



HOW-TO BOOKLET #3036

WALL PANELING



TOOL & MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Color Stick
- Level/Coping Saw
- Sawhorses
- Furring Strips/Shims
- Caulking Gun
- Hammer/Saw
- Miter Box/Back Saw
- Paneling/Trim
- Adhesive
- Paneling Nails

Read This Entire How-To Booklet for Specific Tools and Materials Not Noted in The Basics Listed Above.

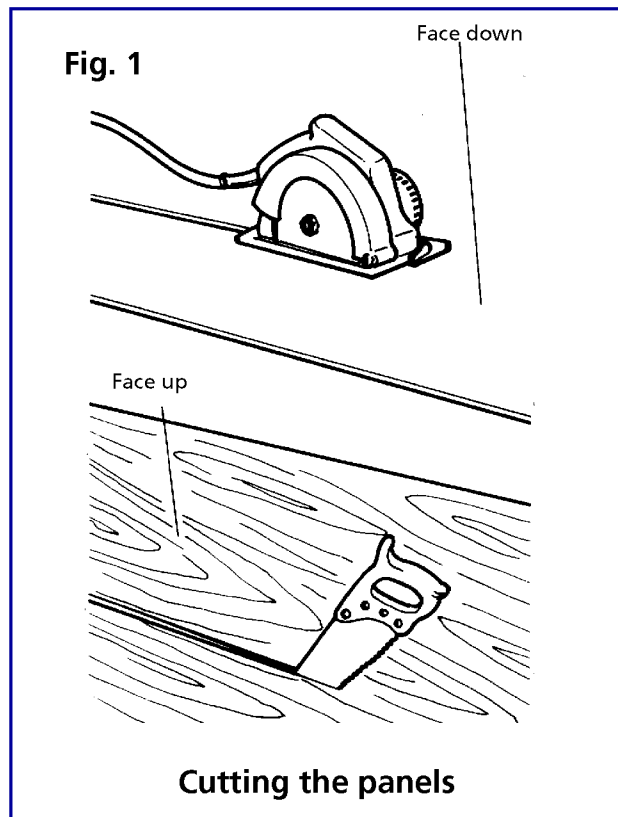
Sheet paneling—real wood or simulated wood—is easy for a do-it-yourselfer to install. It probably is one of the easiest of all wall surfaces to put up and it can quickly transform a room from just “ordinary” to something very special.

Plan the job. With graph paper, make a scale drawing of the room that you will panel. This takes extra effort, but you’ll be delighted with the results which might save you plenty of time and costs in wasted materials.

Locate the first sheet of paneling, where you may need extra furring, and where you have to make special cuts. Paneling can be installed directly over drywall or plaster walls, if the surface is in fairly good repair. The adhesive method is by far the easiest way to fasten the panels in place. We basically show panels on furring in this Booklet; the techniques, however, are almost the same for adhesive as furring.

For ordering paneling, divide the perimeter (total length of the walls) by four and round up to the nearest whole number. This will be the number of panels you will need.

Condition the panels. When you get the panels home, stack the panels flat on the floor in the room where they will be installed. Slip little blocks of wood between the panels (or separate them with paperback books) so the air circulates around the panels. This procedure conditions the panels to the humidity within the room. Let the panels set a couple of days before you start the paneling project.



Arrange the panels, if the panels are real wood. After conditioning, locate the panels around the walls of the room. Note the grain patterns. Then move various panels into different positions to take advantage of the grain, darkness or lightness of the wood.

CUTTING TECHNIQUES

Although paneling is easy to work, it does require care in cutting to prevent the good face from splintering from the teeth action of the saw.

The tool you use to make the cuts will determine which side of the paneling you work from. Circular saws and saber saws cut on the upstroke and should be used from the back of the panel. That is, the back of the panel should face you while you operate the saw (**Fig. 1**).

Handsaws, table saws, and radial arm saws cut on the downstroke. Therefore, the panels should be cut with the face up—or the face facing you. Use a plywood saw blade with 6 teeth per inch and a handsaw with a narrow set between cutting points. A crosscut handsaw is best; it is suggested that you do not use a rip saw.

