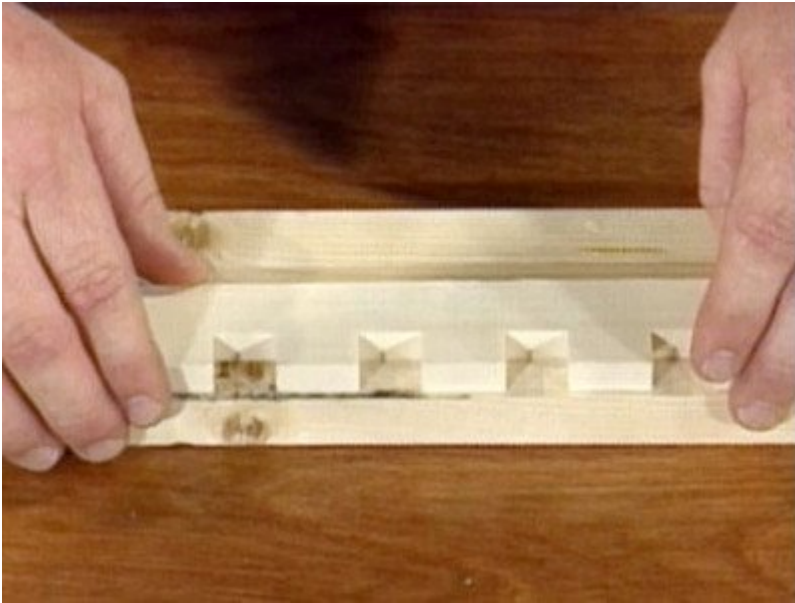


How to Build a Fireplace Mantel

Step 1: Attach the Backer Board and Dentil Molding

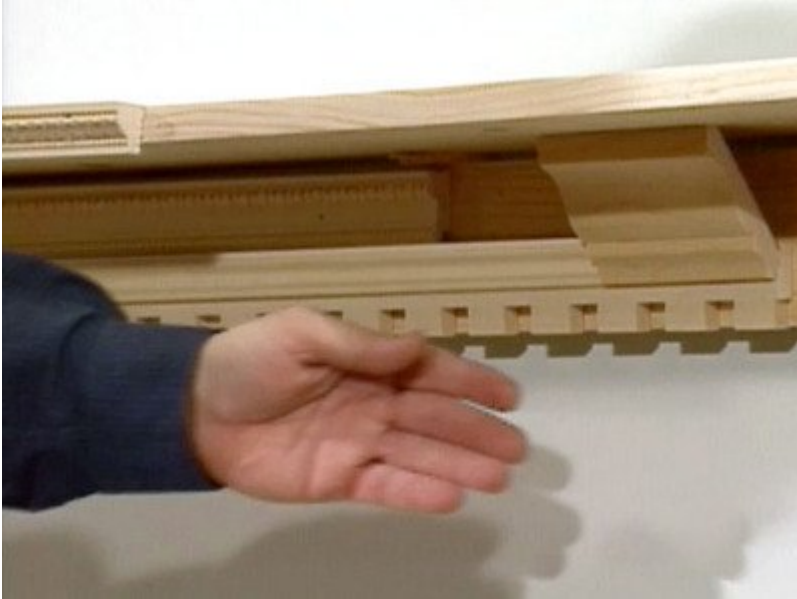
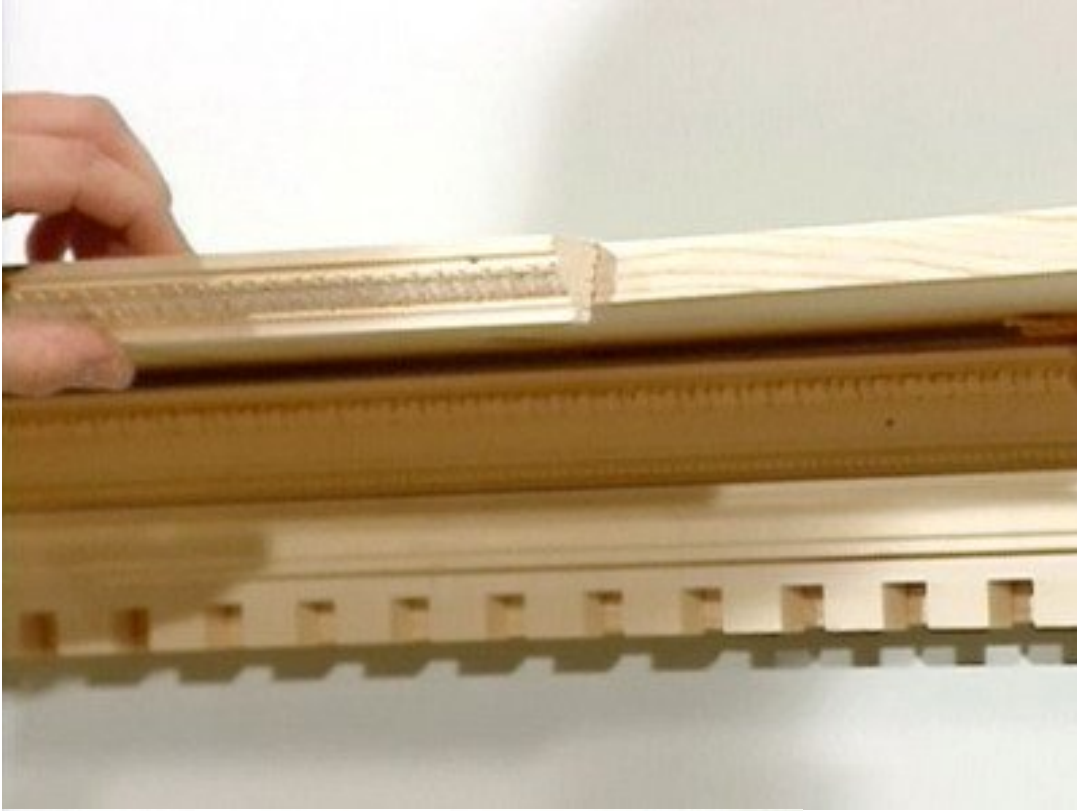
To build the mantel, start by placing a backer board on the wall. Then attach dentil molding to the bottom of the backer board.



Step 2: Attach the Molding

Set crown molding in front of the dentil molding, and set the shelf on top (Image 1). Use decorative molding to finish the edge of the shelf. For a different look (Image 2), place decorative molding directly above the dentil molding.





Step 3: Attach Prefabricated Accents

If you'd rather not deal with the compound miter cuts necessary for installing crown molding, dress up the backer board with prefabricated brackets or stamped wooden decorations. Another option for beginners is a precut, premitered mantel kit.



Step 4: Stain and Finish the Mantel

Don't leave the mantel unfinished. Wood stain makes a big difference.

If you're putting the mantel above a fireplace, consider installing decorative molding around the fireplace to create a "surround" and placing the mantel above it.

