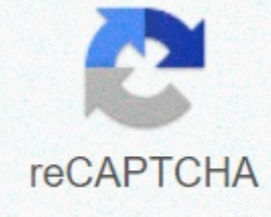




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How to build a fireplace surround over brick

Learn how easy it is to build a simple wraparound fireplace and MDF mantle to climb into an existing brick fireplace. In the first part of my fireplace makeover tutorial, I shared like tiles over a brick fireplace. Today, I will share how we built our existing surround and DIY a new mantle. If you haven't seen my plans for the fireplace makeover yet. Before we entered the tutorial, here's what we started with: And this in an improvement over what it originally looked like when we moved in.... But now we're here. The mantle (shelf) has been removed and the tile has been placed. Now is the time to build the environment and make this look like a proper fireplace! How to build a fireplace surrounds when we took off the old mantle shelf we were left with an almost completely empty surface with the wall (one of the main reasons for this makeover). Before we could home tiles, we covered the brick with 1/4-inch MDF. We stuck it directly to the brick using liquid nails and used our nail gun at the corners where the MDF met. We did not bother to mitering the edges and only made them dizzy as we knew it would be covered with trimming later. We used the same MDF sheet to cover the sides of the environment and across the top. We measured them to adapt to what already existed from those integrated on both sides preventing us from going wider. We have secured the MDF to the existing wooden environment using our nail gun. Then I started adding some of the pieces of jealousy to the front of the home. Let's start with boxing out (top piece, bottom piece and then left piece and right piece). Finally, we cut the two small vertical pieces that would form the inner boxes. The lacy pieces are mostly joined with liquid nails, but with a few nails in the corners just to make sure they would stay in place. Jealousy is repeated next to the fireplace, too. Building the Mantle At this point we decided to build our mantle before deciding how far we wanted to build the environment. It was one of those things we just needed to see in real life and not just on paper. The mantle itself is a very simple box. We bought pre-primed 1 x 4's and started by fixing the existing back plate to the wall with our nail gun. The bottom piece was nail in place and then the side pieces. Finally, the front piece. No 45 degree angles are needed again as we knew the exposed sides would be covered by the crown when we were done. Note: In hindsight, it would have made more sense to first build the box and then install it. If you have a kreg-jig, pocket holes would work a lot to secure the sides. But our path worked well in the end. When we were happy with the box, we attached a pre-primed 1 x 8 board to sit on top and form the actual mantle. Once the mantle was built, it was easy to figure out how far we needed the construction of the rest of the environment. Once again, we boxed out, this time using 1/2 inch MDF. First we attached the side pieces and then we nailed the front piece. For reference: our column/vertical pieces are 7 inches wide, with a depth of 6.5 inches. Yours may need to be bigger or smaller, but this can help you figure out what you need. Then add 1 x 4 pieces to the bottom of the vertical sides to create some depth. These pieces were cut at a 45 degree angle to create a clean border and mites. By the way, we find the MDF very messy to work with (we're still clearing the saw dust a month later). I'm not sure our circular saw was up to the job - a table saw would have made cleaner cuts - and the pieces were great, so cutting them with our miter saw was a no-go. So, we just got rid of the edges and thought that some spackle and polishing would help hide the blurry edges of the MDF (note: they did! The sides came out perfectly smooth and painted like a dream!) Next we worked on finishing the shadow boxes using 1x2's. We only used the thin pieces of jealousy for the home, they seemed too creepy in the main environment, so we chose 1x2 for more dimension. We always make the perimeter boxes first and then filled with the small pieces. Doing it this way makes the cuts much faster. At this point the whole design really started to come together. Assembling the electric fireplace For the electric fireplace to sit in the existing surround fireplace, we needed to build a box for it to sit on. The particular electrical insertion we bought screwed only on the sides, so we decided to do only 3 sides in our box - left, right and bottom. The bottom piece had to be lifted from the ground enough for the top of the insert to align with the top of the opening and would cover an imperfection to the tile just around the edge. We did the math and thought all that, then screwed the wood into the brick with some masonry screws and as well as liquid nails. I forgot to take a picture before attaching the support plate to the wood, but you have the idea, right? At this point, the electrician had finally arrived and installed the exit inside the fireplace so I was able to go ahead and finish tiles. Did you notice the little red hammer? My kids love helping and having children's versions of ALL our tools! We've attached some crown modelling the forehead using various YouTube tutorials to help us cut the mite edges. The first piece of crown we bought was 4 1/2 inches