

Headboard Fit for a King

HEADBOARD

Project Level: **Intermediate**

It's not an easy task to find the perfect headboard for your king-size bed. Retail stores often offer limited choices for such a large size, and the price tags on these items can be frightening. But with this clever use of a mantel shelf, you can create a customized headboard to fit any bed and any style. Lowe's is happy to provide this information as a service to you.





(**Note:** This headboard is designed to fit a 76" wide king-size bed. It can be altered to fit any width; mantels can be special ordered in many sizes from the millwork department. Our headboard is 33" tall, but was mounted on the wall where the base meets the mattress.)

Toolbox




Construction Materials

- 1 (76") mantel shelf (special order in millwork department)
- 1 sheet (3/4") birch plywood
- 1 (6') 1 x 3 poplar board
- 1 (8') 2 x 2 furring strip
- 2 (8') lengths of picture moulding
- 12 8d sinker nails
- 36 8d finishing nails
- 20 4d finishing nails

Tools

- Tape measure 
- Miter box and miter saw 
- Hammer 
- Pencil
- 3" all-purpose paintbrush 
- Cotton rags

Decorative Materials

- Wood glue 
- Angled sanding sponge
- Wood putty
- Primer 
- Paintbrush 
- Paint (American Tradition, Belle Grove Light Amber #94-1B, satin)
- Mocha glaze
- Polyurethane

Accessories

- 2 (30") table bases
- 2 (90") round table skirts
- 2 lamps (pearl)
- 2 (16") eggshell lamp shades
- Fabric (toile, Seabrook collection, Chatsworth Estate, pattern #SK3672F, special order, paired with simple cotton duck)

Skill level: Beginner to intermediate

Rough cost estimate: \$400

- Mantel: \$300
- Other materials: \$100

Rough time estimate: 1 day

Cut List			
Part	Material	Cut Size	Qty
(A) Front panel	3/4" plywood	33 x 74-1/2"	1
(B) Side panels	1 x 3 board	33"	2
(C) Nailing cleat	2 x 2 board	73-1/2"	1
(D) Moulding strips	picture moulding	miter to 66"	2
(E) Moulding strips	picture moulding	miter to 21"	2

Assembling illustrations are available [here](#).

Step 1: Before cutting materials, measure the exact width of the underside of the mantel from inside edge to inside edge. Each mantel is custom made, and you will want your base to fit snugly against it. This will determine the width of the front panel. The mantel pictured here begins with a 74 1/2 x 33" front panel.

Step 2: Cut all other materials per list.

Step 3: Attach side panels to front panel using wood glue and 2 1/2", 8d finishing nails. Set aside for glue to dry. This will be the base of the headboard.

Step 4: (Note: Steps 4 and 6 require at least two people.) Place the mantel upside down on a flat work surface, and position the base on the underside flush with the front inside edges, or lip, of the mantel. Trace with a pencil along the base to indicate where the cleat needs to be attached. This should be approximately 3/4" from the front and two sides of the mantel lip.

Step 5: Attach a 2 x 2 cleat along the guideline with wood glue and 8d sinker nails placed 6 inches apart. Allow to dry.

Step 6: Reposition base on the underside of mantel, and attach to the cleat, nailing from the front of the base into the cleat with 8d finishing nails every 6".

Step 7: Miter and attach picture moulding on the front using 4d finishing nails.

Step 8: Countersink nails, fill holes with wood putty, and then sand.

Step 9: Prime and paint headboard to match the room's decor. For the look of the one pictured, begin with a coat of American Tradition, Belle Grove Light Amber #94-1B, satin. Next, dilute some mocha glaze with water, and brush it on generously. Wipe away some of the glaze with smooth clean cotton rags. Apply a second layer to darken the glaze. The more layers applied, the more aged the headboard will appear.

Step 10: Allow to dry for 24 hours. Apply a coat of polyurethane to protect the finish.

Step 11: Hang the headboard per manufacturer's instructions for mounting mantel.