Long cuts in paneling can be made with a circular or saber saw if you clamp a straightedge to the paneling as a guide for the saw.

Mark the cutoff line on the panel. Then position the straightedge near this line. Put the saw along the straightedge and align the blade with the cutoff line. There will be a slight distance between the straightedge and the cutoff line since the bed of the saw is a few inches from the blade. Once set, clamp the straightedge to the panel.

Cutting openings. Measure the position of an opening and transfer the location to the appropriate side of the panel. A fast way to do this is to rub the edge of the fixture that will come through the panel with a China marker. With the panel aligned and placed over the marked fixture, tap the panel over fixture with a hammer protected with a cloth pad. The impression made by the marker will indicate the place to be cut. Drill starter holes inside the corners of the outline to start the saw (**Fig. 2**).

Scribing. To fit a panel against an irregular surface, tack it to the wall a few inches away from the surface, checking that the panel is plumb (vertical level). Use a compass to scribe the edge of the panel—one leg of the compass follows the irregular surface and the pencil transfers this design to the panel. You can cut to the scribed outline with a jig or coping saw. We suggest a coping saw since you can cut with it from the front of the panel without splitting or splintering the wood (**Fig. 3**).

Fig. 4

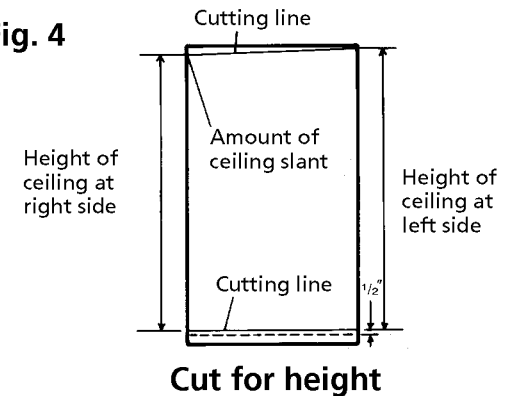


Fig. 5

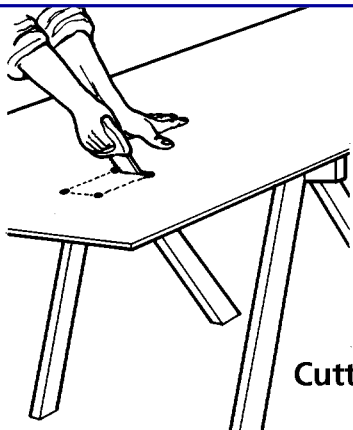
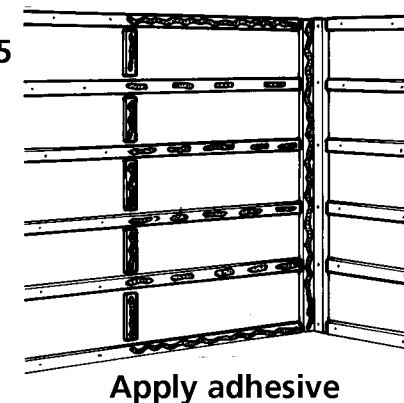


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

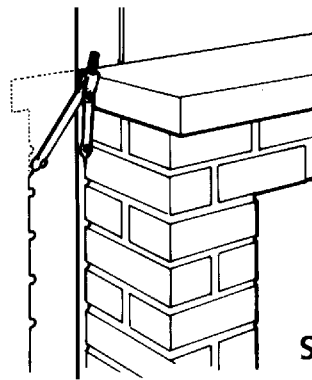
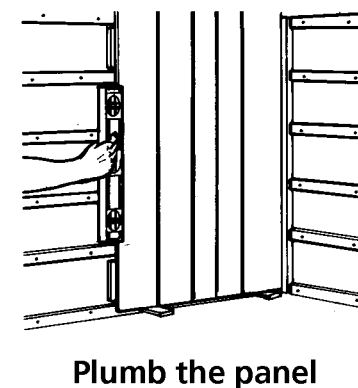


Fig. 6



INSTALLATION TECHNIQUES

Whether you use adhesive and/or nails on flat wall surfaces or over furring strips, the method of installation is almost identical. You will need approximately 1 tube of adhesive for each panel that you will install.

