



Brandon Woodworkers Club Newsletter May 2026



Let's Get Started

This month's meeting started at 6 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Bolen, followed by the invocation from Rick Ward. After the invocation, Tom Bolen reminded everyone to sign in and get a "sign-in" raffle ticket from Ken Coleman.

Club Business

- As always, a special thanks to Rockler allowing us to use their facility.
- **Reminder:** Summer hours for Rockler begin this month. Our meetings will begin and end an hour earlier, beginning at 6:00 PM and ending at 8:00 PM.
- We always want to add new pictures to the website. Don't be shy, send your pics.
- We have added the membership directory to the website. We will discuss access and additional features as we go. For now, it is simply names and email addresses.
- Our tool loan program is now in operation, and we have brought in the tools we presently own.
- We've updated the club membership and email list. If you're not getting emails, let Ken Coleman know. If you need a membership card or name tag, let Ken know.
- Stephanie and Caleb showed the updates to the club website. The addition of the videos of the presentation and Show and Tell, and the current year's newsletters are the big ones.
- We now have the capability to show pictures of larger projects on the Rockler TV monitors. Show & Tell can display your projects that are too large to bring in. Please take

advantage of this and email pictures to the club email at least two days prior to the meeting.

- Please consider opening your wood shop for a club member shop tour. We need volunteers! Shop tours are typically for a few hours on a Saturday morning, where members casually come check out where your magic happens. See Tom Bolen for more information.
- Rockler has a special blood drive coming up on Saturday May 30th from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. Please consider giving to help save lives.
- Mark Corso developed Bells Palsy. Please keep him in your prayers.

Presentation

Rick Borden (Fig 1) was our guest presenter tonight. He shared his insights on molding, with a special focus on crown molding, though he also briefly mentioned base molding. His presentation is an overview of crown molding – styles, materials, tools, basic measuring, and installation setup. It is not a step-by-step how-to guide to cutting and installing crown molding. For specific information on miter and bevel angles you'd need to know to make specific miter saw cuts and installation, please refer to the numerous charts in books and online.



Figure 1 Rick Borden.

Rick's Background

Rick's only been doing woodworking full-time for maybe five years. A little bit of background on him. His great-grandfather was a blacksmith, and his grandfather was a welder, blacksmith, also a carpenter. He was an airplane mechanic during World War II. His father was a civil engineer and then Rick wanted to follow in his dad's footsteps, so Rick became an engineer. He graduated from Mississippi State in 1987 with a degree in computer engineering. He had the unique opportunity to work at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, a concrete technology laboratory specifically. Then he went to work for Lockheed, NASA, IBM, and AT&T. So throughout that whole transition of life, he's changed jobs, and as opportunities came to him, that's what moved him down to Tampa. From NASA to IBM, he did a presentation, IBM liked it, and said we'll double your salary and pay to move you to Tampa. He's like, yeah, okay, let's do that and he's been here for almost 31 years now, so Tampa's very much home. AT&T decided I had done enough in computer engineering, mostly networking. Systems engineer was his title but they said that he was worth getting rid of in 2022, so he retired. He stayed retired for three months and decided that just wasn't the life for him so he wound up starting a handyman service, odds and ends kind of stuff, around the neighborhood.

Over the years, Rick has updated his house several times – staircase, crown molding, benches inside the house, outside the house. He built a restoration hardware table for his daughter-in-

law and all kinds of things for their house. Woodworking helped him develop a unique skill set, which also gave him the excuse to buy tools. He has a split car garage, one side for the car, the other for wood, lots of wood – scraps, 4x8 sheets, extra crown molding, and everything else – and he has some tools there. Sometimes it's hard to get to what he needs to do a job, but he loves working with wood. That's what led him to joining the club. He said we're a great inspiration and he's learned a lot from us. He also said he admires everybody who gets up and presents their skill set and what they do. Two of his favorite YouTube channels are *Insider Carpentry* with Spencer Lewis and *Finish Carpentry TV* with Richard McMurray.

