

How to use ancient crafts and modern techniques

In conjunction with *Miniature Time Traveller Magazine* and miniaturist Jill Fraser

How to make a Tudor Fireplace surround.

This fireplace surround fits in the front of a chimney piece already made. It is held in place by two magnets that attach to a metal band screwed into a shelf support inside the chimney. As it was important to be able to remove the fireplace surround to access wiring and batteries this works very well.

All fireplaces will be different and different sizes. This one sits on top of the hearth. The aim here is to give an outline of the construction and how to make the detailing.

The first step: Make the base on which to work. The height from hearth to ceiling is 25cm or 9.84 inches. *(It does not work well translating it back to inches in this case. If you are facing an existing chimney you can work it in uncomplicated sized inches according to your size chimney.)*

A piece of 5mm thick basswood makes up the front. It measures 12cm x 25 cm. Cut one.

Two sides: 25 cm long x 1 cm wide . Cut 2.

A crosswise shelf to attach magnets to: 10.4 cm x 1 cm deep . Cut 1

Before anything else, cut the opening out of the front. This one was 6.5 cm square.



Building up the front façade.

Find a nice piece of wood for the mantle 13 cm x 2 cm deep and 5mm thick.

A plain piece of photo frame moulding was used around the opening.

For the faux wood carving you can use many things. Lace is good. It can make very convincing carved wood, once painted. However I found some good silicon moulds online and pressed paper clay into them. The details are on one of my videos. Once these are dry and painted a mahogany brown they fit right in.

The centre piece can be either a painting or a medallion or a piece of laser cut decoration as in the image above. Tacky glue keeps it altogether.

Use Superglue to glue two magnets to the cross bar and find a piece of metal with two screw holes already in it. (You can find these in hardware stores among the metal corners and braces. Screw this to a corresponding bar across the interior of the chimney. Paint the lower interior black.



This is the work of Photographer, Miniaturist, artist and writer, Jill E Fraser, Martinborough, New Zealand.

Jill Fraser reserves the right under the New Zealand Copyright Act 1994 to be identified as the creator of this work. Her contact is jill@miniaturetimetraveller.com Her projects are all original, and feature in the *Miniature Time Traveller* and on her YouTube channel.