71 - Door Trim, Window sills, Stairway/half-wall and Baseboards

Tools and Materials Needed:

1. Trim nails guns loaded with 2 inch finish nails.
2. 6ft and 2 ft levels
3. Trim miter saw
4. Coping saw
5. Angle finder (adjustable square)
6. Speed square
7. 3/16th inch reveal trim gauge (homemade blocks of wood)

Most Common Mistakes:

1. Poorly fitting miter joint
2. Inconsistent reveal around door casing
3. Trim interferes with electrical boxes
4. Cutting away drywall to make the trim sit flush with the jamb because door was set incorrectly.
5. Over routing the windowsills.
6. Not having an even reveal along the window.
7. Using the wrong material on the stairway or half-wall cap.
8.

Roles:

Teams of 2 work well. One person adjusts the door trim or floorboard while another nails. On long baseboards, a 2nd person holding the far end of the tape results in better measurements. Having 2 teams of 2 can also be good as one team can cut and the other team can install. If the two teams can stay on the same page they can trim out a house faster and more efficiently.

Door Trim Installation:

Before this step, drywall was hung taped and textured and interior doors where installed. The walls may or may not have been painted – either way is acceptable.

1. Verify that there is sufficient space for door trim between the doors and any neighboring room corner and electric box (including electric trim plate). Rarely, some mistake is made in this area. If problems are found, consult the supervisor. Using a tape measure and square or a reveal block mark the 3/16th reveal in the top corners, the middle of the jamb on both sides and top and the bottom of the sides.
2. Measure the distance from the bottom of the side jamb to the reveal along the top, this is the length of the first piece of trim to the shorter side of the 45% angle at the top. Verify the measurement is the same on both sides.
3. Mark the casing and then using a speed square draw a 45 degree angle going up from your mark.
4. Using the miter saw cut along the line you drew with your speed square.
5. Repeat for the opposite side.
6. Measure the top of the jamb between the 2 3/16th marks on either side of the door.
7. Mark the 45 degree angle on one side of a piece of casing trim. Pull the tape measure from the short part of that angle and mark the other side of the trim. Using the speed square draw the 45

going away from the 2nd mark. Cut both sides.

8. Using the finish stapler start by nailing the trim onto the sides of the jamb starting at the bottom keeping your trim flush with the bottom of the jamb (after the first nail check that the angle is in the right place at the top) and working your way to the middle. Put a nail every 18 inches but do not pass the middle of the jamb. Repeat this process on the opposite side.
9. Mark the center of the top piece of the jamb. Mark the center of the piece of trim meant for the top of the jamb. Place the piece on the door lining up the center marks. Once the piece is centered use the finish stapler to secure the trim with a nail in the center of the trim.
10. Carefully align the top piece of trim with the side piece of trim ensuring that the angle matches up and the profile of the two pieces match as well. Staple both pieces of trim to the jamb in the corner holding the pieces in alignment. Repeat on the opposite side and fill in the staples everywhere else so that the trim is nailed every 18 inch.
11. Once trim is properly aligned and placed us a 16 gauge finish nailer with 2 ½ inch nails to nail the outside edge of the trim to the wall every 18 inches.

Baseboard Installation:

