



Build It With



—Mantel Build—
& INSTALLATION



Step-By-Step Plans: DIY Fishing Rod Holder

Looking to add that wow factor to your home's outdated fireplace? A new mantel adds a touch of class or rustic charm, not to mention a place to display family photos and decor. Best of all, if you're looking to tackle a DIY project, it's a great option.

While Baird Brothers Fine Hardwoods certainly [offers a wide variety of pre-made mantels for purchase](#), this is a unique and customizable project that can be accomplished by a beginner, intermediate or advanced woodworker.

If you're ready for the full DIY experience, we've got the plans for you!

What You'll Need

Here's a list of the lumber and tools you'll need to build your very own mantel ([based on our own Mantel #11 design](#)). For this project, we modified the Mantel #11 design by incorporating our B208 baseboard (single ripple instead of double ripple) and 1 x 8 without a routed edge.

LUMBER:

You'll need the following Baird items in the species of your choice – lengths will vary based on your desired mantel size. For our project, we used the following materials to make a 6-foot mantel with miter return ends:

- [\(1\) 7ft. 1 x 8 \(species of choice\)](#)
- [\(1\) 7ft. 1 x 4 \(species of choice\)](#)
- (1) 2 x 4 cut to size (comes in 8ft. lengths)
- [\(1\) 9ft. B303 crown moulding \(species of choice\)](#)
- [\(1\) 9ft. B208 baseboard \(species of choice\)](#)

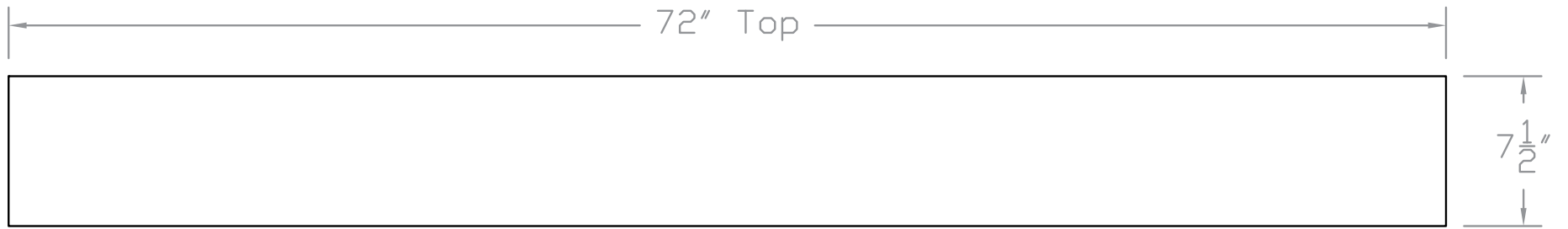
TOOLS NEEDED:

- [Kreg Pocket-Hole Jig](#)
- [Titebond Wood Glue](#)
- Orbital Hand Sander
- 180-Grit Orbital Sandpaper
- [220-Grit Sandpaper](#)
- Impact Driver
- Brad Nailer
- 18 Gauge - 1 1/4" 18 Brad Nails
- Try Square
- [2" Kreg Screws](#)
- Trim Screws
- Measuring Tape
- Miter Saw
- [Wood Filler](#)

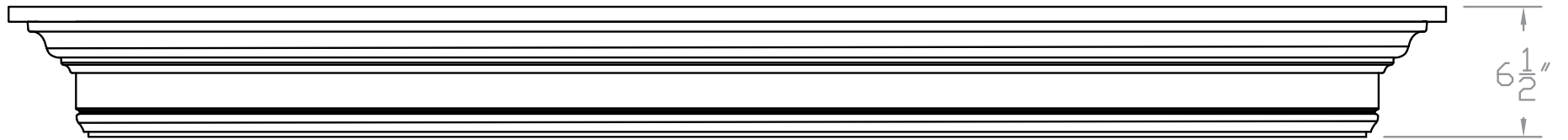




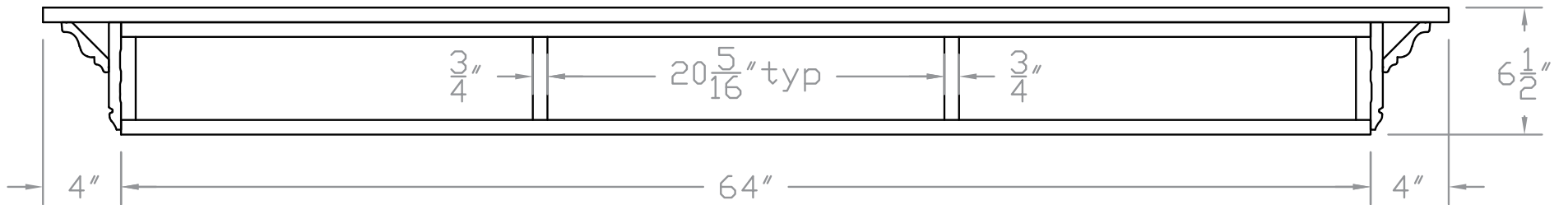
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Top View



