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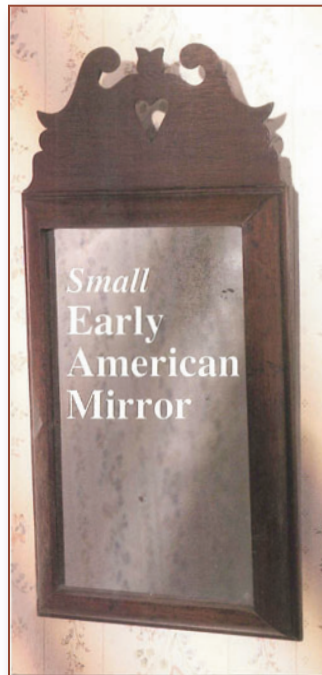


Classic Project

In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

Small Early American Mirror



Start by making the backing frame, which is half-lapped together to serve as a firm base for the mitered moldings. Establish the shoulder of the half-laps with the crosscut on the table saw with the blade set 1/8 in. high. Then remove the waste with the workpiece on end and supported by a tenon jig.

Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)			
Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Crest	1/4 x 3 1/4 x 7	1
B	Side Molding	3/4 x 3/4 x 10 1/4	2
C	Top/Bottom Molding	3/4 x 3/4 x 6 1/4	2
D	Side Bead	1/4 x 1/4 x 10 1/4	2
E	Top/Bottom Bead	1/4 x 1/4 x 7	2
F	Backing Stile	1/4 x 1 1/2 x 10 1/2	2
G	Backing Rail	1/4 x 1 1/2 x 7	2
H	Dovetail Wedge	3/8 x 1 1/4 x 1 1/4	2
I	Mirror Backing	1/4 x 2 1/4 x 9 1/4	1
J	Mirror	1/4 x 5 1/4 x 9 1/4	1

* Dimension before taper.

Next, glue the half-laps together into a simple frame. While the glue is drying, start on the molding pieces. Both the large quarter-round and the small bead are made from stock about 36 in. long. For the quarter-round, first cut a strip 1/4 in. thick by about 2 in. wide. Measure in 1/4 in. from one edge and establish a groove 3/16 in. deep by 1/2 in. wide with a dado head in the table saw. This forms the rabbet for the mirror. Then use a 1/4 in. radius router bit to cut the quarter round. Note that you'll need a router that takes 1/2 in. shank router bits. With the radius and rabbet established set the table saw fence a tad over 1/4 in. from the blade and rip off the molding. Use a fine sawblade, then sand the surface smooth.

For the small bead, use a 36 in. long strip about 2 in. wide and 1/8 in. thick. Use sandpaper or a block plane to round over a bead along one edge. Then slice off the bead 1/8 in. from the edge. Be careful when cutting off the thin bead. Often this and narrow stock will kick back or be thrown by the table saw. You should provide a solid backing for the cut by raising the moving table saw blade through a piece of 1/2 in. plywood clamped to the saw top. The plywood serves as a temporary table for the cut.

The two molding sections are then mitered to length and glued to the backing frame.

The crest section is cut with a scroll saw and then the tapered slots are mortised into the back of the crest and mirror frame (Fig. 1). Note that it's best to hold the mirror frame and crest together while cutting the tapered slots. The wedges are cut slightly oversize from 3/16 in. thick scraps of oak (Fig. 2). Use a block plane to adjust them to fit the slots. The wedges are glued into the mirror and held onto the crest with a friction fit.

For the mirror backing (I), we used 1/8 in. thick pine. You can also use thin plywood if you wish. A glass shop will cut the mirror (J) to size. Both the mirror and backing are held in place with cut nails driven into the inside of the rabbet.

But before mounting the mirror, give the frame and crest a good sanding up to 220-grit paper. For a finish, we recommend several coats of orange shellac. For the distressed look, first round over any crisp edges with a wood file or sandpaper. Then apply some well placed marks with various "tools" such as a hammer and a pipe. Darken those marks by rubbing the frame with a dark brown pigmented stain, wiping it on and off quickly so it sticks mostly in the grooves and dents. When you're satisfied, apply several coats of orange shellac, rubbing the finish down with 000 steel wool between coats.

A child's room is the ideal place for this small mirror and frame, which looks so much like an antique that it could easily fool a dealer. We made ours from old wood salvaged from damaged antiques. The frame was once the molded edge of a drawer front. You can get the same effect by making the piece from "new" wood and distressing it.

