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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.

Country Pine Mirror and Shelf

PROJECTS

Country Pine *Mirror and Shelf*

A handsome mirror like this can be put to use almost anywhere in the house. The chip carving provides an interesting detail, while the shelf will come in handy for storage or display. The antique finish we give it lends a lovely patina to the pine, adding to the warm, country-style look.

Begin by cutting the frame parts—the two stiles (A), the top rail (B) and the bottom rail (C)—to the dimensions shown in the Bill of Materials. Before starting, though, you'll want to make sure the stock for these parts is the same thickness; it helps to insure accuracy when the grooves are cut in the next step. Also, since the parts must be cut square, it's a good idea to check your table saw (including the rip fence and miter gauge) for accuracy.

After the frame parts have been cut to size, arrange them on a flat surface and decide which ones are to face front when the mirror is assembled. Once decided, use a pencil to mark the front face of each one. Next, use the table saw and a dado head to cut a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. deep groove along the entire inside edge of all four pieces. When making each of these dado cuts, always keep the front face against the rip fence. Keeping the same face against the fence insures that later, when the parts are assembled, the grooves will be aligned even if the dado is not perfectly centered.

Now, using the table saw, the miter gauge and the dado head, cut the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. long tenon on each end of the top and bottom rail. You'll want the tenons to fit snugly in the rail grooves, so it's a good idea to first make a few practice cuts on scrap stock. Just make sure that the scrap stock is the same thickness as your project stock.


The chip carving (sometimes called incised carving) is done now, before the frame is assembled. First, transfer the patterns from the drawing to the stock, marking them in pencil. All the carving can be done with an X-Acto brand knife



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After the frame parts have been cut to size, arrange them on a flat surface and decide which ones are to face front when the mirror is assembled. Once decided, use a pencil to mark the front face of each one. Next, use the table saw and a dado head to cut a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. deep groove along the entire inside edge of all four pieces. When making each of these dado cuts, always keep the front face against the rip fence. Keeping the same face against the fence insures that later, when the parts are assembled, the grooves will be aligned even if the dado is not perfectly centered.

Now, using the table saw, the miter gauge and the dado head, cut the $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. long tenon on each end of the top and bottom rail. You'll want the tenons to fit snugly in the rail grooves, so it's a good idea to first make a few practice cuts on scrap stock. Just make sure that the scrap stock is the same thickness as your project stock.

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(we used their blade no. 19). If you have a chip carving knife, though, this is a perfect time to use it. Several light cuts pared to the line are usually more effective than trying to complete the deeper cuts with one pass.

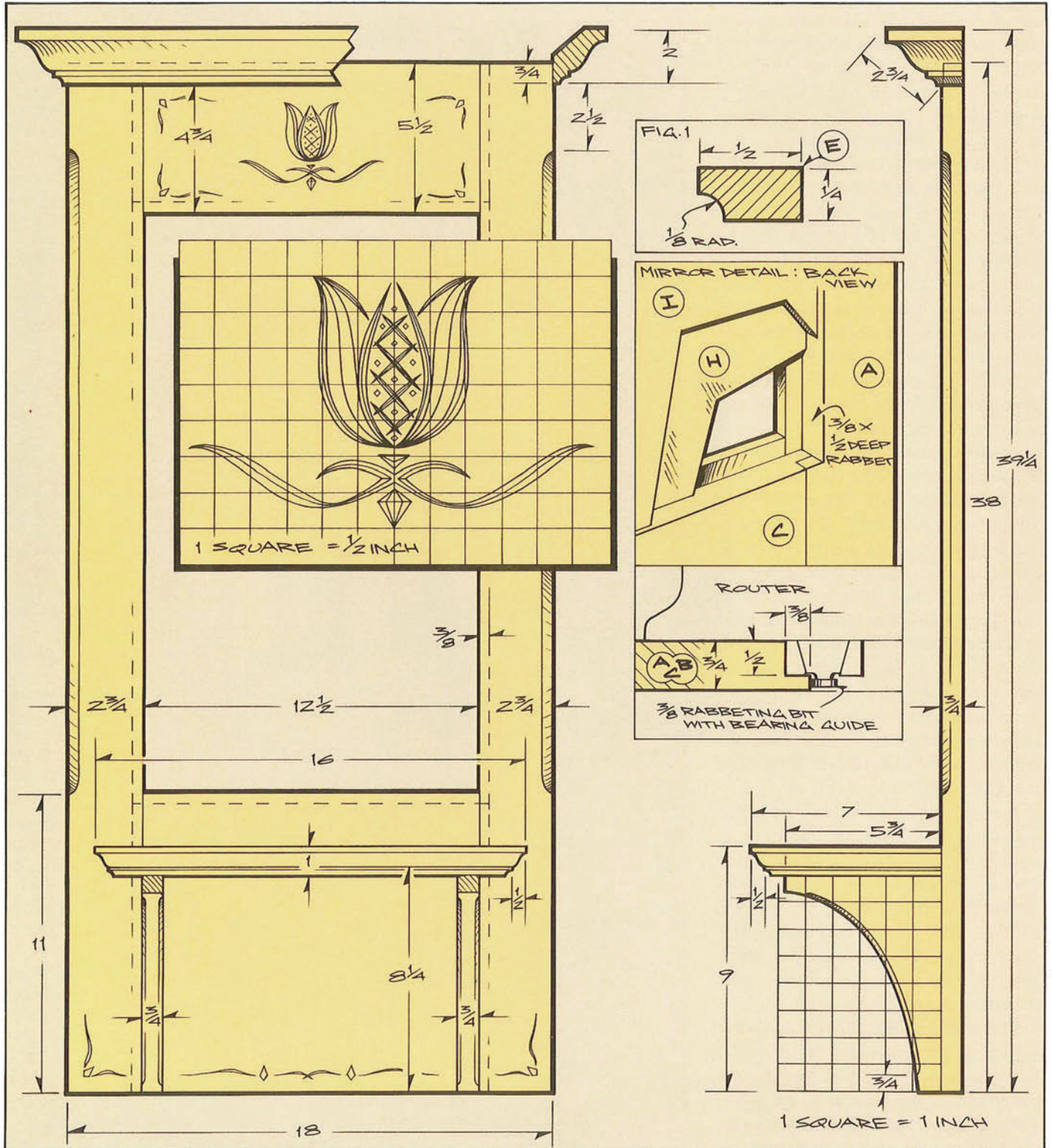
With the carving completed, you can add the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide chamfer along the outside edge of each stile. Use a ball-bearing guided chamfering bit, stopping the cut 11 in. from the bottom end and $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the top end, as shown.