Base Molding

Base (commonly called baseboard) molding is the decorative trim installed where a wall meets the floor. It acts as a visual transition between the two surfaces, covering the gap required for flooring expansion and hiding uneven edges. Base molding (Fig 2) comes in myriad styles, materials (wood, PVC, MDF) and sizes. If you bought a starter home, you probably got a 3 1/2-inch base on a wood, carpeted, or tile/concrete floor. If you change from carpet to solid flooring, you'll wind up probably having a gap you've got to cover somewhere along the way because cuts weren't exactly flush or weren't very good, so you usually cover them up with quarter round or shoe molding. Make sure that you have plenty of that on hand if you're doing your base. If you're going to be removing a lot of molding, consider getting a Goldblatt trim removal tool (Fig 3). If you're installing base molding over concrete, and the floor has dips, you can add a self-

leveling concrete or you can scribe the molding to the profile of the floor. Then use a jigsaw and sander to take it to the scribe line. Of note, do not use MDF in moisture-prone areas like the bathroom or kitchen. Generally, for sizing base molding, the higher the ceiling, the taller the base molding. Try to pick a pattern that won't compete with other patterns in the room.



Figure 2 Base molding.



Figure 3 Trim removal tool.

Crown Molding

Crown molding (Rick refers to it as the “icing on the cake”) is a decorative trim installed where the top of an interior wall meets the ceiling. It conceals imperfections, softens transitions, and adds architectural definition to a room. There are several types or styles of crown molding (Fig 4) – colonial (lower left in Fig 4) being the most common – but the profile variations within them are infinite. Like base molding, crown also comes in a variety of materials, such as wood, PVC, MDF, and polyurethane. Installing crown molding involves accurately measuring your walls, making precise cuts, and nailing it into wall studs and ceiling joists. You finish the look by caulking all gaps and seams for a seamless, professional appearance.



Figure 4 Crown molding styles.

Crown molding tends to come in long lengths, as much as 16 feet. If you don’t need 16 feet, ask a store associate if they can cut it to size. Transporting and handling it without breaking it can be challenging. When you go to cut it, make sure the ends are properly supported. If not, it may affect the angle and/or quality of the cut. General rules for crown molding size versus ceiling height

are: 3” - 5¼” for 8 to 9-foot ceilings; 4¼” - 7½” for 9 to 10-foot ceilings; above 10’, you can use very wide molding (Fig 5) or smaller, stacked or built-up moldings. You can also make stacked molding to any size to conform to a desired height, design or profile.



Figure 5 Wide molding.

If you already have crown molding in your house and want to add it to another room, and you have a piece or two left over, you can't really be guaranteed that the piece you're going to pick up is going to match what you have on hand. Take a left-over piece with you and pay attention to the detail on the backside (Fig 6). When they run these through a cutter, they'll notch them on the back. When you go to the big box store or Tibbetts, InterCity or Rome, if you're going to pick eight or 10 boards out, make sure they all have the exact same detail on the backside so that you'll have better success for all your curves and depths to match, otherwise you'll be caulking a lot. They all get lumber from different places; they're cut with different dies or cutters. In some instances, the lines just won't match up. Some may have no lines, others two or three lines. Try to be consistent in getting it from the same place around the same time for your own sanity, and don't mix and match moldings. Trying to piece together finger-jointed pine with MDF will not turn out well. If you start with one, stay with it. Above all, pay attention to the back of the molding.

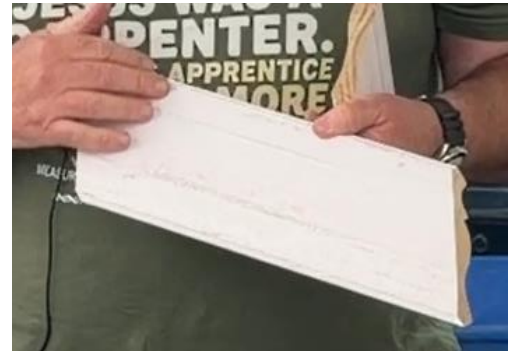


Figure 6 Back of crown molding.

