Building a Frame for Your New Wall Mirror by Eric Blair

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Buying a new mirror can cost upwards of $100. Larger mirrors, custom frames, and even shipping also will drive up the cost. Finding a cheaper mirror may not be a good idea, as most will break down or use cheap wood or plastic frames. Instead, some may want to buy a mirror and make a frame themselves to save a few dollars. Making a frame can present a bit of a challenge, but will give you the artistic freedom to paint, shape and design the final look of the mirror in the way that you want.

Buy Cheap Materials

You may not have a lot of old furniture lying around the house thatâ€™s ready to be carved into a frame. Instead, a local thrift store will have some old wooden doors and tables that make for the perfect backdrops for frames. If you have old mirrors that have no chips or cracks, go ahead and use them. If you are not so fortunate, you may have to find mirrors online or at a local department store to help kick-start your small project.

Measure the Mirror

Before you can prepare the frame, you need to measure the old or purchased mirror. Never design the frame and then buy the mirror to get the right dimensions. Always measure your mirror before you start to cut the frame. For instance, round wall mirrors should be measured to determine the circumference of the frame and avoid any awkward looks once the frame is put on.

The Shape

Wooden doors, round tables, square cabinets and any wood products in between serve as great starting points for carving out a frame and sticking it on the mirror. The type of mirror you have or purchase will determine the frame you end up creating. For example, oval shaped mirrors will lead to oval wall mirrors cut from tables or doors, while a rectangular shaped mirror may be best suited for a frame made from a door.

Prepping the Wood

After youâ€™ve finished cutting the wood into the shape of the mirror, youâ€™ll want to prep it by sanding and painting it. No matter the age of the wood, youâ€™re going to want to remove splinters and old paint by sanding. The smooth finish will make it easier to paint and make for a more professional look once you are finished. If you have a cherry-colored wood finish on the material, but wish to go lighter, you will have to add two or three coats of paint to help cover up the old, darker paint.

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Eric Blair - About Author:
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