



Tammy Legg

How to Beautifully Frame a Wall Mirror

Do you drool over beautiful homes on websites and in magazines? Do you dream of remodeling your old bathroom, wondering how to make it look fresh and new? Well, what about that big, old plate glass mirror? If you want to update it, don't pull it down! That's an expensive, dangerous and difficult job. If you have some basic DIY skills, it's easy to frame that mirror yourself!

Lesson 1: Introduction

Lesson 2: Materials

Lesson 3: Build it!

Lesson 4: Hang it!

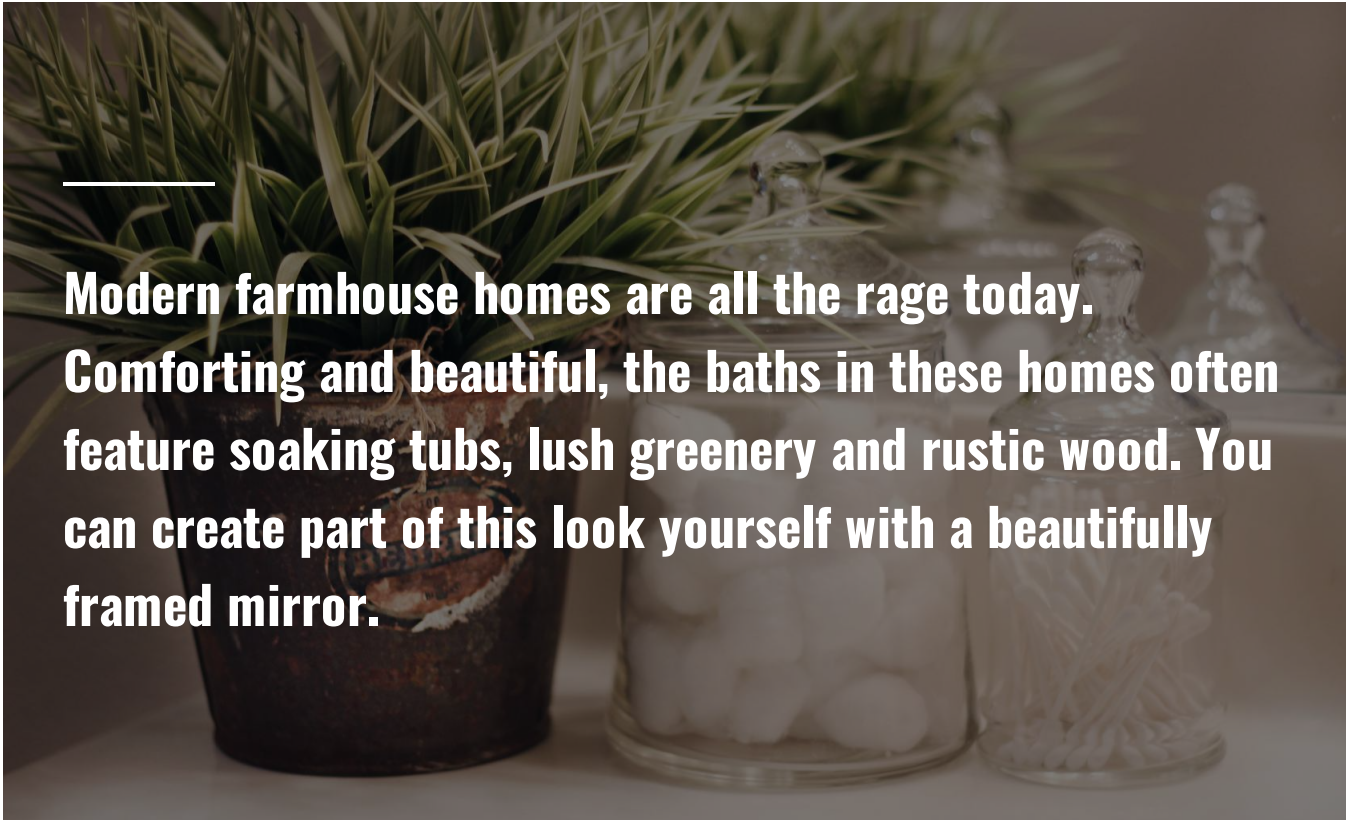
Quiz: Checking for understanding

Summary

Lesson 1: Introduction



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A decorative background image featuring a potted plant with long, thin green leaves in a dark, rustic metal pot. Next to it are several clear glass jars, some containing white stones or beads. The image has a soft, slightly blurred aesthetic with a warm, muted color palette.

Modern farmhouse homes are all the rage today. Comforting and beautiful, the baths in these homes often feature soaking tubs, lush greenery and rustic wood. You can create part of this look yourself with a beautifully framed mirror.

