

# Crown Molding Installation

## Parts

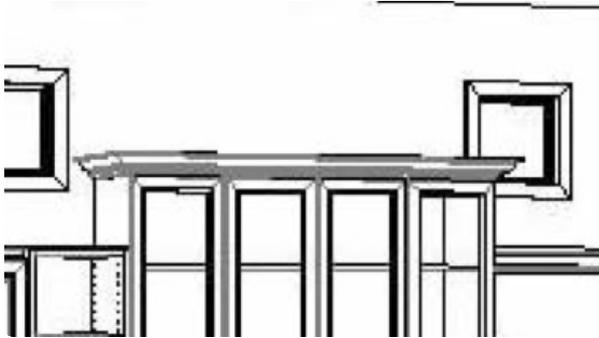


Fig. 1

Qty	Part Description
1+	Crown Molding
	#8 × 1 1/4" Wood Screw (2316) Mending Plates
	#6 × 5/8" Flat Head Screw (2337) Multi-purpose Glue Sticks

## Tools

- All standard closet tools, plus...
- Ridgid Combo Mitre Box Saw 3M Polygun TC with Quadrack Converter & PalmTrigger

## Preparation

Crown molding installation requires advanced, experienced carpentry skills. If the top of your wall or tall cabinets aren't completely level, or if you measure or cut incorrectly, you'll be returning to the home on another day to complete this installation.

Here are a few tips to ensure a snug fit with crown molding:





Fig. 2

- There needs to be a snug, smooth and level surface on which to mount the continuous molding panel lengths. Ensure any top screws are flush or countersunk if the crown molding will sit on top of these screws.
- Most crown molding installations will only require 90° standard cross cuts and 45° angle cuts to finish tower-top molding (as in front view, Fig. 1). On more rare occasions, with angled or curved wall installations, you may be required to cut 22.5° angles or other angles to match unusual office configurations (Fig. 3). Fortunately, the Ridgid mitre saw (and most other major brand saws) provide notches, presets with lock down saw positions for the most common angle cuts (Fig. 2).

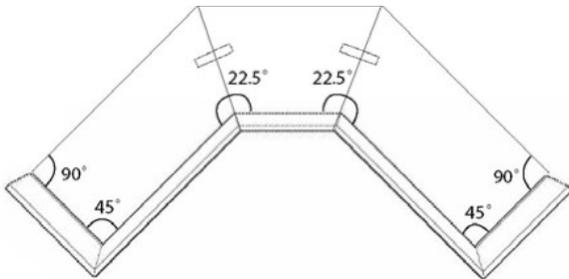


Fig. 3

- It is essential that your saw blade is maintained in excellent condition to prevent or reduce chipping or ragged edges on these cuts. Always make a test cut on scrap material first to ensure you'll get a clean cut.
- Measure twice, cut once. Measure twice again, cut once.



Fig. 4

- Angle joints are pre-assembled, before mounting the pieces atop the cabinets, using hot glue (Fig. 4). It dries very fast, so it's important to test the fit in place and have your pieces ready to set together.

Let's first review a simple, 24" wide, cabinet-top crown molding installation (Fig. 5):



Fig. 5

- There are 3 molding pieces: 2- for a 14" cabinet depth and 1- for the 24" width (which is really 25¼" to the outside corners for closet towers.)
- At first glance this would appear to total 53¼" (14 + 14 + 25.25) in molding length. But we've overlooked that the crown molding extends out from the top at a 45 degree angle, totaling 3¼" (Fig. 6).

