DIY Hardware and Cut List

Build a renter-friendly tension divider that shares the light.

Create a stable room divider without drilling into floors or ceilings. This complete hardware and lumber guide helps you build a custom partition.



Key Measurements

24 in
Width of reeded privacy film rolls

2 in
Slat spacing using scrap wood block

12x14 in
Built-in planter base depth and height

3 in shorter
Vertical slat cut relative to ceiling

1 in
Clearance around your largest plastic pot

Locate solid ceiling joists

Use a high-quality stud finder before building. Pressing heavy-duty tension hardware into unsupported drywall will inevitably crack your ceiling.

Assembly Sequence

1. **Prep the lumber** Sand boards to 220-grit smoothness and apply a clear matte water-based sealant.
2. **Route the grooves** Cut a channel down the center of middle slats for the acrylic panels.
3. **Recess the hardware** Drill a counterbore hole into the top plate using a Forstner bit.
4. **Set the tension** Wedge feet securely; check tension again after the first week as materials settle.

Felt-Padded Headers

Find your row: **Ceiling Texture**

Ceiling Texture	Your pick	Why
Flat Drywall	1/4-inch	Continuous strip along header
Light Popcorn	3/8-inch plush	Double-layered at joist points
Exposed Wood	1/8-inch dense	Spaced patches along the grain

Site & Material Checks

- ○ Measure total floor-to-ceiling height exactly.
- ○ Locate solid ceiling joists running across the room.
- ○ Inspect lumber for twisting, bowing, or deep knots.
- ○ Verify plumb on both axes using a bubble level.
- ○ Perform a gentle push-test at shoulder height.

DIY Hardware & Lumber List

- ☐ Premium 1x2 select pine or red oak boards
- ☐ 1x8 oak boards for the planter box
- ☐ Hidden tension rods (heavy-duty furniture levelers)
- ☐ Clear acrylic sheets cut to exact dimensions
- ☐ Heavy-duty adhesive felt pads for top plate
- ☐ Heavy-duty plastic tray or marine-grade polyurethane
- ☐ Wood glue and headless pin nails for trim

Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy your beautifully bright, renter-friendly divided space!