Tools for Crown Molding Installation

You will need several tools to measure, cut, and install crown molding. These include a miter saw (compound, if possible (Fig 7)), a measuring tape or laser distance tape measure (Fig 8), protractor (Fig 9), digital angle finder (Fig 10), digital protractor (Fig 11), or manual sliding T bevel (Fig 12), coping or jig saw, nail gun, and caulk. Optional tools to aid the process include a pin nailer, 7-in-1 painter's tool, putty knife, wood putty or spackle, a caulk gun (if not using a small, squeezable tube of caulk), 4-inch trim head screws, wood file and rasp, stud finder, and a four or six-foot level. The level is used to lay against the wall to check for waviness. Some of the tools Rick uses are: a DeWalt 779 12-inch sliding double bevel compound miter saw with crown stops (Fig 20), Fastcap measuring tape and a Leica DISTO D2 laser measure (Fig 7), Franklin stud finder, and a handheld tile cutter (Fig 13) (got his in the tile section at Home Depot) for intricate small cuts.



Figure 7 Compound miter saw.



Figure 8 Laser measure.

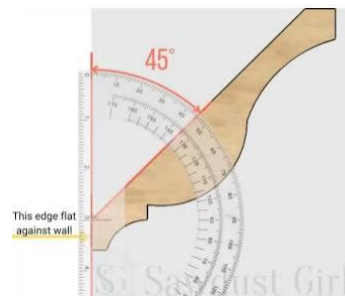


Figure 9 Protractor.



Figure 10 Digital angle finder.



Figure 11 Digital protractor.



Figure 12 Sliding T-bevel.



Figure 13 Handheld tile cutter.

Helpful Tools to Make it Easier

Crown molding sits at an angle (the "spring angle*" (Fig 14)) against the wall and ceiling; the cuts require precise compound angles using a miter saw. Holding the crown molding at the perfect spring angle by hand can be tricky and result in bad cuts. Aids such as crown stops and crown molding jigs will eliminate cutting mistakes. You can use crown stops, such as these designed by DeWalt (Fig 15) for DeWalt miter saws, or you can use aftermarket versions. The purpose of miter saw crown stops is to hold crown molding securely at the correct nested angle (usually 45°) while you cut it flat against the saw's table and fence. This removes the need for complex compound bevel cuts. By nesting the material, you only need to adjust the miter angle rather than fiddling with both bevel and miter settings on every cut. They allow for quick, repeatable, uniform cuts. There are also a variety of crown molding jigs for miter saws, such as the Kreg Crown-Pro or Milesclraft Crown45 Jig. The former locks in your spring angle and eliminates compound cuts; the latter holds molding right-side up so it's easier to visualize your cuts.

***Note:** The spring angle is the specific angle at which the molding tilts away from the wall and meets the ceiling (Fig 14). Matching this angle to your ceiling height is essential for proper installation and visual balance. You can find it with an angle finder, protractor, or a framing square (Fig 14). Most standard crown moldings fall into one of three common spring angles: 38° (often labeled 52/38), 45° (labeled 45/45), or 52° (labeled 38/52) (Fig 16).

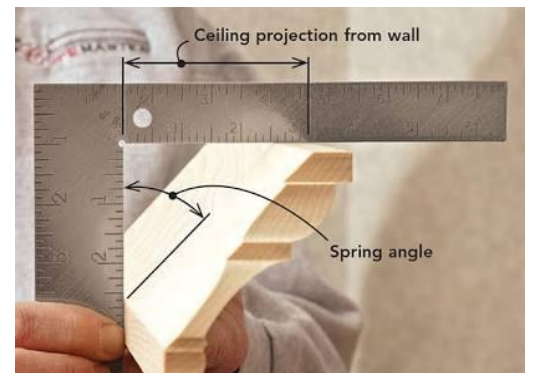


Figure 14 Spring angle.



Figure 15 Crown stops for miter saw.

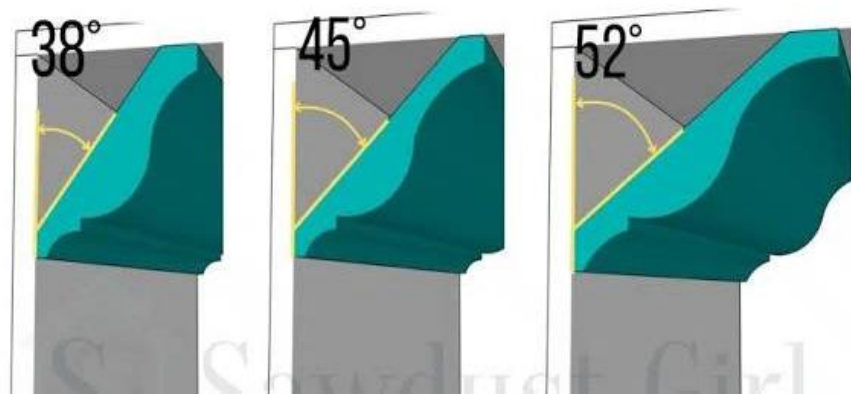


Figure 16 Common spring angles.