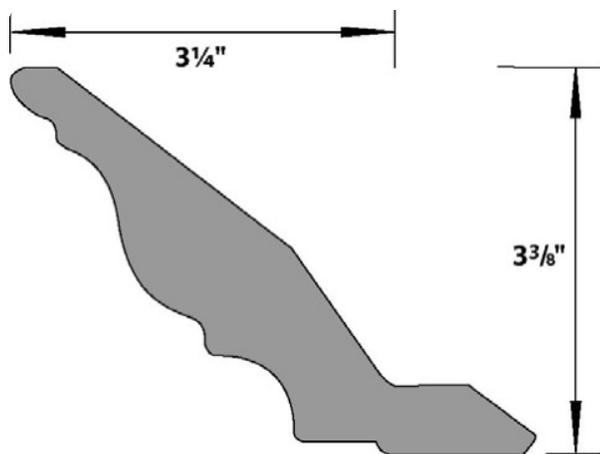


Fig. 6

- Adding 3¼" to one end of each of 14" long pieces (which will be cut back at a 45 degree angle to the 14" shelf depth), plus 3¼" to each end of the 25¼" length, you will now need at least 66¼" of molding ( $53.25 + (3.5 * 4)$ )
- In short, we're not suggesting that you add 3.25" to every measurement you make, as the distance will vary if you're cutting at shallower angles. We're reminding you to carefully plan the number of cuts and the number of pieces required for any given office design with crown molding. You must consider minor waste factor for lengths you cannot use, and you must consider for seaming (discussed later in these instructions) on any molding lengths of approximately 8 feet or longer.

## Installation

To cut and install crown molding in your design, follow these steps:

1. Measure the top of the cabinets carefully, from point to point (Fig. 7) along the edge where you will install the molding (distances "A" in Fig. 7).

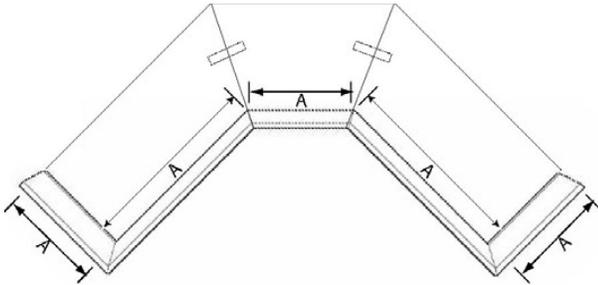


Fig. 7

2. Mark your first measurement, for example, begin left to right in installation of Fig. 7, using the shelf depth as your first cut to mark. From the 90° end cut of the panel, mark the distance 14" **in the groove** on the back of the molding (Fig. 8). (The groove is aligned directly over the front edge of the top of the cabinet.)

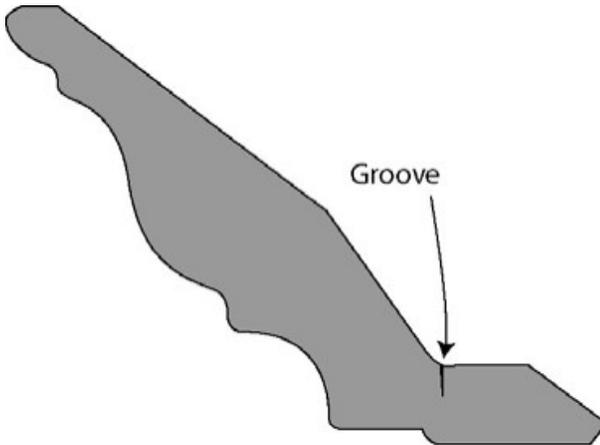


Fig. 8

3. Your first cut is the 14" length, with the 45° angle at "A" in Fig. 9. Position your molding panel against the saw guard rail, carefully aligning your mark in the groove with the blade and preset notching for a 45° angle mitre cut. (See Fig. 10.) (The molding is facing you with the finished side towards your chest. The flat lip [which secures to the top shelf] is flush to the guard rail.)

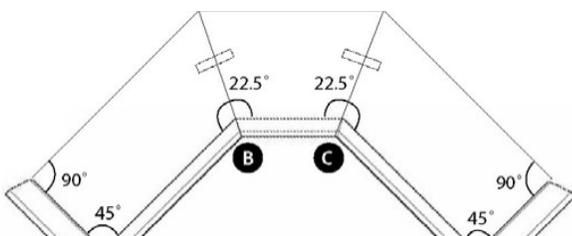




Fig. 9



Fig. 10

4. If you haven't already made a test cut on scrap, cut one now to ensure you'll have no chipping. You will be cutting from the very top of the molding, down through the thicker part and into the "lip" as the blade lowers.
5. Next, measure and cut the front molding piece going from corner "A" to cut "B". Since your first piece you just cut left you with a 45° "inside right" angle end, you will have to trim it off to make an "outside left" 45° mitre cut with which to start the measuring from "A" to "B."

If this is confusing, the best way to understand which way the angle cut should go (outside or inside), is simply hold up the first piece you cut and the next piece you wish to use in place against the cabinet. Are the start and end cuts the correct angle? If not, make a rough mark with your pencil on the back of the molding which way your next cut should go. Here is an example (Fig. 11) of how one 8 foot length of molding can be cut to make the molding pieces for Fig. 9, working from left to right:

Shown is your first cut ("A") for the depth of the tower. Next, trim away the excess at 45° for the piece between "A" and "B".