Front View

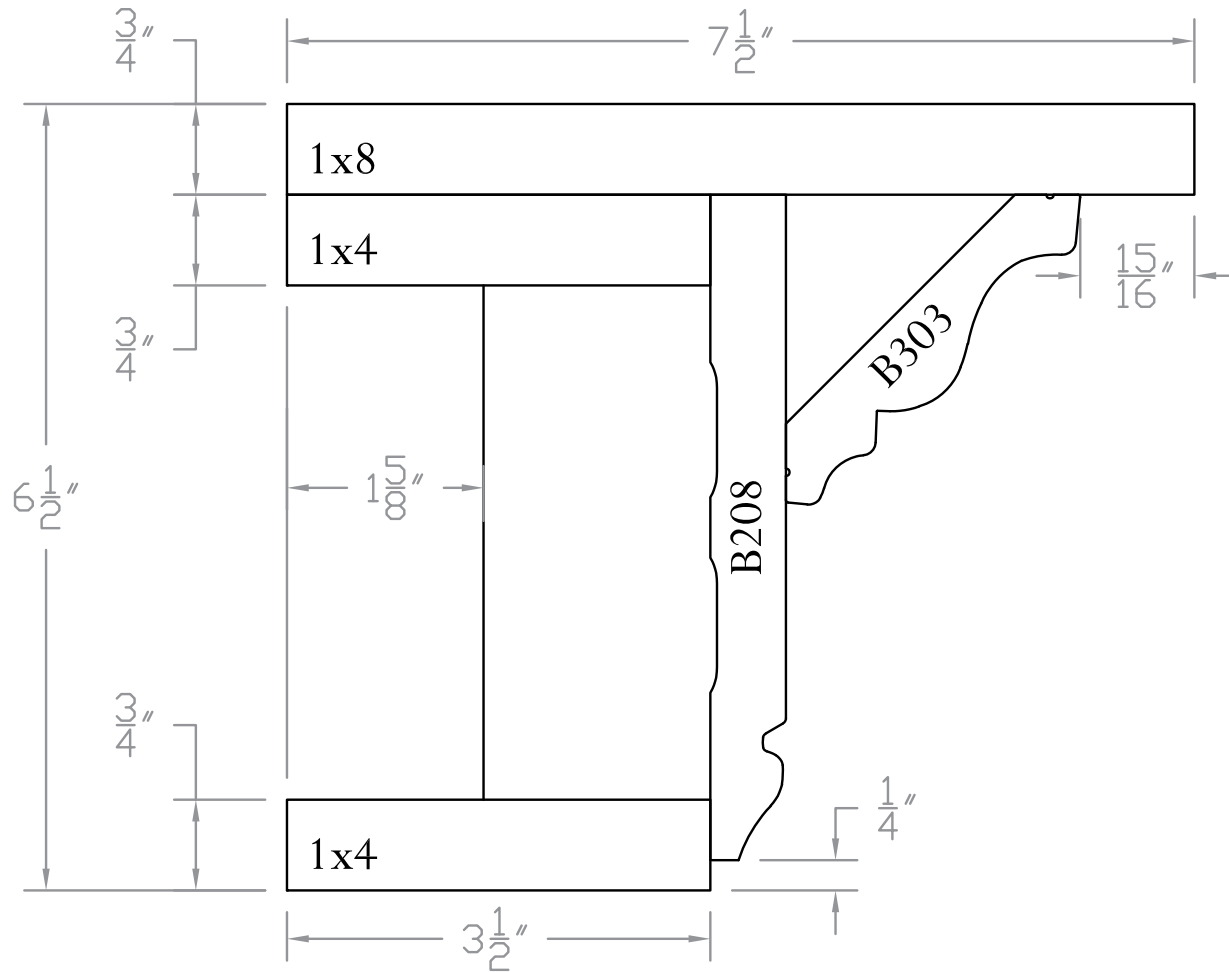


Back View





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Step 1

Create a Mock Layout

On a scrap piece of 1 x 8 wood, draw a layout with a pencil to help identify some of the lengths needed. In Step 3, you'll use this template to transfer lines to the top piece of your mantelshelf (1 x 8 lumber), which will give you index points for the baseboard's 45-degree outside corners and a long point for the left and right returns of the mantel.

Step 2

Cut Mantelshelf to Desired Length

Start with your 1 x 8, and use the miter saw to cut the lumber to your desired length. For our project, we are making a 6-foot mantel, so we are cutting to a 72-inch length. Start by square-cutting one end (taking just a small amount off of the length of the board), then pull a measurement to your desired length and cut the other end to length.