An interesting detail is the dovetail wedges that hold the crest onto the frame. They were common on these mirrors and allow you to remove the fragile crest for moving or storage.

The mirror frame is mahogany and pine. The crest (A), quarter-round molding (B and C) and bead (D and E) are mahogany. The backing frame (F and G) and mirror backing (I), are pine. The dovetailed wedges (H) are oak.

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The Woodworker's Journal



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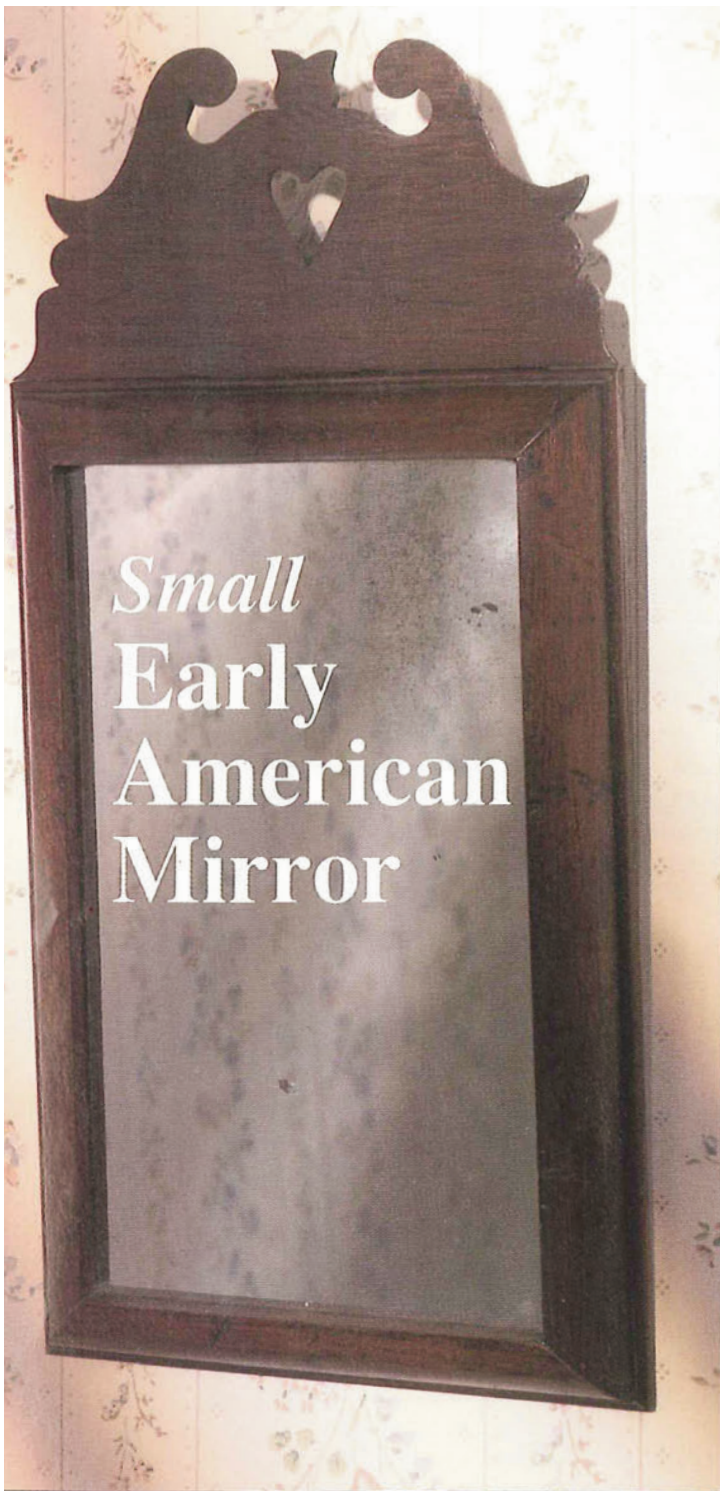
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A child's room is the ideal place for this small mirror and frame, which looks so much like an antique that it could easily fool a dealer. We made ours from old wood salvaged from damaged antiques. The frame was once the molded edge of a drawer front. You can get the same effect by making the piece from "new" wood and distressing it.