Miter vs. Cope

While mitering cuts an angle on both pieces of trim to meet at a corner, a coped joint for inside corners provides a professional finish. With a coped joint, one piece of molding butts straight into the wall, and the second piece is cut with a miter, then carved (coped) out to wrap perfectly around the profile of the first piece (Fig 17). When done properly, coping looks seamless and is far less likely to pull apart if the wood expands or contracts over time. However, outside corners *must* be mitered. Rick miter most of the joints, however, he'll cope short pieces of crown between inside and outside corners (Fig 18), especially if the corners are not plumb and square.

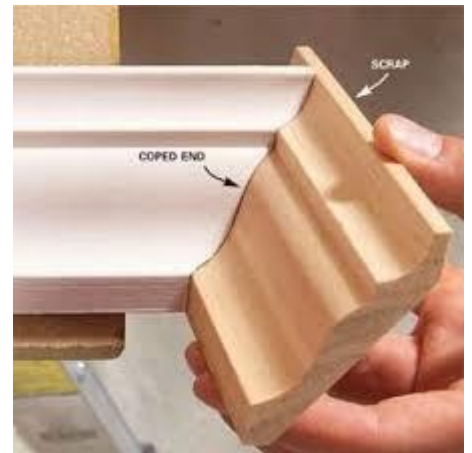


Figure 17 Coped miter.



Figure 18 Short pieces coped between inside and outside corners.

Cutting crown molding

There are detents on the miter saw that correspond to crown molding stops – 22.5, 31.6, 35.3 – and they don't all play with crown the same way. There are two primary ways to cut crown molding on a miter saw:

- **Nested:** You place the crown molding flat against the saw's fence (Figs 19 & 20) – upside down and backwards (if you measured from the right on the wall, you measure from the left on the saw, and vice versa) – in the same orientation it will sit on the wall, except the ceiling side is against the saw base. You then adjust the saw to a standard 45-degree miter.



Figure 20 Nested on miter saw with crown stops.

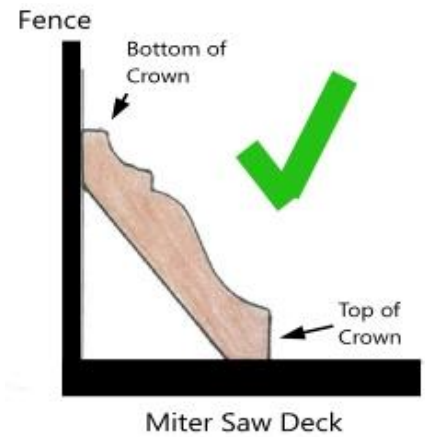


Figure 19 Nested on miter saw.

- **Flat:** You lay the molding completely flat on the saw bed (Fig 21) with the bottom edge against the fence. This requires cutting a compound miter, where you adjust both the miter angle (usually 31.6°) and the bevel angle (usually 33.9°) simultaneously.

Crown Moulding Cheat Sheet

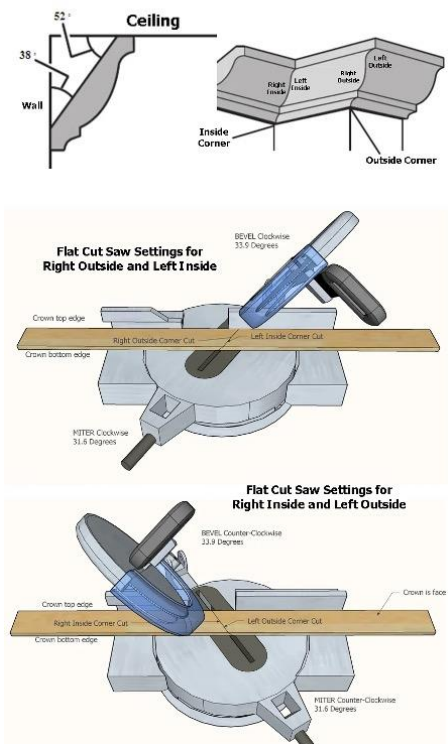


Figure 21 Flat on miter saw.

