

Corner Cornice

By Annie Davis
Elkhorn, NE

A few years ago I started working with a design firm that was already used to having its cornices done using a particular fabrication method. When I was asked whether I was familiar with what they called "the routed-out" method, I remembered the famous words of Kitty Stein and said, "Sure!" I quickly followed that up with: "But if you have one that I could look at just to make sure that we do it the same way that you're used to. ..." I took one look and knew that if I could relay the information to my husband, he could take care of it. Now, this is the basis of every cornice that we do.



Materials and Supplies

7/16-inch OSB for faces of cornice
1x4-inch lumber for dust cover and legs
Thermal Suede lining for the back side of the cornice
Cornice board padding for faces and returns of cornice

1. Cut your cornice faces, dust covers and legs. We miter our dust covers in the corner, but you can also butt the two boards together if you prefer. On the face pieces, rout out a 1/4-inch wide line where the main fabric and the banding fabrics will meet. The rout line should be half the thickness of the OSB. (If you're not comfortable using a router, be safe and ask someone who is comfortable with a router to do it for you.) See instructions printed in Volume 10, Issue 4 of the DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE on page 38 to learn about prelining your cornices.



2. Pad the faces and returns with the cornice board padding. Be sure to cut out the "space" where the OSB has been routed.



3. Take your main fabric and cut a piece that will allow you to cover the face areas, as well as wrap around and inside the legs. Make sure you allow for any pattern placement. Staple the face fabric across the top side onto the dust cover, clipping in the corner just shy of the face board to help create a tight corner. Smoothing as you go, staple the bottom edge of the main fabric into the routed area. Work your way from the corner to the outsides, and onto the returns, keeping the pattern straight as you go.



4. Staple onto the back of the returns on the edge that will be up against the wall. Then, with this design, you can go ahead and staple the inside of the returns. The bottom edge of the fabric inside the leg is not important at this time.



5. Trim the excess fabric from the routed area, trimming as close to the staples as possible.



6. Your main fabric is now all in place.



7. Cut your banding fabric large enough to cover the banding area with enough extra fabric to wrap around and inside the legs (just as you did with the main fabric). Lengthwise, allow enough fabric to go into the routed area and staple onto the bottom edge of the OSB. Staple the banding into the routed area, keeping everything smooth as you go. Work your way from the corner to the outside edges and onto the returns. If you place the top edge of the banding fabric just into the routed area without any excess, you won't have to worry about trimming.



8. Smooth the banding fabric to the bottom edge and staple. Again, work from the corner to the outsides.



9. Clip the fabric into the corner to keep it smooth making the turn.



10. Trim off any excess fabric right next to the staples on the bottom edge.



11. Now it's time for the welting. Cut a 2-inch welt strip and make your 1/4-inch welt to go in the routed area. Leave a small area at the end of the fabric without the welting in it. Trim the seam allowance back to just be a bit past the stitching.



12. The "empty" end gets stapled onto the back side of the leg to secure it. By stapling it this way, I can pull the welt cord nice and tight. Then squeeze hot glue into the routed area, placing the welt cord into the hot glue and smoothing as you go. Just tuck the welting into the corner and it will go from one side to the other without a problem. Go across the face of the cornice, onto the leg and wrap around to the back side, cutting the welt cord where the cornice will meet the wall and creating an "empty" end just as you did at the beginning. Staple that onto the back side of the leg to secure it.



13. Cut another 2-inch fabric strip for the welting across the top of the board. Attach the welting to the top of the board as normal. When you get to the inside corner, you'll need to clip the seam allowance of the welt cord to be able to bend it around the corner.



14. Then cover the dust board with two strips of fabric. I usually cover one side, then the other, overlapping where the two sides meet. When you cover the dust board, just fold the back of the fabric under and staple it so that it's even with the top of the back edge of the dust board. That way, when you install the cornice, you won't have any bulk on the back edges.



15. Now cut a 4- to 4 1/2-inch piece of fabric to create the bottom welting with flashing attached. If you don't know how to do this, you can always attach a normal 2-inch strip with the welt in it, and then attach another 2 1/2-inch piece of welting for your flashing strip that will wrap to the back side of the cornice, just up about 1-inch from the edge. I normally prefer to keep the fabric a little longer, place my staples as evenly as possible, then trim any excess fabric.



16. Clip the welt portion to help you go around the corner.



17. It can be a little tricky to get the fabric in the center to stretch over the outside bend, but it should go this short distance without too much of a problem. A little clipping might be needed.



18. Hot glue gimp over the staples on the back side of the cornice, clean everything up and you're ready to install! Notice that you have no messy staples on the back side to contend with, and the lining is tight where the pieces meet. ✂