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Start by making the backing frame, which is half-lapped together to serve as a firm base for the mitered moldings. Establish the shoulder of the half-laps with the crosscut on the table saw with the blade set $\frac{1}{8}$ in. high. Then remove the waste with the workpiece on end and supported by a tenon jig.

Next, glue the half-laps together into a simple frame. While the glue is drying, start on the molding pieces. Both the large quarter-round and the small bead are made from stock about 36 in. long. For the quarter-round, first cut a strip $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick by about 2 in. wide. Measure in $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from one edge and establish a groove $\frac{3}{16}$ in. deep by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide with a dado head in the table saw. This forms the rabbet for the mirror. Then use a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. radius router bit to cut the quarter round. Note that you'll need a router that takes $\frac{1}{2}$ in. shank router bits. With the radius and rabbet established set the table saw fence a tad over $\frac{3}{4}$ in. from the blade and rip off the molding. Use a fine sawblade, then sand the surface smooth.

For the small bead, use a 36 in. long strip about 2 in. wide and $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick. Use sandpaper or a block plane to round over a bead along one edge. Then slice off the bead $\frac{1}{8}$ in. from the edge. Be careful when cutting off the thin bead. Often thin and narrow stock will kick back or be thrown by the table saw. You should provide a solid backing for the cut by raising the moving table saw blade through a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plywood clamped to the saw top. The plywood serves as a temporary table for the cut.

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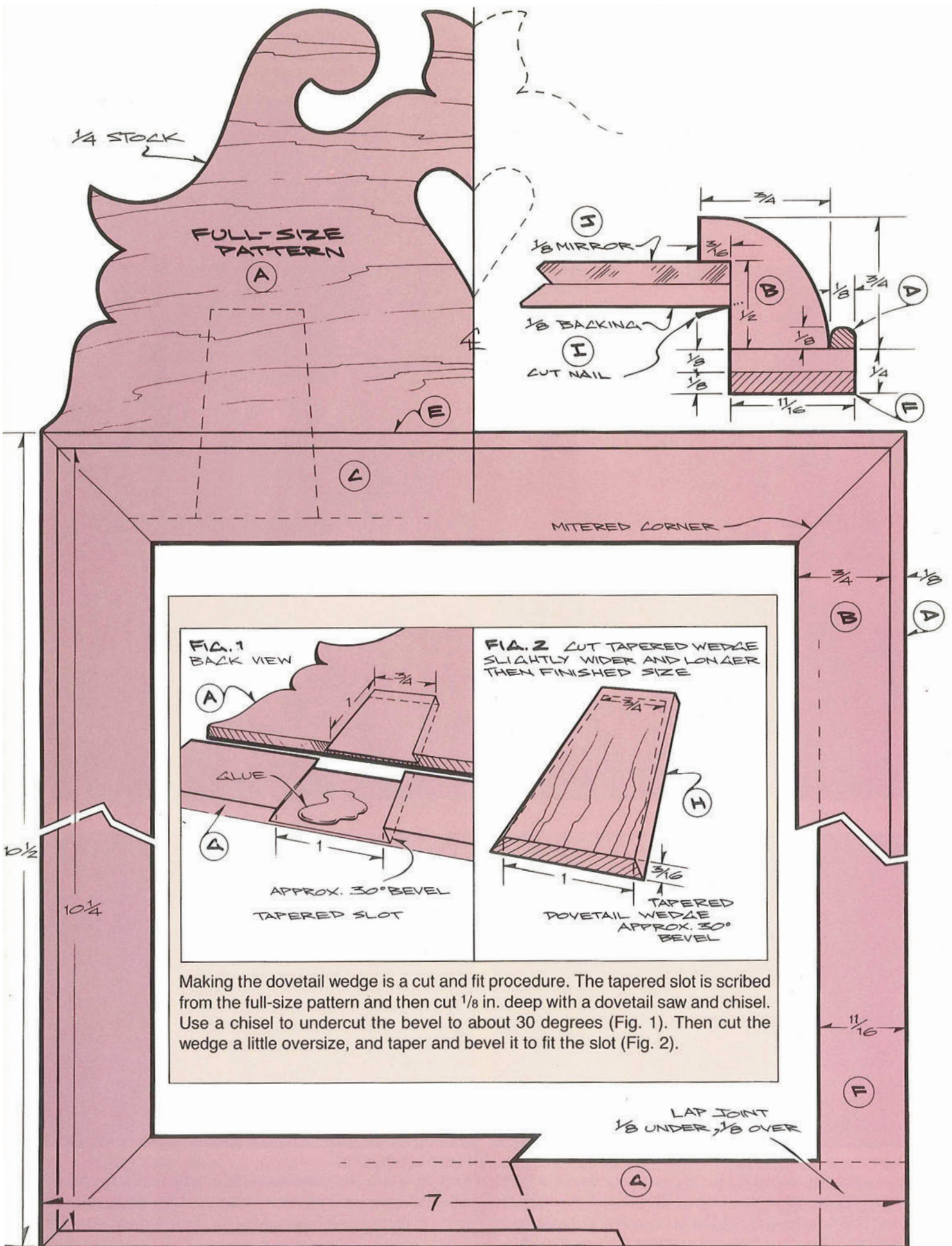
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Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)