Furring. To fur a wall use 8d nails to fasten on pieces of 1x2s or 1x3s. Over concrete blocks use masonry nails or screws into fiber plugs.

Make a grid of the furring with vertical pieces 48 inches on center and horizontal pieces 16 inches on center. Leave 1/2-inch spaces between pieces where they meet.

To true the wall, hang a plumb bob on a line at the ceiling 2 inches from the wall. Mark the distance from the wall at every intersection. Then nail on the first strip at the highest point and shim with shingles behind it to make it level along its entire length. Then attach a top and bottom strip to match the first strip and nail in the other strips to match the first three. The first three strips will give you an accurate guide to shimming/nailing the other strips.

PANELING

1 Start at a corner. Check the ceiling and floor at the wall to make sure the room is reasonably square. If it is, measure the height of the wall and cut the panel 1/2-inch shorter. If it isn't, find the distance the ceiling deviates from horizontal at whichever corner is higher, and mark that on the appropriate side of the panel. Draw a cutting line to the opposite corner and make the cut.

Measure the distance from the ceiling to the floor where both edges of the panel will sit, subtract 1/2-inch for clearance, mark the panel, cut it. Use a plumb line to check the adjoining wall and cut to fit (**Fig. 4**).

2 Install the paneling with adhesive and/or nails. Use 3d finish nails into studs and 6d finish nails into wallboard. You can buy colored paneling nails for this (**Fig. 5**).

Square the paneling before nailing. For adhesive, follow manufacturer's instructions on the adhesive container. On a flat wall, cover the surface with a random squiggle of adhesive and run a bead around the panel about 1/2-inch from the edge.

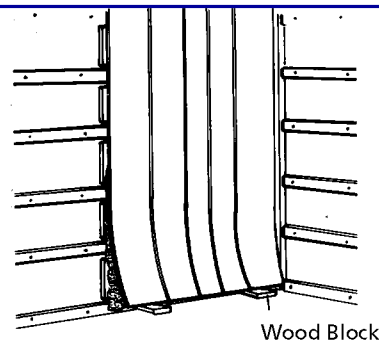
3 Set the panel against the wall. Prop it up with scrap wood. Check the panel for plumb and correct the position. If the panel doesn't fit, cut it to adjust the fit. The first panel must be perfectly plumb (**Fig. 6**).

4 Some adhesives call for the panel to be held away from the wall to let the adhesive cure. Tack it in four places at the top and prop it out at the bottom (**Fig. 7**).

5 Use an aerosol paint spray about the same color as the grooves in the panels to mark the surface along a joint before installing the next paneling sheet. Install subsequent sheets using the procedures detailed above. The spray paint will hide any defects when the panels expand/contract from moisture or humidity within the room.

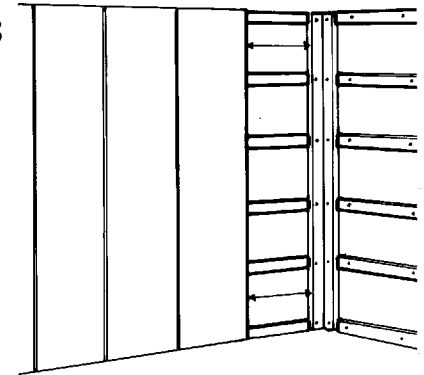
6 When you meet the opposite corner of the wall, measure between the last panel and the corners at the top and bottom and transfer the measurements to the panel. Cut to fit, but not for such a tight fit that you have to flex the panel to put it in the space (**Fig. 8**).

Fig. 7



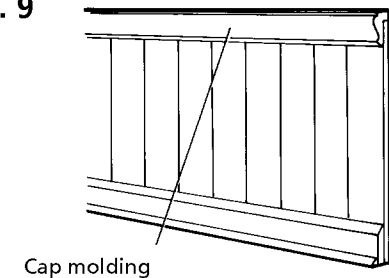
Curing adhesive

Fig. 8



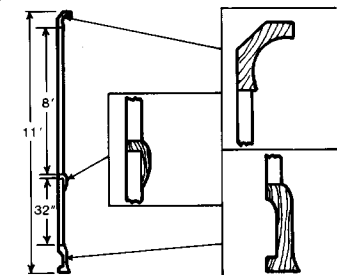
Ending a wall

Fig. 9



Wainscoting

Fig. 10



High Walls

WAINSCOTING

Paneling that covers only the lower 30 to 36 inches of a wall is called wainscoting. It is applied to the wall about the same way as full sheets of paneling. Cut the paneling to the height you want, measure each piece from a horizontal line on the wall.