Updating that old bathroom can be overwhelming--and *expensive!* Where to begin? One of the easiest things you can do is to hang a lovely wooden frame on that big plate glass mirror. You can do it yourself--so let's get started!

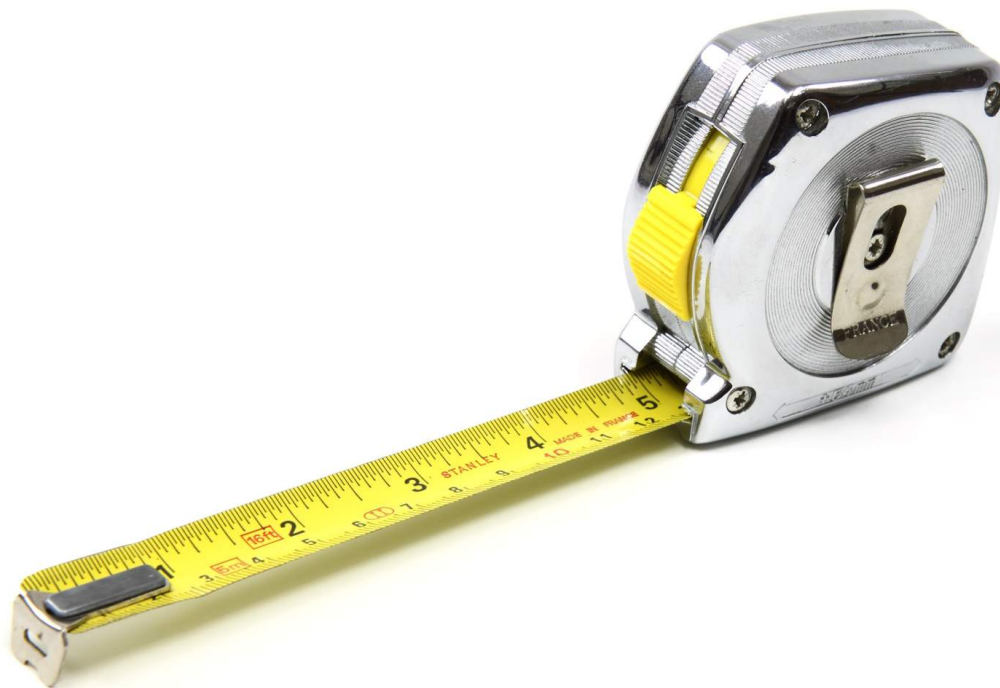


A beautifully framed mirror can add just the right touch to that old bath—for very little money!

This module is for either beginner or experienced DIYers. What should you be able to do when you're finished with the module?

- 1 Identify the materials you will need to build your mirror frame.
- 2 Describe how to build your own wooden mirror frame.
- 3 Explain how to hang your own wooden mirror frame.

Before you start:



Be sure to measure!

Using a tape measure, measure the outside dimensions of your mirror.

Pro tip:

Add 1/2" to the wood width of each measurement, unless the mirror touches the wall on each side. This will assure the frame covers the outside edges of the mirror and there will be no gaps.

First, want to see what your mirror may look like before and after?



Before



Hang it!



After

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO MATERIALS!](#)

Lesson 2: Materials



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Where do you start?

It's time to gather your **materials**. Click on each of the tabs below to start building your beautiful new mirror frame!

LUMBER

TOOLS

OTHER SUPPLIES

1. You'll need enough 1x4s to go all the way around your mirror. If you want a more rustic look, choose pine. If you want a more refined look, choose a hardwood, such as oak or maple.
2. Be sure to add about 10% extra to your measurements to allow for waste.



LUMBER

TOOLS

OTHER SUPPLIES

1. Staple gun & staples (standard size)
2. cordless drill & wood bits
3. Miter saw or miter box
4. Power sander & 220 grit sandpaper
5. Clamps (about 3 feet long)
6. Level



LUMBER	TOOLS	OTHER SUPPLIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Latex or neoprene gloves2. Wood glue3. Stain & staining pad4. Polyurethane & bristle brush5. Black or dark bronze 1 1/2"-2" corner brackets with screws6. Epoxy, liquid nails, or Loctite mirror adhesive7. Duct tape8. Safety glasses		

9. **Optional:** wood conditioner & foam brush

10. **Optional:** gloss black or dark bronze spray paint (if you can't find dark corner brackets)



Pro tip:

Try to buy the straightest pieces you can...bowed or twisted lumber will cause you a lot of problems and won't work, anyway.

Knowledge Check

Let's make sure we're comfortable with the materials and tools before we go on!

