

EPISODE #3020 STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Window and Door Casings and Trim

Paint the trim before installing it. It is easier and way less messy. (see fig. A)

- We used MDF, why? It's inexpensive, it's pre-primed and it's easy to cut.

Build the window box

- Measure and cut four pieces of MDF at 90 degrees for simple butt joints
- Pre-drill the nail holes (x3)
- Make sure it's square!
- Glue and nail

Install window boxes (see fig. B)

- Place box into rough opening
- Shim and level
- Nail into place

Install decorative moulding for windows and doors (see fig. C)

- Measure and cut four pieces at 45 degrees for a mitered joint
- We strongly suggest a POWER MITER SAW for the cuts (tool of the day #1)
- Install molding one piece at a time with a 1/4 to 1/2 inch reveal of the window box
- We suggest an AIR NAILER to nail trim (tool of the day #2)
- Glue corners

Install baseboards (see fig. D)

- There are two different cuts with baseboards depending on the corner of the room, either inside cuts and outside cuts, both at 45 degrees
- Cut around any obstacles such as vents or power outlets with a reciprocating saw
- Spread on some construction adhesive to the back of the baseboards and nail in place with an AIR NAILER

Finishing touches

- Spread some wood filler over the nail holes and wipe off excess
- Touch up paint
- Caulk the corner joints
- Sit back and enjoy because the project is done



A. Painting the trim.



B. Installing the window boxes.



C. Installing decorative moulding.



D. Installing baseboards.

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Stairs

We strongly suggest pre-fabricated stairs. Why?

- Because half the work is already done
- The pre-fabricated staircase kit includes: pre-cut stringers, pre-cut treads, pre-cut balusters, pre-cut newels, pre-cut banisters, fastening hardware, very clear instructions (everything is numbered), and delivery to your house.

Remove old stairs

- Unlike what George and Leigh did, we strongly advise waiting to take out the old stairs until you have received the pre-fabricated stair package

Install central stringer

Fits up to the existing header

- Must sit flat on a solid surface. In the basement it would sit on the concrete floor, not on the finished floor

Attach stringer (see fig. E)

- Make sure the stringer is level and square on the header and on the floor
- Mark around the stringer on the header and the floor
- Remove stringer from its place and put aside
- If the floor is finished, plunge cut out the finished floor so the stringer will sit directly on the concrete and clean the area thoroughly with a vacuum cleaner and a good cloth
- Drill holes in the back of the existing header with a large bit
- Spread lots of construction adhesive on the marked areas on the header and the floor. Wear gloves! It's very sticky!
- Set stringer in place
- Check that the stringer is level and square
- Bolt into the stringer, through the header
- Secure the stringer to the header with heavy-duty L-brackets

Install treads (see fig. F)

- Place a tread on the stringer
- Mark the centre on the treads and on the rise of the stringer
- Add lots of construction adhesive to the stringer
- Line-up the two marks (on the tread and on the stringer)
- Screw into place with four oversized screws
- Repeat



E. Attaching the stringer.



F. Installing treads.