Steps for a successful installation

1. Prep and Measure

- **Mark Studs & Ceiling Joists:** Use a stud finder to mark your wall studs and ceiling joists along the perimeter of the room. Make sure the walls are plumb and square.
- **Create a Reference Line:** Mark a straight, level guide line around the room using a chalk line or laser level to ensure the bottom edge of the molding sits perfectly even.

2. Cut the Molding

- **Position on the Saw:** Nested or flat. Check for appropriate miter and bevel angles.
- **Miter Corners:** For inside corners (Fig 22), cut a 45° bevel with the back of the molding facing out. For outside corners, cut the bevel facing in. Rick miter his outside corners (Fig 22) but coping them may be necessary to properly close a 45° gap.
- **Coping Inside Corners:** While you can use standard miter cuts, coping the joint for inside corners (Fig 17) provides a much tighter, more professional fit. There are some moldings you cannot cope. They usually feature intricate profiles—such as heavily detailed or double-beaded designs.

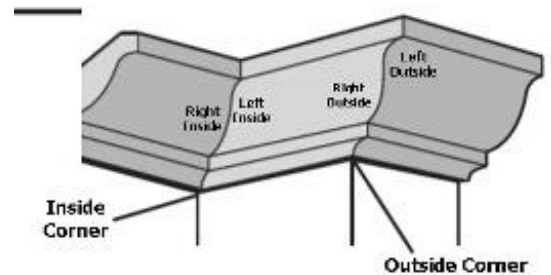


Figure 22 Inside and outside corners.

3. Install and Secure

- **Add Wood Glue:** Always apply wood glue to mitered ends before joining two pieces together to prevent the joint from separating as wood expands and contracts. If the joint starts to separate a little, add a couple of 23-gauge pin nails. An alternative to nailing outside corners is to join the angle with CA glue and then glue a dowel on the backside of the joint to keep it together (Fig 23).



Figure 23 Dowel glued to mitered corner for support.

- **Nail It:** Use an 18-gauge brad nailer with 2-inch nails. Drive nails into the bottom edge to hit the wall studs and the top edge to hit ceiling joists or the top wall plate.
- **Scarf Joint for Long Walls:** If a wall is longer than your molding pieces, join two boards together in the middle using a scarf joint (45° overlapping cut) rather than a straight butt joint. Glue them together and secure them with a couple of 23-gauge pin nails.
- **Scrap Wood Test:** Crown molding can be tricky. Always test your angles and orientations on scrap pieces of molding before making your final cuts on expensive wood.

4. Caulk and Paint

- **Fill Holes & Gaps:** Fill all nail holes with spackle or wood putty. Use a high-quality, paintable acrylic latex caulk to seal the gaps where the molding meets the wall, the ceiling, and at the corners.
- **Paint:** Once the caulk has fully dried, paint the molding and let it cure.

Crown molding is the ultimate "crowning touch" for your home. It instantly elevates a space by adding architectural interest, creating a polished, intentional look, and seamlessly camouflaging imperfect wall-to-ceiling joints.

Newcomers/Visitors

The club welcomed Rick.

Show and Tell

Alright, let's get to everyone's favorite portion of the meeting.

Ken Boyd

Ken made the following: Dominoes trays from birch with a mineral oil and beeswax finish for his granddaughter; xTool-engraved three flowers (unfinished) from birch to be painted by his grandkids; an avocado knife, rice paddle, and a small spoon from birch, finished with mineral oil and beeswax for his wife and to sell. The small spoon was for new member Carol Hitchcock.





Caleb Nixon

Caleb turned oak handles using the shou sugi ban technique* for his BBQ tools. He finished them with CA. The grill tools were purchased from Penn State Industries for \$20.

*Note: per Wikipedia, shou sugi ban is a traditional Japanese wood-preservation technique that involves charring the surface of wood planks to protect them against weathering, pests, and rot. Known natively in Japan as yakisugi (which translates to "charred cedar board"), this 18th-century Edo period craft creates a highly durable, naturally fire-resistant, and aesthetically striking carbon layer. While traditionally used for exterior architectural siding, it has experienced a global modern resurgence in interior design, accent walls, and custom furniture building.



