

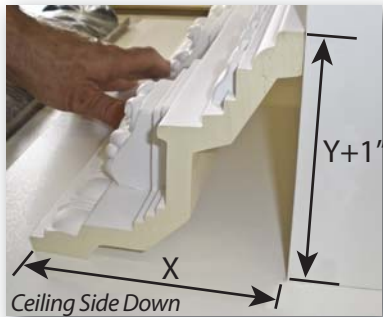
Miter Box

BUILD INSTRUCTIONS

Let me show you how to build a quick and easy custom miter box to make great cuts on even the largest of moldings. Total project time is about 45 minutes, but this includes taking pictures along the way. If you're going to be using a molding that is too large for your compound miter saw to handle (many of our larger moldings are), a couple of hours constructing a good large miter box is worth the time spent building it. It will save you a lot of time and frustration later! The results will be the ability to cut perfect inside and outside corners.

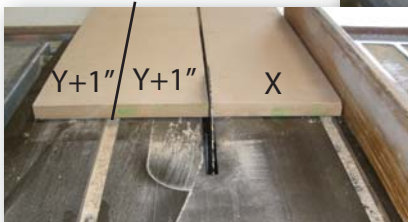


Purchase a decent saw. The more teeth, the finer your cuts will be. This 22" hand saw cost \$7.99 at a local hardware store. One thing I always do is rub my saws with wax paper to lessen any friction in the miter box.



First, use the molding to determine the size of miter box you'll need. Place the molding with the edge that will touch the ceiling facing down with the edge that will touch the wall against a right angle. Measure the distances shown. In this case both measurements are equal.

We built this miter box out of a 15" x 96" wide scrap piece of 3/4" MDF, but I wanted my miter box to be 48" long (much more manageable), so I cut the MDF in half.

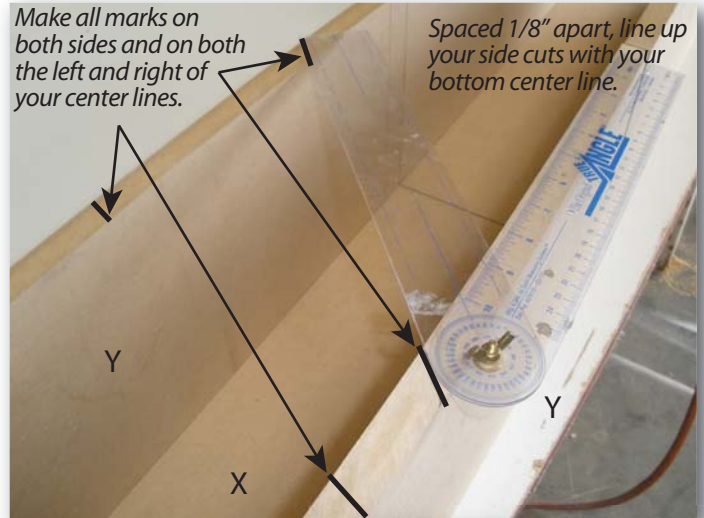


Then we set the fence on the table saw to cut the bottom and 2 side pieces.

Now you have your 48" pieces, line them up and find the middle and mark them.



Line up, but do not attach the side pieces yet. Using an angle finder, make your 45° marks on both sides. If you have other angles, such as inside or outside 45° set your finder at 22.5° and mark.



Set your saw to cut the 22.5° and 45° cuts. Start with the farthest away from the fence. Line the blade up with the marks.



Start dry fitting all of your angle cut pieces, making sure they stay lined up with your base marks. They should be spaced the width of the new saw blade.

After dry fitting and spacing 1/8" apart, attach all the pieces to the base. We used a 1" stapler, but glue and nails would work too.



Using a piece the same width as your base, space the sides of the box apart. Line up cross braces with your angle cuts and secure to the box.

Continue adding the cross bracing using your hand saw for proper spacing. When finished, make a dry cut with the hand saw through each slot. You're now ready to begin cutting molding.

Your miter box, customized to the specific width of your molding, should make perfect cuts every time.

Pro Tip: Practice all your cuts on cheap material to get the feel for your cut angles and where they fit. Visualize the pieces before actually cutting. You'll avoid wasting your material. Measure twice and cut once.