Do You Need Panels or Drawers?

(table top, shelves, doors & drawers)

Frames are usually meant to accomplish a task, and most include some type of surfaces such as [table tops](#), [see-thru panels](#), shelves, [doors](#) or drawers. List what you need and determine the optimum sizes for these on your frame. Think about thicknesses, strength and colors you need.



Step #5: Floor to Frame

(leveling feet, casters, floor mounts)

Do you want this frame to move, sit on stationary legs, or be permanently mounted? Is the floor flat or does the frame need to accommodate to uneven surfaces? Answer these questions and choosing between [casters](#), [leveling feet](#) and [floor mounts](#) will be easy.



Answer these questions and you are ready to start working with F&L Industrial Solutions on your frame design!

For more information about building 80/20 T-slot extrusions,
visit F&L Industrial Solutions at:

www.fandl8020.com