



510 East Barnard Street – Units 33 – 35
West Chester, PA 19382
www.larkincompany.com

Low Mantel Installation Instructions

1. Remove mantel from crate. (**Caution:** be sure to remove black screws from the top and bottom of the crate before trying to remove the mantel. These screws secure the mantel to the crate and may be discarded.)
2. Place the mantel against the wall and measure the distance from the firebox to the inside edge of the mantel opening (wood opening). Slide the mantel from side to side until this distance measures the same distance from each edge. Once the mantel is centered on the opening in this fashion, run a short pencil line down one edge of the mantel (either left or right) as a reference point.
3. Next, check the mantel for level by placing a level across the top of the mantel (at this point, the top shelf should not be in place yet). If the floor is not level, the mantel may be leveled by removing the necessary amount from the bottom of the leg on the high side.
4. Once you are sure the mantel will be level, remove the mantel and place a ¼ in. wide bead of construction adhesive along the entire length of each side of the mantel leg (four beads total). Stay back about 1” from the outer edge to allow the adhesive to squeeze out without overlapping onto the wall. (If some excess does occur; it may be removed with a rag dipped in mineral spirits). The construction adhesive alone is sufficient to hold the mantel to the wall, use only enough finishing nails in the face to hold the mantel tightly to the wall until the glue cures. Two 6D or 8D nails on either side of the pilaster 8” or 10” from the bottom on each leg should be sufficient as well as toe nails of the same size angled down through the top board at a 45 degree angle into the wall. **Note: nails at the top should be placed at least 6 in. back from the left and right ends. Pilot holes may be drilled through the top board first as a precaution against splitting. The pilot holes should be 1/16 in. smaller than the nail thickness.**
5. For mantels with returns of ¾ in. or less depth, attach a filler strip of the same thickness as the return depth around the inside perimeter of the wood opening (see point B on the illustration) and apply construction adhesive to the back of the return and the filler strips as close as possible to the inside edge to avoid unnecessary cleanup. Nail by the same methods described in Step 4 using 10D, 12D, or 16D finish nails. (Drill pilot holes first). For mantels with deep returns mark a short line on the wall along the outside edge of both returns near the floor.



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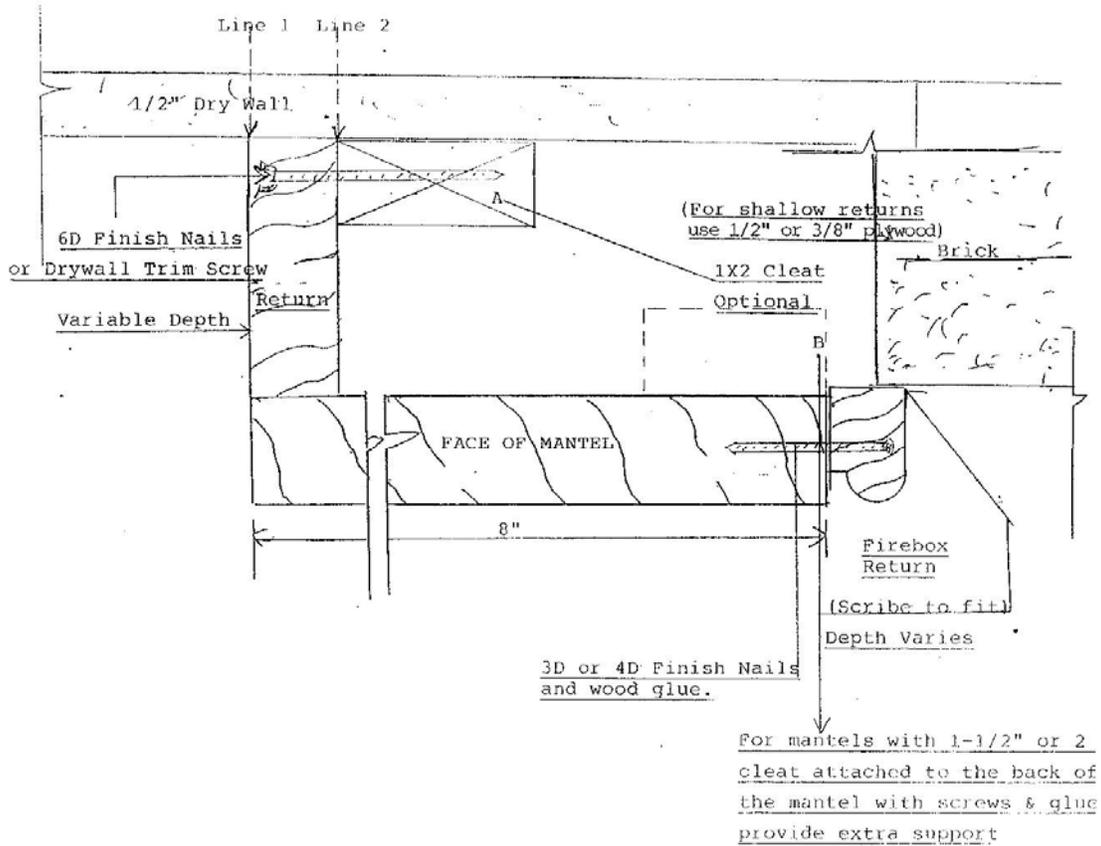
Check the thickness of the returns and measure over from your reference lines towards the center by the same amount. Now plumb a line with a level on both sides from the second (inside) line (see line 2 on drawing) and attach a vertical cleat the entire length of the leg to a height just below the top board (see A on drawing) on both sides of the mantel. An additional horizontal cleat may be installed just under the top board in the same fashion.

6. The top shelf should now be attached to the top board using construction adhesive applied around the perimeter of the top board and held in place overnight with C-clamps or Spring clamps. C-clamps should be padded with scrap pieces of wood to avoid denting the mantel. No nails should be necessary.
7. Fire box returns should now be installed around the wood opening. First, mitre the top piece at a 45 degree angle. The longest points of these mitres should be the same length as the mantel with nails and wood glue. Next, cut a mitre on each side piece to match the left and right mitre on the top piece. Now, measure the length of the wood opening on the left hand side and square cut the left hand return piece to fit. Repeat for the right hand side. Check the drawing for the proper placement of the lip, it should face the mantel leg.



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