

**TRIM FEATURES: WAINSCOTT, PANEL JAMBS, CROWN DETAILS & CURVED MOLDINGS**  
**WITH GARY STRIEGLER**  
**SEPTEMBER 9-13, 2019**

Class Schedule

Monday morning - Building paneled jambs. Any time I trim a room, cased openings and doors are the first thing I do, so we will start off class by learning how to build, install and trim a paneled jamb cased opening. We will go over the correct layout for jambs then learn how to use pocket hole joinery to quickly assemble frames. Each team will build a set of frames then we will have our first chance to practice cutting and fitting moldings. I will show how to use a block plane to fine tune joints. Then we will set and shim the jambs in place. I will share my methods for getting nearly perfect joints in casing trim, then each team will finish up by installing casing trim and back band on their jamb.

Monday afternoon - Jamb extensions and trimming windows. Windows are hardly ever set perfectly in the opening, so we will start out by studying 3 ways to make tapered cuts on jamb extensions and take a look at the 2 router bits I use to profile window sills. We will also cover how I calculate the length and depth of a window sill. Next each team will make a custom window jamb and sill to fit the window opening in their wall, then shim and nail it in place. Since we will be wainscoting the walls each window will have to have casing trim and back band. We will make the back band for the windows and compare it to the factory made back band we used on the doors. At the end of the day each wall should be ready for wainscot.

Tuesday morning - Options for wainscot. Every wainscot project starts with layout. I will share my guidelines for panel layout and size then go over details for inside and outside corners along with intersecting wainscot with window trim and sills. I will show samples of the six types of wainscot that I use and assign one of the three types to each group. Before lunch each team will lay out their wainscot panels, make a cut list and begin milling the material for their frames.

Tuesday afternoon - Wainscot trim details. After lunch each team will build frames for their wainscot sections. Each wainscot style has slightly different trim details. I will go over the differences but also demonstrate the methods I use to cut and fit all types of panel molding used for wainscot. It is much easier to trim panels before they go on the wall so we will cut and fit all the panel molding. I will cover how to cut in outlet boxes accurately then each team will install their panels. Molding to cap the panels and baseboard are the finishing touch for every wainscot project. We will cover options for cap mold and the cuts to make where the baseboard meets the casing before each team trims out their wall. If time allows each team will build a sample pattern of one of the other types of wainscot.

Wednesday Morning - Mastering crown molding. Crown molding is the most challenging type of trim to cut and fit. I will demonstrate how to cut crown nested and lying flat and discuss the advantages and drawbacks of each method. Joints at inside corners may be coped or mitered. I will cut examples of each type of joint and explain when and why I choose each joint. Outside corners require a different approach. I will share my secrets for fitting these joints using a block plane. Finally we will take a look at prepping for crown molding. The steps to take before you put up any trim. The simplest way to make a built up crown detail is with a baseboard. Each team will use a different crown and baseboard to trim out the top of their wall sections.

Wednesday afternoon - Hands on case and crown. Each team will glue up a blank to make a piece of curved trim. I will demonstrate how to check the accuracy of a miter saw and show the steps I follow to get the best cut possible. Most important of all I will show how to make adjustments to make slight adjustments to the miter saw to fine tune joints. Most of the afternoon will be spent with the students practicing mitered cuts while making a mirror frame and cutting crown moldings to build a display shelf.

Thursday morning - Door hanging and installation. Hanging a door involves mortising the hinges on the door and jamb and boring for the door knob along with nailing it in place with shims. Putting a pre-hung door in place is really just an installation process. I will show how to make a template for routing hinge mortises from plywood then explain why every door should have both edges beveled. I will also cover the difference between a left and right hand swing door. Each team will take a door slab; jamb hinges and door stop and hang a door in their wall section. Each team will also glue up a curved door jamb to be installed in the afternoon.

Thursday afternoon - Curved casing. I think I enjoy making and installing curved trim more than anything else I do. We will go step by step from a rough glue up to a finished piece of curved trim and then I will cover my tips and methods for cutting and fitting joints in curved trim. In the framing stage all door openings are square topped. I will walk each team through the steps to create a curved top opening in their wall for the curved jamb. Next we will take a look at different ways to attach straight jamb legs to curved head jambs and then install the jambs. Finally each team will finish their cased opening by applying the casing trim.

Friday morning - Pediments, pilasters and door headers. Often the clients I am working for will ask me to step up the trim around the front door or maybe an office or dining room door. That can be as simple as beefing up the casing trim and adding a header detail but more often we add some sort of pilasters and if there is room a pediment. I will show options for making pediments and pilasters then each team will design and build their own "front door trim package".

Friday afternoon - Stepping it up with built up crown details. Many homes today have a room with ceiling heights of 12 feet or more. That calls for something more than the standard crown detail. There is a limit to how big a crown molding you can cut and fit so you have to combine moldings. I will share the guidelines and tricks I use to build up large scale trim details. We will finish up with each group building several large scale crown mock ups.

The makeup of each class is different. My goal as a teacher is to cover all the material listed above but it is much more important to go at a pace that the class is comfortable with. I also try to remember that you are on vacation. We may end up changing the schedule but I will always strive to cover the material that lead you to take the class and that you go home ready to tackle any trim project.

#### **TOOL LIST:**

1. Low angle block plane
2. Trim hammer 12-16 ounce
3. Small combination square
4. Tape measure 15-25 foot
5. ¾ inch wood chisel
6. Utility knife
7. 1/8 inch nail set

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