



# MOULDING FINISHING & INSTALLATION GUIDE

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR INSTALLATION:

- Level
- Hammer
- Fine Tooth Saw & Miter Box
- Brad Nailer
- Goggles
- 220-grit sandpaper
- Tape Measure
- Paint or Stain
- Drop Cloth
- Nail Set
- Nails
- Compound Miter Saw
- C-Clamp
- Glue
- Spackle or Shur-Patch
- Combination Square
- Wood Putty
- Rags

### HANDY TIP

Using a compound miter saw and a compressed air brad nailer will not only make all stages of installing decorative mouldings easier but it will also speed up the process considerably.

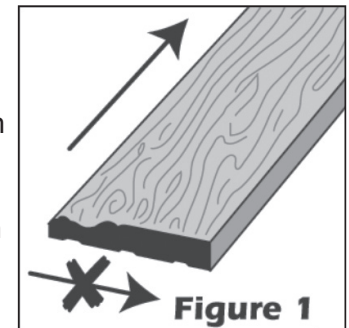
*NOTE: Always wear eye, ear and respiratory protection when doing any home improvement project.*

## HOW TO APPLY FILLER

To fill nail holes, repair scratches, dents, and gouges, simply sand the affected area lightly with a fine or extra fine sandpaper using a sanding block (see Sanding). Always use a non-shrinking filler. A light weight Spackle or Shur-Patch is best. Follow the manufacturer's directions to achieve best results. For stainable mouldings use a filler that closely matches the wood color. Once holes have been filled and allowed to dry, lightly sand these areas to remove any rough spots.

## HOW TO SAND MOULDINGS

Use a fine grit sanding sponge or at least a 220-grit sandpaper on a sanding block. Always sand with the grain of the wood (Fig.1). Coarser grits of sandpaper, or going across or against the grain will tend to leave fine gouges that may be visible through subsequent coats of paint. A very light pass over the nail area will suffice. If you have purchased natural finish mouldings, such as unfinished Finger-Joint Pine, they will require priming before installation. A high quality primer is recommended. Touch sanding with a fine grit (220 or higher) sandpaper between each coat is strongly recommended. This light sanding will ensure better bond between the coats, and also give a smoother final finish.



## WHEN TO APPLY PAINT OR STAIN

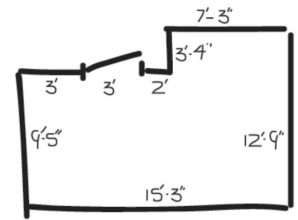
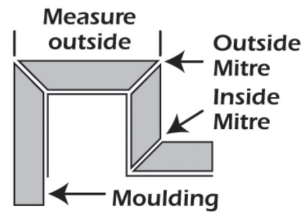
Staining or painting the moulding before it is installed is recommended. Ensure all areas that have filler are dry and sanded before applying any paint. If you install the moulding and then finish it, protect the area around the moulding by masking it off with tape. Carefully remove the tape immediately after finishing to prevent its drying to the finish. Painting is recommended for moulding surfaces already coated with a primer. In most applications a semigloss coat for durability, washability, and appearance is recommended. Please ensure that only higher quality paints with high solids content are used. We recommend two finish coats for top quality durability and appearance. Mouldings with a pronounced wood grain are better suited to stain or varnish to enhance the naturally occurring grain. Other mouldings such as hemlock can be stained to virtually any tint, but also provide a high quality surface for paint as well when primed. The list above shows the recommended finishing.

Species	Stain	Varnish	Paint
Ultralite			✓
Oak	✓	✓	
Hemlock	✓	✓	✓
Solid Pine	✓	✓	
Primed Finger Joint			✓
Primed MDF			✓
Raw Finger Joint			✓
Knotty Pine	✓	✓	
Maple	✓	✓	
Fir	✓	✓	
Poplar	✓	✓	

\* Species availability may vary from region to region.

## HOW MUCH DO I NEED?

Take careful measurements of walls, windows etc. and round up to the nearest foot. Add 10% extra for cutting and waste.

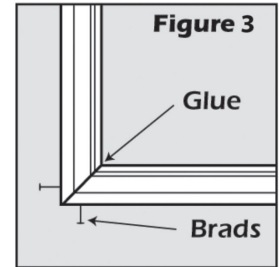
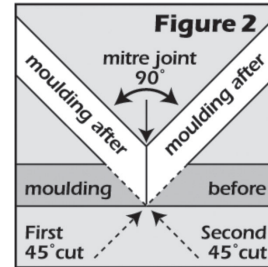


## WHICH PROFILES DO I NEED?

For windows and doors use casings, for ceilings use crowns, for floors use baseboards, and for walls use chair rails, panel molds etc. Use the Moulding & Millwork Catalogs or Charts to choose the right profile numbers to suit your needs and decor.