Which of these tools and/or supplies do you need to build your frame?
(Select all that apply.)

☐

miter saw

☐

stain

☐

glue

☐

cordless drill

☐

sealer

☐

brushes

☐

glue

SUBMIT

How much extra should you include in your estimate of wood for waste?

☐

5%

☐

10%

☐

20%

☐

25%

SUBMIT

CLICK HERE TO GO TO PREP & BUILD

Lesson 3 of 6

Lesson 3: Build it!



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Prep the lumber!



In these slides you'll go through the process of sanding, staining and sealing the lumber.

Step 1

Sand the lumber



Using 220 grit sandpaper and a power sander, smooth the lumber on both sides. Wipe sawdust away when finished.

Step 2

Condition and stain the pieces



Here's where you get the look you want. Before we begin, you'll want to have these items ready: clean cloths, brushes, gloves, staining pad, sandpaper, stain, & polyurethane.

1. Wipe away all sawdust with a clean, damp cloth.
2. *Optional:* condition the lumber before staining (follow the directions on the can). Use a foam or bristle brush.
3. While wearing latex or neoprene gloves, use the staining pad to wipe stain on both sides of the lumber. Don't forget the edges!
4. Wipe away excess stain with a cloth (any excess stain will become sticky if not removed). Allow to dry completely.

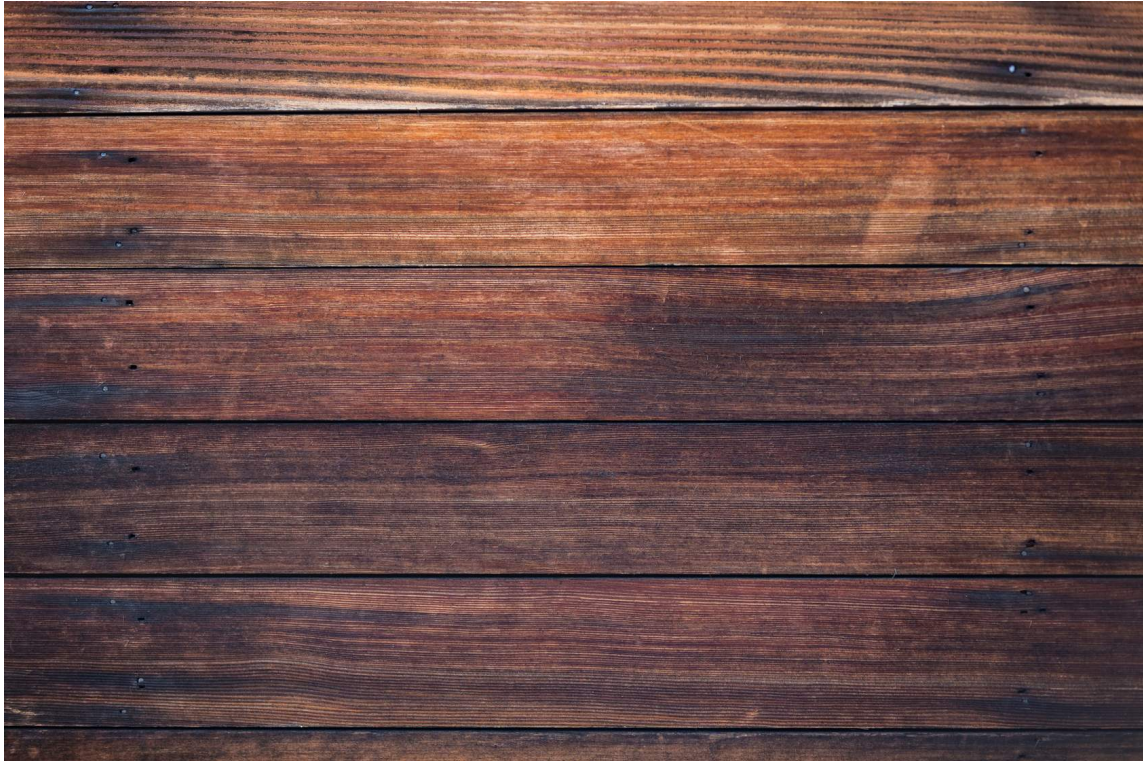
Step 3

Seal the piece



1. Using a bristle brush, apply polyurethane in one direction (don't overlap the strokes). Allow to dry.
2. Sand lightly with 220 grit sandpaper; wipe dust away. Reapply polyurethane.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2.
4. Repeat step 1 (this is the third coat--three coats are recommended). Allow to dry completely.