Step 3

Mark Your Mantel Board Layout

Now that you have the top of your shelf cut to size, you want to use a try square to transfer your mock layout of the three underside components to the shelf board.

Mark the board at one end first where your setback will sit, then make guiding marks across the entire length (and sides) of the board to make sure your reveal stays consistent. In our case, it leaves us with roughly a 15/16" reveal.

Mark your crown moulding offset on one end, across the length of the board, and then again on the second end. For our purposes with this project, we know that we will have a 2 1/2" offset using our 3 1/2" crown moulding profile (B303). Next, you'll mark the thickness of your baseboard, which will go behind the crown moulding offset, and mark that thickness across the ends and length of the mantelshelf.





Step 4

Measure and Cut the Baseboard

Based on the layout of your shelf and your desired dimensions, measure where you need to cut your baseboard with the miter saw. If you're working with a single pair of hands, you can measure from the left end of the shelf to the right end's mark for the front of the baseboard. Then, move to the left end of the shelf and measure from the outside edge of the shelf (1 x 8) to the front line mark where the baseboard will sit. Subtract the second measurement from the original measurement to determine the baseboard length needed for the reveal. Cut the baseboard to length with a miter saw (the front edge of the baseboard will be the full length needed for the reveal, and the inside length will be reduced due to the cut's 45-degree angle).

Step 5

Drill Holes and Attach Baseboard

To attach the baseboard to the mantelshelf, we used the Kreg Pocket-Hole Jig to drill holes across the back of the baseboard. After drilling holes, apply wood glue to the bottom edge of the baseboard and use your drill to attach the baseboard to the top shelf with Kreg screws.

Step 6

Cut Return Squares for Baseboard

Now that you have your front baseboard attached, you're ready to determine the length of your baseboard return pieces. Cut the front edge of the return piece at a 45-degree angle with the miter saw. Take that piece back to your mantel, put the return in place and measure the length needed to be flush with the backside of the shelf. Cut the back edge of the return to length, drill a pocket hole, add wood glue to the bottom edge, and attach the baseboard return to the front baseboard with brad nails. Then screw the return to the mantelshelf's top board.

Repeat this process on the opposite end of the shelf.





Step 7

Measure, Mark, and Cut Crown Moulding

With the baseboard attached, it's time to measure the crown moulding cuts using the baseboard as a guide. Start with the front piece of crown and cut to length just like you did with the baseboard (determine the length for the front edge and cut at a 45-degree angle with the miter saw). Then, cut the return pieces just like you did with the baseboard returns.

Apply wood glue to the bottom side and baseboard side of the crown and then attach to the shelf and baseboard using the brad nailer.

Step 8

Cut the Bottom of the Mantel Shelf

Cut the lumber for the bottom of the mantel shelf (1 x 4) to length so that it will fit snug on the inside of the baseboard returns.

If working by yourself, use scrap wood (measured to a height so that the 1 x 4 will leave a reveal below the edge of the baseboard. Set scrap wood at intervals along the underside of the top shelf board (this will hold up the 1 x 4 while you nail it in place). Apply wood glue onto the backside of the baseboard and set the 1 x 4 in place. Then, use your brad nailer to secure it in place. Remove the scrap wood from the inside of the mantel.

Step 9

Apply Wood Filler and Sand

Put wood filler in the nail holes left by the brad nails. (Be sure to use filler that matches your mantel's wood species, especially if you're planning to stain the final product.) Use the orbital sander to smooth the flat surfaces, and then hand sand with 220-grit sandpaper to ensure that the wood surface is smooth and even.





Step 10

Prep Your Mounting Board

Cut your 2 x 4 ledger strip to length so that it fits inside the mantel box. Then, mark a level line on the wall an inch below where you want the top of the mantel to sit. Be sure to find the studs so that you're attaching the screws for the ledger strip to the studs. (You can use a stud finder, or you can use your electrical outlets as a guide. Outlet boxes are nailed to the edge of a stud and studs are placed 16 inches apart. So, measuring in 16-inch intervals from the outside edge of your outlet box will help you locate a stud.)

Insert screws partially into the ledger strip. Place the 2 x 4 against the wall and attach by fully inserting the screws.

Step 11

Hang the Mantel

After you've sanded, you can stain or paint your mantel. Once dry, you're ready to hang your mantel!

If you're working by yourself, start three trim screws on the top side of the mantel shelf. Place the mantel on the 2 x 4 ledger strip and finish inserting the trim screws...and there you have it! Your new mantel is hung and ready for decorating.



Love the Mantel But Not the Process?

If you don't want to tackle this project or lack the necessary tools to do it, no worries! We offer expertly made [mantels in a variety of styles and species](#). Whether you want to purchase online, over the phone or in person, we're here for you! From the lumber, tools and products to the finished mantels themselves, we're ready to help bring your vision to life.

Whether you want to skip the sawdust or flex your DIY muscles, Baird Brothers is ready to get to work. Until next time!