Fasten the panels on the bare wall or over furring. If wainscoting is fastened to a bare wall it may be capped with a cap molding. If installed over furring, a combination of moldings may be required to fill the space between the paneling and the wall (Fig. 9).

COVERING HIGH WALLS

When panels must be stacked, either vertically or horizontally, to cover a wall, the seams created by butting the ends of panels can be concealed with molding, as illustrated (Fig. 10).

Or the paneling may be covered with strips of 1-in. board of an appropriate color. You can make this trim appear as a picture molding if the trim piece is installed toward the ceiling rather than near the floor. Extra long panels are manufactured.

However, they are a “special order” item at most stores and you will have to pay extra for the additional material and usually the special shipping costs. Also, plan to wait a month or so for the delivery of the order.

MOLDING TECHNIQUES

Cutting miters for molding requires a miter box and backsaw. The technique is easy, but you must have patience and always measure twice and cut once to save material.

- ↑ For base molding, mark the cutoff point at the top and put the molding in the miter box right side up with its back against the back of the box. When cutting an inside corner, set the saw guide so that the back of the molding (wall side) will be longer than the front side.

When cutting an outside corner, set the saw so that the front side will be longer than the back that faces the wall (Fig 11).

- ↑ To cut cove molding, set the molding in the miter box upside down, as shown, so it can be seated firmly against the bottom and back. The wall side is the long side for inside corners; the short side for outside corners (Fig.12).

Butting molding. Shape one piece to fit the contour of the other by making 2 cuts. First, measure, mark and cut the piece as if you were mitering it to fit the corner (Fig. 13)

Now, mark a second cutting line along the edge of the cut on the face and cut this, following the curves, with a coping saw held vertically. The second cut shapes the piece to fit over the face of the molding it abuts (Fig. 14).

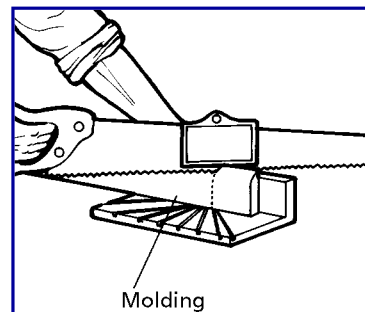


Fig. 11

Cutting baseboard

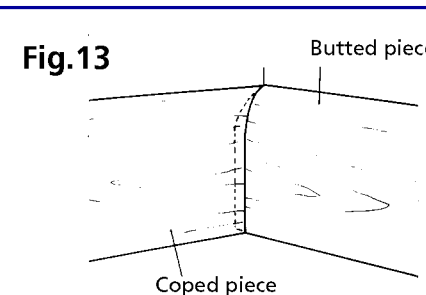


Fig.13

How cope cut fits

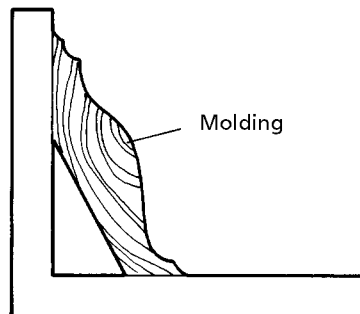


Fig. 12

Cutting cove

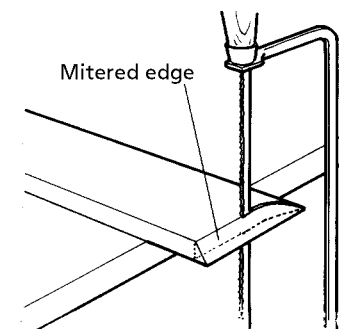


Fig. 14

Coping baseboard