and too big. Although he fitted in at the front underneath top of the mantle, we couldn't get the edges together, so we had to get down to a 3 1/2-inch piece. Finishing Touches Then came the dirty part - lots of grouting, cleaning, spackling, caulking and polishing. I sealed all the feathered edges of the MDF with a light layer of spackle, let it dry and polish it with fine sand paper. All nail holes will be filled with spackle and polishing Finally, all the seams were filled with boilers. I made sure the wood had no imperfections and it was very soft before slimming it down with 2 coats of my favorite primer and sealant. These things completely seal the wood so you never have to worry about bleeding. I polished slightly between each primer layer to make sure I was keeping the surface as smooth as possible. I allowed the primer to dry for 24 hours and then applied 2 Sherwin Williams Extra White coats in a satin finish. Then, finally, after what seemed like an eternity and a lot of late nights, we installed the inserted electric fireplace. I was so excited for it to be done that I had all my Christmas decorations back before taking pictures. Isn't it nice though? In the end, we built almost all this chimney mantle and surrounded it from scratch. But I have to say it was worth it. Our living room has been completely transformed! Our new fireplace is proportional, substantial and adapts to our space. It wasn't the hardest DIY project, but it was certainly a bit frustrating at times (I'm looking at the modelling crown!) and more than a few swear words were uttered. We are so happy with how it turned out and we are very pleased that we dyed the whole thing ourselves and saved a lot of \$\$ as a result! If you want to move on in addition to my home décor, DIY, lifestyle, and other places, I would love you to follow me on any of the following: Pinterest | Instagram | María María Profiles | 1/ 4-inch MDF sheet 1/2-inch MDF sheet 1 x4 pre-primed boards (6ft) 1 (one) 1 x 8 pre-primed board (mantle top length) 1 x 2 boards (2 - 3, 8ft boards) Lattice Trim wooden screws brad liquid nail tape measure circular level or Saw Miter Saw Nail Gun Table Cover the brick home with 1/4-inch MDF using liquid nails. Use a nail gun in the corners where the MDF is located. The corners don't need to be mites, they just came together as they will be covered to trim on a back pass. If you are tilting, this step must be completed before installing the tile. Use additional MDFs to flank the sides of the fireplace, to create two columns, then another tile across the top. The width of these tiles will vary depending on the dimensions you are working on. Add pieces of la jealousy to the front of the home. Start by boxing out (top piece, bottom piece and then left piece and right piece). Finally, cut the two small vertical pieces to form the inner boxes. The pieces of jealousy are mostly joined with liquid nails, but with nails in the corners only to who would stay in place. Jealousy is repeated next to the fireplace, too. Building The MantleWe chose to build our mantle box before finishing the environment, so we could visually see how far we wanted it to go. The mantle itself is a very simple box. There are two methods to make The first is to build the box and then screw it into the wall with heavy wooden screws. The second method is to use a jig kreg and pocket holes (preferred method). The second method, in my opinion, is safer. We bought pre-primed 1 x 4's and started by fixing the existing back plate to the wall with wooden screws. Add a piece of support to the center, then on both sides, screwing wooden screws through the pocket holes. Then nail the bottom piece to all the supports, and finally the front piece. (we didn't do the medium support, as everything seemed robust enough, so it's optional). No 45-degree angles are needed, as the exposed sides will be covered by the crown when it was done. When the basic box is installed, the 1 x 8 board for the mantle is directly on top. Nail it everywhere. It is important that this piece sits far enough away from the box below it that the molding of the crown can be attached. You may want to play with whether a 1x 8 or 1 x 10 works best for the type of crown you are planning to wear. Finishing SurroundOnce builds the mantle, it's easy to figure out how far to build the rest of the environment. Box the side columns in, using 1/2-inch MDF. First we attached the side pieces and then we nailed the front piece. Then add 1 x 4 pieces to the bottom of the vertical sides to create some depth and act almost like a piece of base crown. These pieces were cut at a 45 degree angle to create a clean border and mites. Add shade boxes with 1 x 2's on both sides vertically and piece under the mantle. Start first with the perimeter boxes and then fill with the small pieces. Doing it this way makes the cuts much faster. Attach a piece of crown directly under the mantle ledge. The piece we used was 3 1/2 inches. You may want to watch a YouTube tutorial to learn how to miter the edges of the crown, it's a little tricky! How much wood will vary depending on the size of the mantle and the surroundings you choose to build. We were limited by what we already had, so we built to those dimensions. We only have ceilings of just over 7 feet, so the height should be proportional to that. Share It Tweet It

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