Summary



At this point, you should have lovely stained and sealed lumber, ready for cutting! **It's time to make your frame!**

Pro tip:

Be sure to smooth the edges to avoid nasty splinters! Also, staining both sides of the frame is critical because you'll be able to see the back of the frame in the mirror, and you want it to match!

Don't forget about those corner brackets...



If you weren't able to find corner brackets in bronze or black, don't despair! This is a great time to lay them out on cardboard or kraft paper and spray paint them. Be

sure to spray the edges and the screw heads, too.

Cutting the lumber

Cut each corner at a 45° angle on the miter saw. **Be sure to wear safety glasses!**

Cut the corners so they angle inwards and fit together like a picture frame.



To build your frame:



Lay out and dry fit the cut sides. Double check your measurements!



Dab a bit of glue on the cut ends of the sides and press one corner together.



Use the staple gun to join the cut ends together. With a wet towel or cloth, wipe away any glue that squeezes out.



Repeat gluing and stapling on each corner and let the glue dry overnight. Clamp for extra stability.



When dry, center the brackets in each corner and mark where the screws need to go. Use the cordless drill to start the hole on the marks and screw the brackets to the front of the frame.

Knowledge check

That's a lot of information! Let's be sure you know how to build the frame before you move on to hanging it on your mirror.

How many coats of sealer should be applied to the frame?

- ☐ one is plenty
- ☐ two is fine
- ☐ three is recommended

SUBMIT

What grit of sandpaper should be used to finish the frame?

- ☐ 220 grit is the minimum
- ☐ is doesn't matter--any grit will do

SUBMIT

LET'S HANG IT!

Lesson 4: Hang it!



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Are you ready to hang your beautiful new frame?



This is the exciting part!

It's time to hang your beautiful new frame on your mirror. Your hard work is about to pay off. It's a good idea to have a second pair of hands for this last bit--and a stepladder!

Pro tip:

Be sure to dry fit the frame before applying any adhesive!

Click on the flashcards below to learn how to hang your frame.

Apply epoxy or adhesive to the back of the frame

VERY IMPORTANT: adhesive should be at least 1' away from the inside edge of the frame--otherwise you'll be able to see it in the mirror!

Put your frame in place

Check the fit! It's best if you can brace your frame on the backsplash of the vanity.

If you can't, cutting blocks to support the frame while the adhesive is drying is a great idea. Be sure to check for level!

Secure the top edge of the frame to the wall

Secure the top edge of the frame to the wall with duct tape and hold the frame in place for at least 60 seconds. Let dry overnight. Be VERY careful when removing the tape!

Knowledge Check

Last one! Let's be sure you know how to hang and secure your frame before we take the quiz!

What should be used to attach the frame to the mirror and the wall?

(Select all that apply.)

☐

adhesive or epoxy made specifically for glass or mirrors

☐

duct tape

☐

nails

☐

screws

SUBMIT

Now, let's make sure we're ready to build and hang the frame!

CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE QUIZ

Quiz: Checking for understanding



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Let's check for understanding--and to avoid any costly mistakes. There are five questions which will assess what you've learned in this module. Four out of five (80%) is considered passing. You've got this!

Question

01/05

What are some of the materials you need to build your wooden mirror frame?

(Select all that apply.)

☐

miter saw

☐

glue

☐

stain

☐

lumber

☐

staple gun

Question

02/05

How far should mirror adhesive be applied on the inside of the frame? (Select the one best answer.)

☐

Just inside the outside edge

☐

about half an inch from the inside edge

☐

about one inch from the inside edge

☐

along the outside edge

Question

03/05

How could the frame be supported while the adhesive is drying? (Select all answers that would apply.)

☐

by the backsplash

☐

by cut blocks, if the backsplash can't be used or isn't present

☐

by being taped to the wall

Which of the choices below puts steps for building the frame in the correct order?



sand, stain & seal the wood; cut pieces to length; cut corners;
staple, glue & clamp the corners; add the brackets



cut pieces to length; cut corners; staple, glue & clamp the corners;
sand, stain & seal the frame; add the brackets

Question

05/05

When hanging the mirror, it is important that you follow these three steps: use the right adhesive, check for level, and attach the frame securely to the wall.

☐

True

☐

False

Summary



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Let's review:

- You identified the materials you need to make your frame.
- You described how to prep and build your frame. That means you not only described how to sand the lumber, but you also described how to stain, seal, and cut it, and then how to put it all together.
- You explained how to hang your beautiful new frame on your mirror.



Now, take a step back and admire your work. Run a warm bath and have a soak...you've earned it!



Congratulations! You did it! You learned how to build and hang a beautiful wooden frame for your mirror! Thank you for taking the time to go through this module! I hope you enjoyed the process!