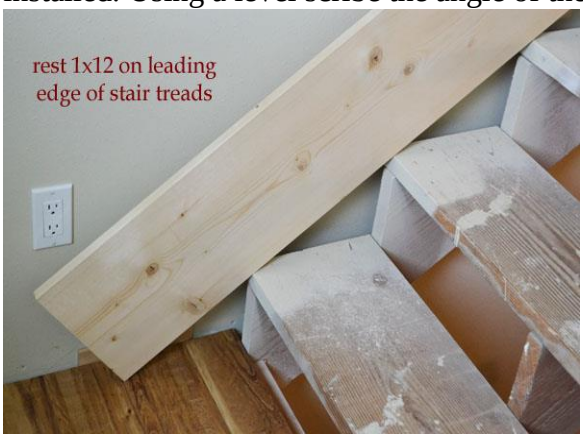
1. Cut shims to keep the trim off the floor in areas that will have carpeting. These shims are scraps of baseboard trim, ½ inch thick. This allows the flooring to be properly tucked under the trim.
2. Check the corners where the baseboard will be set. It is not unusual that you need to scrape away excess drywall mud in some corners.
3. Outside corners are made using miter joints cut at 45-degree angles. Inside corners are made using either miter or coping. Coping produces somewhat better results, and is the preferred method but at times can be overwhelming. However after a bit of practice, just about anyone can make a coped joint. Practice a few times on scrap material to gain some confidence and remember that we are caulking and painting everything so a most mistakes while coping can be hidden by caulking. Once you gain some confidence start in a closet or other inconspicuous space. Mistakes made while doing 2 45 degree joints are more difficult to caulk and paint properly.
4. Coping with the baseboard that we employ can be done mostly with the miter saw. Start by measuring the distance between 2 corners in a room. Once you have the distance determine which side you will cope. For right handed people the right side of the trim is easier to cope while for left handed individual the opposite is true. If you are going to cope the right side work your way around the room to the right measuring each wall and writing the measurements down on a piece of scrap or paper, and also on the floor corresponding with the measurement. On the opposite side of your cope or whenever the baseboard runs into a piece of door trim you will have a straight cut make sure to indicate these on your list. Also if you have an outside corner make sure to also indicate this on your list.
5. Once you have a whole room measured you are ready to cut. Depending on crew size you may hand off your list to the cut crew, if so make sure to tell the cut person which side of the boards should be coped and which side should be straight and make sure they write the length of each board on the back of the trim. If you yourself are cutting still write everything down so you will know which pieces go where.
6. For the cuts first cut an inside 45 on the side of your trim you intend to cope. Then measure your

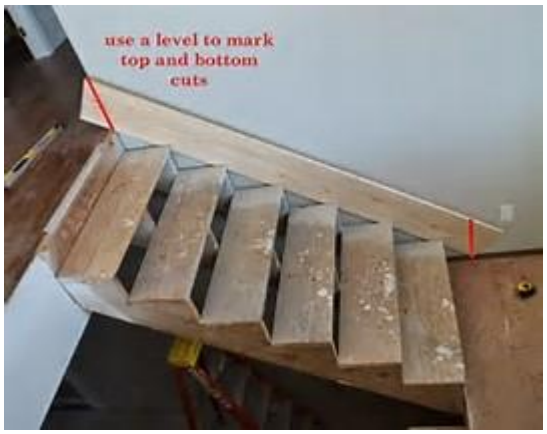
board from the long point of your angle to the other side of the board and mark the full length. Do not cut this side until last.

7. Next flip the piece of trim over so that the bottom of the board faces up towards the sawblade. Align the blade so that the cut will follow the paint line and cut the 45 back away from the face of the trim. Cut down slowly until you have cut through the flat part of the trim but stop before you cut the profiled part of the trim.
8. Next take your coping saw and using a swift motion cut along the paint line following the profile of the trim. You shouldn't put much pressure on the saw; this will cause the saw to bind. Instead let the saw do the work and simply move the blade through the wood quickly.
9. Finally return to the other end of the trim where you marked the full length and cut the trim.
10. In almost all cases, a single stick of baseboard will cover a wall. Do not try to economize by splicing multiple pieces together to cover a wall. That is a false economy at the expense of appearance. If you have a long wall that requires two pieces of baseboard, join the two pieces with two 45-degree cuts If possible, locate this joint at a wall stud.
11. Locate the studs using your preferred method. Many like to use a stud finder but these can be unreliable or unavailable. A simple way to find studs is to find a electrical box or switch. The box will be nailed to a stud so using a knife or a nail you can find the stud by sliding the knife or nail between the box and the drywall. You will feel the stud on one side or the other. Once you have located one stud in a wall you can measure off of it to find the rest. Ask your supervisor about the spacing of the studs.
12. Nail the baseboard trim to the wall using finishing nails. Nail the baseboard with 2 nails into every stud. If the trim is loose and not tight to the wall you have missed the stud. Correct as needed.