## HOW TO MITER A MOULDING

Most moulding miter joints are at a 90° angle (fig.2) and consist of 2 pieces of moulding cut at opposing 45° angles. When fitted together they should form a tight right angle. For tight miter joints, nail and glue at joint as shown. (fig.3)

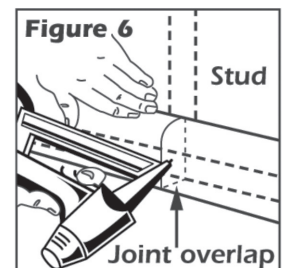
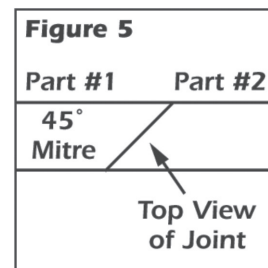


## HOW TO DO A RETURN

A return is where the profile of a moulding is carried from the front of the profile around to the wall to give the ends an appealing and finished look. This is commonly done on door and window headers, chair rails, mantels, and handrails. To do a return, measure the overall width of the header etc, then cut both outside edges at 45° angles back toward the header. Then cut your return pieces at opposite 45° and then trim them to the correct thickness to return to the wall. Glue this piece in behind your header to create a pattern that flows from the face of the moulding around to the wall. *Note on many patterns such as chair rails this piece will be quite small, so use care when cutting.*

## HOW TO SPLICE A MOULDING

To span longer lengths, you may have to splice mouldings. Miter the joining ends at 45° angles from front to back. (fig.5) One member will overlap the other in a scarf joint, creating a vertical face seam in the finished installation. It is advisable to join moulding pieces over wall stud (fig.6) for additional strength.



## CLIMATIZING YOUR MOULDINGS.

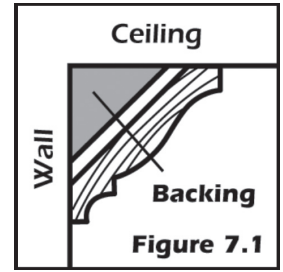
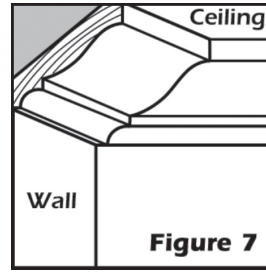
It is advisable that you “climatize” your mouldings prior to installation. Mouldings that are made of natural materials including MDF and other manufactured products can absorb moisture from many sources such as a damp garage floor. The result of this can be that your mouldings can shrink after installation leaving gaps that need to be dealt with. A good solution to this is to “climatize” your mouldings by stacking them in the room environment which they are going to be installed in for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Ideally the mouldings should be separated to allow air to circulate.

## HOW TO INSTALL A MOULDING

Install the moulding piece by piece, working your way around the room, leaving the nail heads exposed to allow for any repositioning. Avoid nailing the last 2 to 3 inches of each piece to avoid splitting. In some cases you may need to predrill your moulding before installation. Nail in the curved or cove part of the moulding to better hide the nail holes. Nail mouldings into wood studs or jambs. When nailing by hand, any good quality finishing nail properly countersunk will work well.

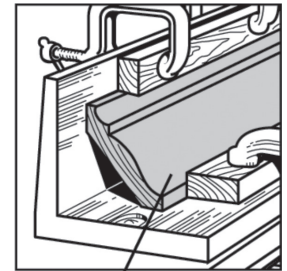
## WHAT ARE CROWN MOULDINGS?

Crowns usually run along the wall at the ceiling, (fig.7) softening the transition from wall to ceiling while adding a distinctive look and charm to most rooms. Crowns bridge the corners by sitting flat against both the wall and ceiling at the same time. (fig.7.1) Crowns are available in a wide range of profiles and sizes. They can be combined with other profiles such as baseboards to create the look of custom millwork without the cost. Crowns may also be used in mantel and wall trim build-ups.



## HOW TO CUT A CROWN

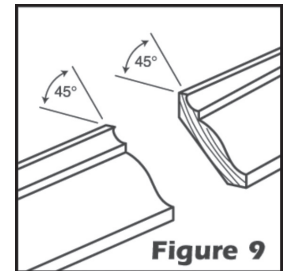
As described, crowns do not lie flush against the wall. Cutting correct 45° miters is critical. Clamp two blocks of wood to the miter box to hold the moulding in place at the angle at which it will be installed. Once blocks are in place, insert moulding prior to cutting, face out and upside down (fig.8). Then cut your 45° angles with a fine tooth saw. To flat cut crown mouldings with a compound miter saw refer to the owner's manual that came with your saw.



Top Figure 8

## HOW TO SPLICE A CROWN

To span longer lengths, you may have to splice your crowns. Set your mouldings in a miter box or compound miter saw as described in previous section. Miter the joining ends at 45° angles from front to back. One piece will overlap the other in a scarf joint. (fig.9), creating a vertical face seam in the finished installation.



### HANDY TIP

When installing crown moulding a helpful tip is to put up a backing which can be made from cut down 2x4 or any inexpensive wood. You should leave a small gap between the crown and the backing to allow for uneven walls and ceilings. The backing saves you searching for studs and makes for an easier installation. (See Fig. 7.1 above)

## HOW TO COPE A CROWN

Trim the moulding in a miter box at a 45° angle. The exposed profile serves as a guideline for the coping saw. To establish a cutting line, highlight profile shape by marking along front edge of profile with pencil. Cut along the line at a 45° angle. (fig.10) The adjoining piece of moulding is cut at a 90° angle and butts flush into the corner (fig.11).

