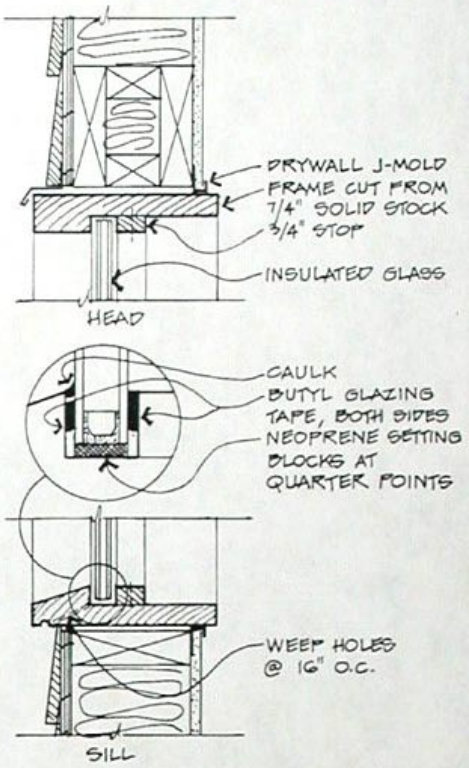
facing on until the glass has been positioned.

The glass should sit on two 4-inch-long hard neoprene setting blocks obtained from the glass distributor. Set these a quarter of the way in from either end. If necessary, one block can be shimmed with a non-compressible material such as metal flashing. The setting blocks should be a little wider than the glass to ensure continuous support of both lites of glass.

Once the glass has been fit and centered and its position marked, remove it, carefully peel back the paper facing by holding one finger on the paper as you go, and set the glass. The glass unit must not touch the framing—that could transmit structural loads to the glass. Compressible foam or rubber spacers can be used to help center the glass in the opening.

Next place the glazing tape on the glass and install the finish stops or battens. The stops should be set to compress the glazing tapes by 35 to 50 percent. For example, if the glass is 1-inch thick, and the glazing tapes are ¼-inch thick each, the overall rabbet should be 1¼-inches deep—compressing the glazing tape by 50 percent. Install the finished stops with the greatest of care, protecting the glass from tools, nails, and screws with ample pieces of fiberboard,



The glazing detail above uses a pre-rabbetted frame which can be custom-milled.

hardboard, or any non-abrasive material. Point nails away from the glass and watch out for knots or grain that might redirect a nail toward the glass. It's a heartbreaker to see a large triple-glazed tempered window shatter into thousands of tiny fragments due to a wayward nail. I speak here from experience.

A secondary seal of silicone caulking should be installed on the exterior, sealing from glass to stop. If neatness is a consideration, use masking tape and tool the bead to the tape. Remove the tape after the caulk has skinned over. Remove excess silicone from the glass with a razor. Paint the wood first, or use a pigmented or paintable caulk.

Glazing is best done when it's above 40°F outside. Below that, condensation may form on the glass, preventing a good seal to the butyl. If you must, dry the glass with a solvent-dampened rag just before installing the butyl tape. The glass should be cleaned with solvent (such as alcohol) anyway where it seals to tape or caulks.

One final consideration for a high-quality glazing job is the need for weeping. The purpose of weeping a glazing system is to allow any water that penetrates the system to escape. If it remains trapped, it will tend to undermine the sealants and could diffuse into the sealed glass unit and fog it. You can allow for weeping by drilling small holes (¼ inch or so) at a downward angle from beneath the glass unit to the outside. Fiberglass stuffed into the holes will keep out bugs.

Now lie back and enjoy the sunshine (and protect the glass for the duration of the job).