

Installing Crown Moulding

Crown moulding is installed at an angle between the wall and the ceiling and unlike baseboard or chair rail, it requires a compound angle cut for inside or outside corners. The following procedure to produce these cuts when properly done can speed up the installation and produce clean tight joints.

1. Measure the area where the first piece is to be installed. This measurement will be for the bottom edge of the crown whether it is for an inside or an outside corner. It always helps at this point to lightly place a reference line on the moulding to indicate the direction of the cut you will be making. If you are doing an inside corner the bottom of the crown will be longer when cut, than the top and vice versa for an outside corner.
2. If your crown is 5" wide or less and you have a 10" mitre saw, set your mitre at 45° and place the crown upside down and face out against the fence at the same angle it would be on the wall. To clarify, the bottom of the crown will lie against the fence (your wall) and the top of the crown will be on the saw table (your ceiling). This method is used whether it is an inside or outside corner, the only difference is whether you require the cut for the right side or the left. This is where that reference line comes in handy as that will determine a left or right 45° cut. Keep in mind also that an outside corner will have the bevel cut on the back side of the crown while the inside corner will show the bevel cut on the face of the crown. *Another thing to remember is that the corners of your walls will probably not be an exact 90° so make a test cut on a couple of pieces to try the corner. You may have to adjust your mitre a small degree until the test pieces fit tightly in the corner. Once you have found the correct angles with the test pieces, mark a line on the wall and the ceiling where the crown rests and transfer those points every couple of feet along the wall and the ceiling. This will give you reference points to ensure the crown is going on straight along the wall and ceiling and your corner joints all meet properly.*
3. If your crown is bigger than 5" or your mitre saw does not have fence large enough to handle your crown then an alternative method will allow you to lay the crown flat on the table as follows.
4. For a left side **inside** corner lay the crown face up on the table with the top or ceiling part of the crown against the fence. Swing the mitre setting to the right * 35.2° (this may require a slight adjustment if the wall is not exactly 90°) and set the bevel (tilt of the blade) to 30° and complete the cut.
5. For a right side **inside** corner lay the crown face up on the table with the bottom, or wall part of the crown, against the fence. Swing the mitre setting to the left 35.2° and set the bevel to 30° and complete the cut.

6. On a left side **outside** corner place the crown with the bottom against the fence. Swing the mitre to the left 35.2° and your bevel at 30° and complete the cut.
7. On a right side **outside** corner place the crown with the top against the fence. Swing the mitre to the right 35.2° and your bevel at 30° and complete the cut.

**As indicated in #2. your corners are not likely to be square so a couple of test pieces will help you to determine the correct mitre for a tight joint. Follow the same recommendations for marking the wall and ceiling as given to ensure the crown goes up straight.*