Stairway Trim Out:

1. Start by cutting the skirt boards. This is the piece of trim that runs in between the stair stringer and the drywall. Use a piece of 1x10 int. trim stock to fabricate this piece.
2. Verify that there is no debris or obstructions that will keep the skirt board from sliding down into place. If there is something in the way it must be removed to complete the installation. notify your super visor if you cannot remove the obstruction.
3. Lay the trim piece on top of the stairs standing up so it is oriented the way it will ultimately be installed. Using a level scribe the angle of the first and last riser onto the skirt board.





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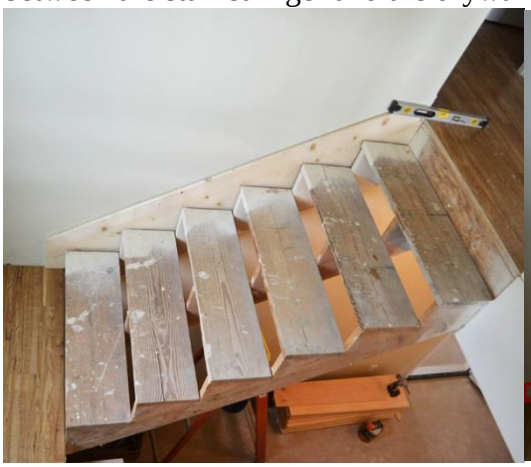
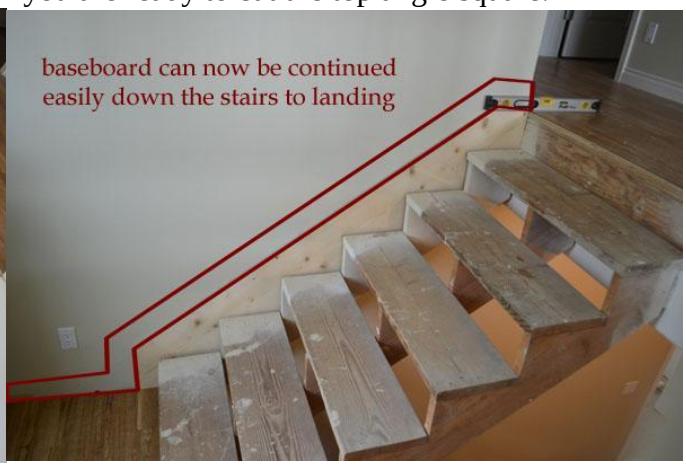
4. The skirt board may need to extend beyond the plane of the 1st and last riser, adjust the location of the angle accordingly.
5. Cut the angles using the circular saw. You should now have a board an angle on either side coming to points. These points will have to get cut off square with the scribed angle. First cut the bottom. The amount you will cut off is determined by how much needs to be cut for the skirt to slide down between the stringer and the drywall so that the skirt hides the drywall on the bottom side. The skirt should also be even going up the stairs. Once you have the skirt placed correctly between the stair stringer and the drywall you are ready to cut the top angle square.



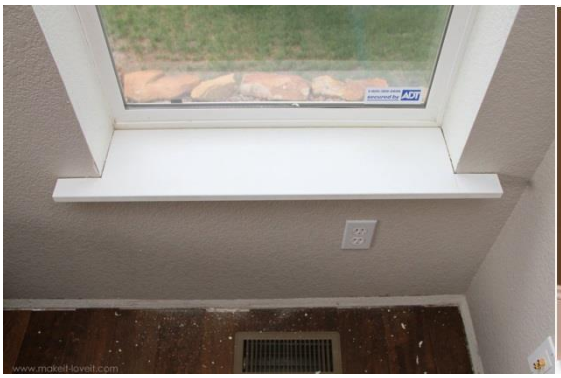


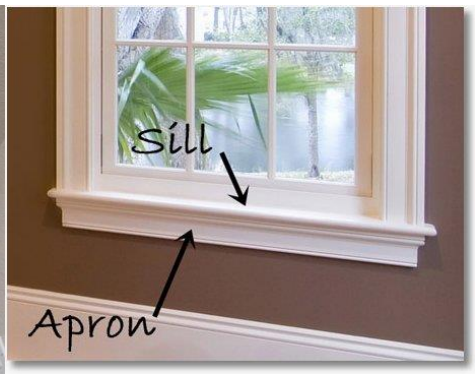
6. To determine where to make the square cut along the top of the skirt, place a level on the top floor above the final riser. Scribe the bottom of the level and then make your cut ½ inch above the line you have just marked. The extra half inch is for the amount you have raised the baseboard off of the floor to make room for carpet.
7. Finally you can install the baseboard on top of the skirt and you have trimmed out the stairs.