Fig. 11

6. In this example, we have designated the "B" angle cut at half of "A": 22.5°. For purposes of example, the distance from corner "A" to corner "B" is 28". Be sure you measure and mark this

distance in the groove of the molding, as shown in Fig. 11. Remember when aligning your molding against the saw blade that the key point of the measurements is where the blade crosses your mark **in the groove**. (See illustration 11 above; the blade will pass through this mark on either side of the angle cut.)

7. Change the saw preset angle to 22.5°, as in the second “B” marking in Fig. 11. Check your blade alignment to the mark **in the groove**. Make your cut.
8. Test your first two molding pieces in place. Using a stepstool, hold the pieces in place above the tower. Ensure each length and cut fits EXACTLY to each corner. If either is too short, cut a new piece. If one is too long, trim to fit.
9. Using your glue gun with the two pieces held closely together on a flat surface, apply the hot glue to the joint and squeeze the two pieces together for a tight, perfect match. Glue will set in 10 seconds or less.
10. Carefully holding your glued, L-shaped molding configuration in hand, position the pieces in place on top of the cabinet(s). The abutted pieces should keep them standing up straight and not tip forward over the edge.
11. Predrill each screw location to fasten molding to cabinet(s). Screw in the molding through predrill holes in each corner and along the length where needed (approx. every 12”-14”), using #2316 (#8×1¼”) screw (Fig. 12).

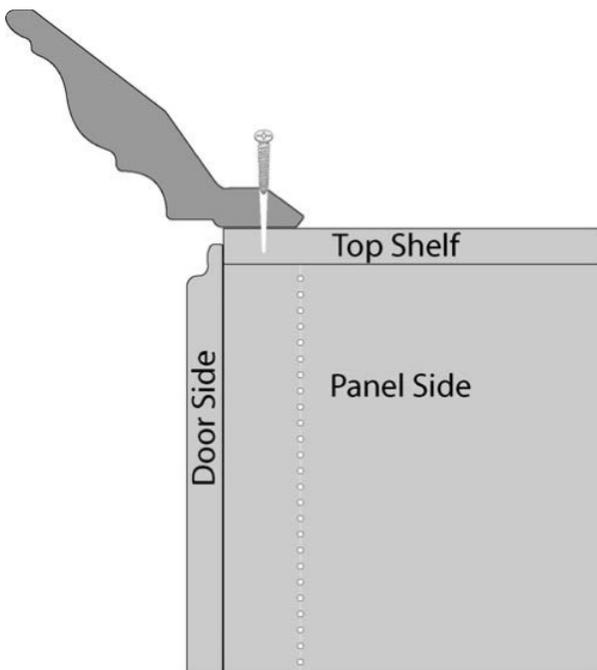


Fig. 12

12. Repeat measuring, marking, cutting, testing, gluing and fastening steps for each section of molding to install. Always try to put up two (or three) glued pieces at a time for stability.

**TIPS:**

- Positioning crown molding is easiest when you have two pieces glued together – just like building a house of cards. One piece won't stand up by itself.
- Always try to use contiguous pieces of molding as you move section by section (left to right or right to left) to best match the wood grain in adjacent pieces.
- To seam together long, continuous pieces, first attempt to match the wood grain of the two pieces at the seam. Next, select the least obtrusive location to position the seam above the long, straight section (For example, above the partitions separating two sections is a less obtrusive position than in the center of a double-hang section or center of a long wall.) NEVER seam crown molding, butting two 90° cross cuts. Always seam to molding pieces using two 22.5° angle cuts, as in the overhead view Fig. 13. (This is the smallest angle, which has the greatest stability and creates the least waste material.)

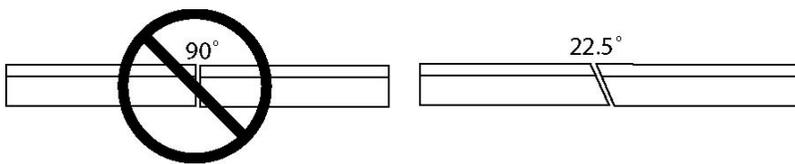


Fig. 13