

Inlaid Picture Frame

OVERVIEW



Introduction

This is a great project to do if you have admired inlaid picture frames and would like to build your own. You can also use a variety of router bits by constructing four different frames. I went to my local wood craft store and bought wood, inlay, and a picture frame clamp for the final assembly. Before you begin, you should make an assessment of the frame you want to build. Determine the size that's best suited for the photos you'd like to frame. Also, choose the best color and grain pattern to complement the photo, and the proper bits to give the desired framing style. Lay out inlay channel and fix the dimensions, set-up your tools and go!

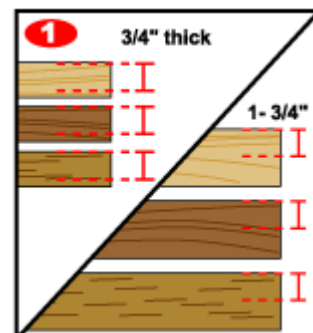
BEFORE YOU START...

SKILL LEVEL & TIME TO COMPLETE

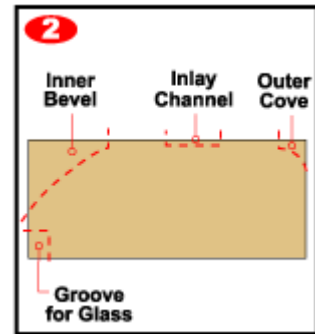
- Beginner - about 3 hours
- Intermediate - about 2 hours
- Advanced - about 1 hour

STEPS

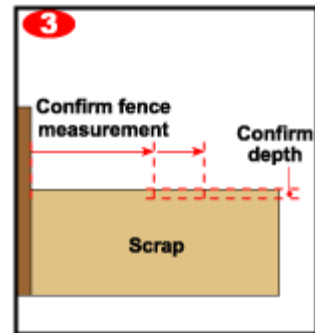
1. Plane the zebrawood, ash, and oak to 3/4 inch thickness, and cut it to 1 3/4 inch width. Leave the pieces in 5-foot lengths, so that all passes you later make with the router are uniform.



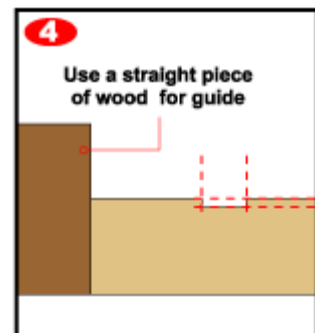
2. Next, rout the grooves for the glass, then the inner bevel, then the inlay channel, and finally the outer cove.



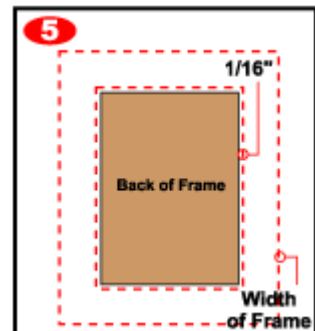
3. Through trial and error with scrap wood confirm the depth and fence measurements. Be aware that because of the difference between the ash and oak woods you will need to adjust the speed of the router and the feed rate across the bit to keep the wood from burning.



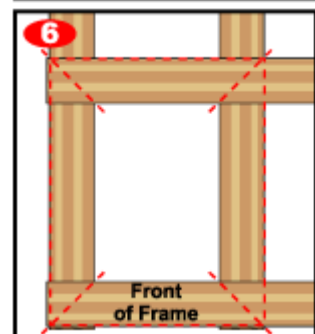
4. The most difficult cut is the groove needed for the inlay. Be sure to use a straight piece of wood to guide the edge of the router for all your cuts, so that your routs are perfectly straight. Attempting to free-hand rout these channels will result in an unusable groove.



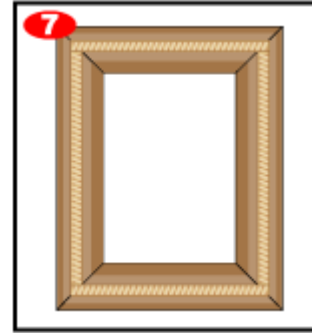
5. Because the glass in our sample is 5 by 7, measure the back of the frame adding a 1/16th inch each way to allow for the glass to fit easily. Then add the width of the wood of the actual frame.



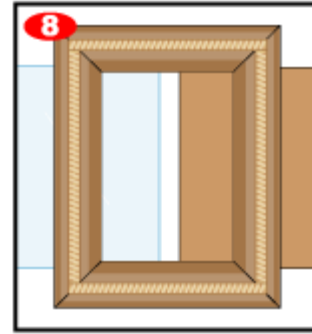
6. Transfer the measurements to the front and draw lines for the miter cut. Cut the miters with your compound miter saw. Then sand the frame parts to make them smooth.



7. After gluing the joints, use bar clamps or framing clamps to clamp the pieces together, making sure to keep the frame perfectly square and the corners smooth and even. Once the glued frame is set measure for the inlay and cut it with a razorblade making three to five passes. Fit the inlay in the channel with slight pressure. If it does not quite fit, make a couple shaving strokes with the edge of the razor blade until it matches perfectly.



8. Finish the frames with light oil stain, add the glass piece to the frame, your photo and the backing, and you're finished!



SHOP LIST

Materials List

1 inch thick Ash
1 inch thick Oak
1 inch thick Zebrawood
1/32 inch thick X 3/8 wide inlay
5 X 7 X 1/8 inch glass
3/8 wide flat base router bit
Glue

Tools List

Router
Router Bit Set
Table Saw
Palm Sander
Compound Miter Saw
Clamps