Cap Installation:

1. 1x MDF eased edge caps should be installed on the kitchen half wall and stairway wall,
2. Measure the length and width. Cut to fit with the kitchen cap will have door trim below on both side. The stairway cap has no trim below.
3. Cut and apply door trim below the kitchen half wall cap.

Window Sills:





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1. Window sills should be cut out of 1x8 stock. First measure the bottom of the window opening where the sill will sit. You should get the measurement of the width and length.
2. Add 3 inches to all of the lengths and at least 1 inch to the width. If the width is such that you will have more than 1 but less than 2 inches then you don't need to rip the boards at all. The additional length and width is for the wing like overhangs you see in the picture above.
3. Cut the window to length, plus the overhang with the miter saw. Mark the center of your piece and from there mark out the main part of the sill that sits within the window opening. Then mark out the width you will cut out for the wings.
4. Next using the router cut a profile onto the trim on the three edges that are exposed and face into the house. Use the router in a counterclockwise direction so that the router cuts cleanly. Sometimes you have to adjust the depth of your router cut to cut less of the trim that you would like and make multiple passes increasing the depth of the router bit until you achieve the profile that you want. Also make sure that while using the router you maintain a firm grip on the tool and even when you are done do not set the router down until you have turned it off and the bit has stopped turning.
5. Using a jig saw cut out the two corners you just marked out. The trim piece should now sit in the window as shown in the picture above. You can do this before using the router but the likely hood of making a mistake is increased.
6. Install the window sill at the bottom of the window with 6 16 gauge finish nails, 2 on either side and 2 in the middle.
7. Finally install the apron below the window sill. The apron should be the width of the window, not the width of the window sill. So the sill should extend beyond the apron 1 ½ inches on either side. So measure the actual space the window occupies.
8. Use a piece of the 356 door casing for the apron. The wider part of the trim should face up and touch the sill. Cut the apron with 22 ½ degree angles on either end.
9. Install the apron centered on the window sill with 6 16 gauge finish nails, 2 on either side and 2 in the middle.

Attic Hatch Trim:

1. The perimeter of the attic hatch hole is trimmed with 1x2 MDF or equivalent. The 2 inch dimension of the 1x2 is vertical. This 1x is what actually supports the drywall hatch cover.
2. The ceiling around the hatch is trimmed with door trim material with mitered joints. This door trim material extends into the hatch opening space enough to cover the 1x2 installed in step 1.
3. Several pieces of scrap 2x6 are attached to the top side of the drywall hatch cover. Attach this with drywall screws through the hatch cover. This gives the hatch enough weight to give a good air seal.

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Safety

50	Tools - Hand and Power	Miter saw - one hand pulling trigger on handle, other hand too close to cut zone, hand cut	If necessary, switch hands so hand holding the material is well away from blade. Do not trim very small pieces. Cut a new small piece for a larger piece that will allow you holding hand to be far away from blade.
46	Struck By	Power tools sawdust or other objects shot toward eyes	Safety Glasses required with any power tools
44	Struck By	Nail gun	Safety Glasses Required All guns must be in single shot mode. No bump fire guns Air hose must be disconnected during any servicing, unjamming, etc Never shoot toward yourself or anyone else. If you must hold one of the pieces of wood being nailed together, be sure your hand is at least 1 ft from the shooting tip of the gun
65	Power Tools	The table saw is, arguably, the most dangerous power tool on site. It is very easy to get your fingers too close to the blade, especially when ripping small pieces.	1) on large sheets, always use a minimum of 3 people – one guiding lumber against fence, one helping with in-feed and one helping with out-feed. 2) on small pieces, always use a push stick – never have fingers closer than 6 inches to blade. 3) Run blade at its lowest height adequate to cut your material.

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I have heard and understood the briefings on how to use the tools required for this activity. I have heard and understood the methods we use to do this activity

Date _____

_____ Instructor Name _____ Signature

_____ Name _____ Signature