Bob Ippoliti

Bob scroll sawed a pony from Baltic birch. The frame is also birch and it all has a satin finish. It took Bob 29 hours to cut it – just the pony – and 149 holes for blade placement. The background is green felt, not painted. The artist is Charles Hand, a regular contributor to ScrollSaw Woodworking & Crafts magazine.



Ward Gannon

Ward made a cheese board from birch and walnut, walnut coasters, a maple Devin click pen, and a sign from birch. Ward wanted to do something different for the sign, so he sprayed it with clear polyurethane. Before it was dry, he spray painted it black and let it sit but sanded it before the paint dried to give it a bit of weird finish. When it dried, he sprayed it with a warm satin polyurethane. The pen was supposed to be made from birch, but they kept blowing up, so Ward made it from maple. He gave it to Ken as thanks for supplying all the free Kenwood.





Cliff Price

Since the last meeting in April, Cliff purchased a lathe and turned his first-ever pen, a Slimline pen from bubinga with a friction polish finish. After working with sizing the bushings and wood, he turned a purpleheart pen with a friction polish finish. He's still working on dialing in the sizing. He used carbide tools for these turnings.



Alan Salisbury

Alan built a console table from sapele and finished it with catalyzed varnish. The console was too big to bring in, so the pictures are screen captures from a TV. The drawers were built and dovetailed by Eagle Woodworking (eaglewoodworking.com). The picture on the left is the console, the middle is the drawers, and the right is the finished console in the customer's house.



Robert Babbitt

Robert turned a lidded box from sycamore with an ebonized* finish. Robert used ferrous sulfate instead of iron acetate because he wasn't happy with vinegar and steel wool (iron acetate) ebonizing. The box turned out bluish, which he thinks was from the sycamore.

*Note: per Fine Woodworking magazine, ebonized wood is wood treated to mimic the appearance of rare, expensive ebony. Instead of applying a surface paint, it relies on a chemical reaction between iron acetate and the wood's natural tannins. This stains the wood fibers deep black from within while still allowing the natural grain to show through.



Jeff Futch

Jeff band sawed an ambrosia maple box and drawer handles and finished it with TotalBoat's Wood Honey. The drawers are flocked in green felt. There's a three-eighths thick piece of ambrosia maple on the back anchoring the two pieces (last photo).



Ray Penn

Ray made a paper towel holder from birch, a dowel with a mahogany top, and a lacquer finish.



Jim McCullagh

Last month, Jim gave a presentation on segmented bowl turning, so his wife says if he's making 12-sided segmented bowls, make a clock – nothing's too difficult for those who don't have to do it! So, Jim made a clock from 13 different woods and finished it with Odie's oil. The clock is made with a center section of bird's eye maple and each five-minute segment (1-12) on the dial is a different wood, alternating light and dark woods. The dial hands are walnut (bought on Amazon) and the dowels are cut out from the wood next to it. The minute dots are tacks. He drilled sixteenth inch holes and nailed in the tacks.



Club Pictures



Reminders



Thank You



Thank you Rockler! Your ongoing support and partnership are invaluable to our team.

Sherry, Diane, and Joe, we truly appreciate the time and effort you invest in making our break times so enjoyable.



And the Winners Are

\$10 Rockler Gift Certificate for attendees (sign-in tickets) – Rick Borden

\$10 Rockler Gift Certificate for Show and Tell – Jim M^cCullagh

\$15 Rockler Gift Certificate for Show and Tell – Cliff Price

\$25 Rockler Gift Certificate for Show and Tell – Robert Babbitt

50/50 (for the big moolah) - \$80 Darryl Kehoe

Meeting times

The BWC meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Rockler Woodworking & Hardware, 169 Brandon Town Center Dr, Brandon, FL 33511, 813-793-6030. June's meeting will be the 9th from 6-8 PM.

Newsletter by John Bacca
AV and web support by Caleb Nixon

Club Officers

Tom Bolen, President
John Bacca, Vice President
Ken Coleman, Treasurer
Holly Bentley, Secretary