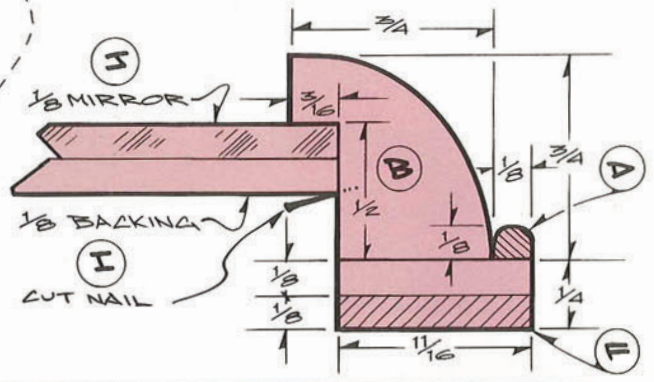
Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Crest	$\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8} \times 7$	1
B	Side Molding	$\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{4}$	2
C	Top/Bottom Molding	$\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$	2
D	Side Bead	$\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{8} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$	2
E	Top/Bottom Bead	$\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{8} \times 7$	2
F	Backing Stile	$\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{16} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$	2
G	Backing Rail	$\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{16} \times 7$	2
H	Dovetail Wedge	$\frac{3}{16} \times 1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ *	2
I	Mirror Backing	$\frac{1}{8} \times 5\frac{5}{8} \times 9\frac{1}{8}$	1
J	Mirror	$\frac{1}{8} \times 5\frac{5}{8} \times 9\frac{1}{8}$	1

* Dimension before taper.



FULL-SIZE PATTERN

(A)



MITERED CORNER

FIG. 1 BACK VIEW

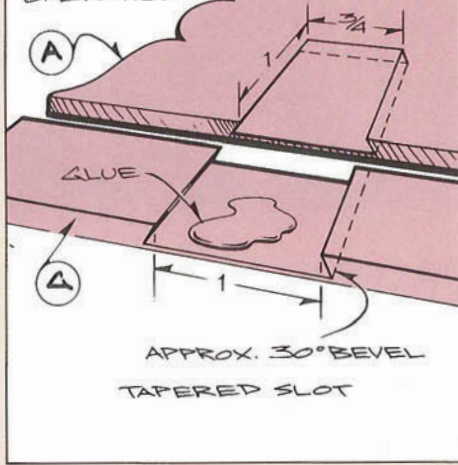
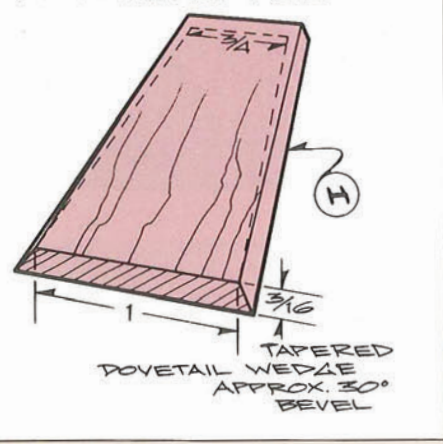


FIG. 2 CUT TAPERED WEDGE SLIGHTLY WIDER AND LONGER THEN FINISHED SIZE



Making the dovetail wedge is a cut and fit procedure. The tapered slot is scribed from the full-size pattern and then cut $\frac{1}{8}$ in. deep with a dovetail saw and chisel. Use a chisel to undercut the bevel to about 30 degrees (Fig. 1). Then cut the wedge a little oversize, and taper and bevel it to fit the slot (Fig. 2).

LAP JOINT
1/8 UNDER, 1/8 OVER

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