Next, assemble the frame parts. Apply a coat of glue to the rail tenons and to the mating grooves in the stiles. Clamp with bar or pipe clamps, then check the frame for squareness. Make any needed adjustments and, once all looks okay, set aside to dry.

Once dry, remove the clamps and clean up any excess glue that may have squeezed out of the joints. A sharp chisel comes in handy here.

Now, clamp the frame to the work-

bench so that the front of the frame is facing down. You'll need blocks under the four corners to raise the frame about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Using a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. bearing-guided rabbeting bit, cut the $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep rabbet. Later, when everything is assembled, this rabbet will accept the mirror (H) and the mirror backing (I). Note that the rabbeting bit will not need to cut all the material, since much of it was removed earlier when the grooving cuts were made. Also, since the router



leaves rounded corners, you'll need a chisel to cut them square.

Cut the shelf (D) to size, then use a 1/2 in. bearing-guided Roman ogee cutter to mold the front and side edges

The shelf molding (E) is made next (a cross-sectional view of the part is shown in Fig. 1). For safety's sake, start with a piece of stock measuring 1/2 in. thick by about 3 in. wide and 16 in. long. Using the router equipped with an edge guide and a 1/4 in. core box bit, apply a 1/8 in. radius to both edges of the stock. Then use the table saw to rip the molding to 1/4 in. wide.

The shelf molding can now be mitered at the corners and attached to the underside of the shelf. Use a thin coat of glue and a few brads to secure the front piece. However, to allow for wood movement, the two side pieces are best joined using only brads.

Make the two brackets (F) next. Cut them to length and width, then transfer the grid pattern to each one, cutting them out with a band saw. After smoothing

no. 3 Blend-Fill wax pencil, a color that pretty closely matches the color of their Puritan Pine Stain.

The mirror glass (H) is available at any glass shop. It's best to have them cut it to allow about 1/16 in. clearance all around (If the fit is too tight, the mirror could crack if the frame expands during periods of high humidity).

We used 1/4 in. birch plywood for the mirror backing (I). The backing is important because it helps protect the mirror silver on the back. If the silver

gets scratched, it will show on the mirror front. Cut the backing to the same size as the mirror, then install the mirror and the backing, securing it with several push pins or brads driven into the inside edges of the frame.

To complete the project, drill a pair of angled holes in the back of the frame to allow it to be hung on a pair of angled nails driven into your wall. For maximum support, space the holes 16 in. apart to permit the nails to be driven into wall studs.

Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)			
Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Stile	3/4 X 2 3/4 X 38	2
B	Top Rail	3/4 X 5 1/2 X 13 1/4 *	1
C	Bottom Rail	3/4 X 11 X 13 1/4 *	1
D	Shelf	3/4 X 7 X 16	1
E	Shelf Molding	1/4 X 1/2 about 32 in.	
F	Bracket	3/4 X 5 3/4 X 8 1/4	2
G	Crown Molding	2 3/4 in. about 3 ft.	
H	Mirror Glass	1/8 X 13 1/8 X 22 1/8	1
I	Mirror Backing	1/4 X 13 1/8 X 22 1/8	1

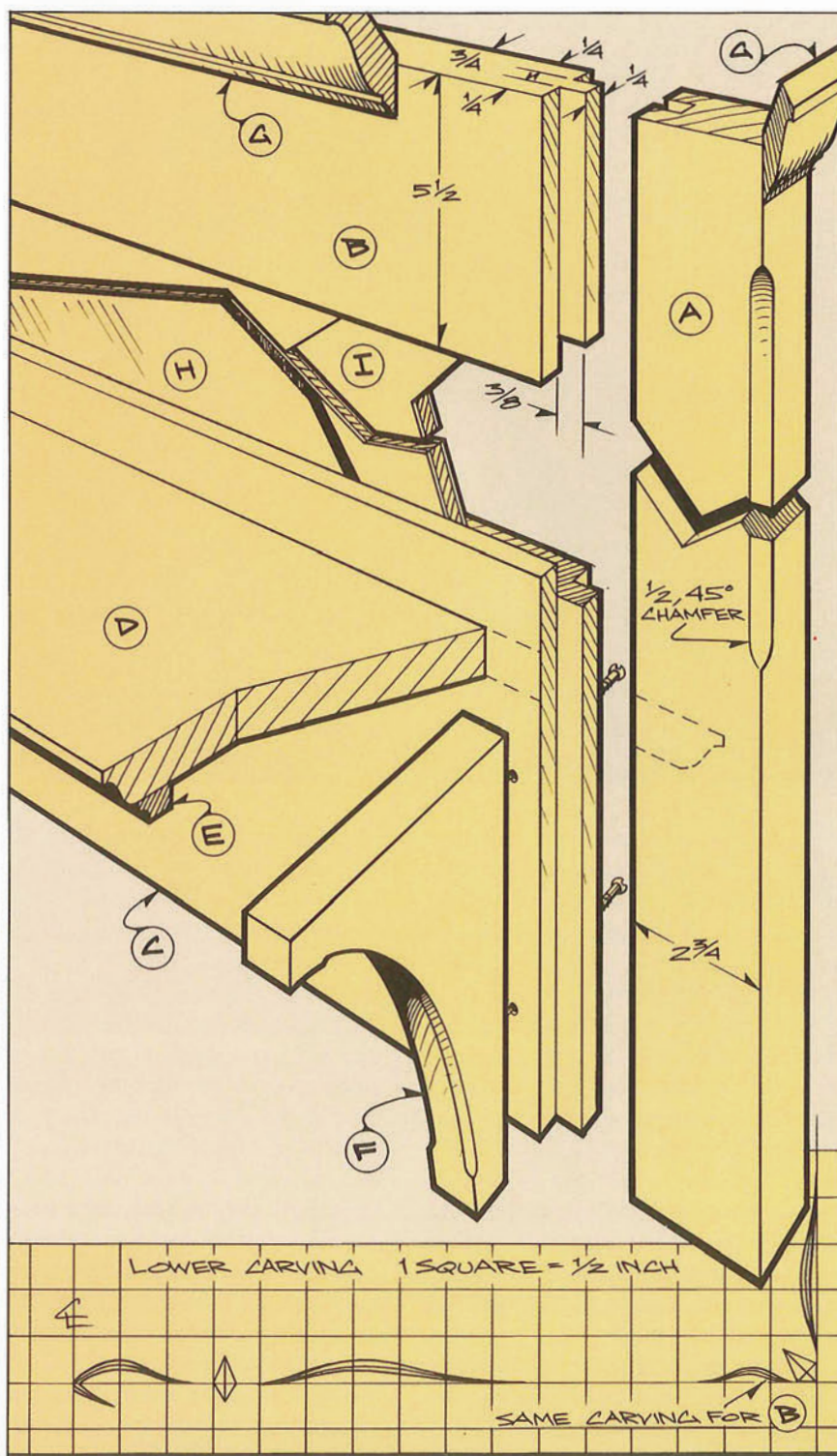
* Length includes tenons.

the band sawn edges, use a chamfering bit to add a chamfer to each bracket, as shown.

You can get 2 3/4 in. crown molding (G) at just about any lumberyard. Miter the corners as shown and attach to the frame with glue and countersunk finishing nails.

After final sanding all parts, the shelf is joined to the brackets with a few countersunk finishing nails. The shelf/bracket assembly is then joined to the frame with glue and several wood screws.

Two coats of Minwax Puritan Pine were applied next. When dry, a coat of orange shellac was added. Following the shellac, two coats of satin varnish complete the project. The countersunk nail holes were then filled using Minwax's



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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

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Internet Production Coordinator