

# Handy Hints Sheet 14

...helping you get started.

## Using A Mitre Trimmer to Create Perfect Joints

### You will need:

- 1 x piece mounted art
- 1 x mitre saw
- 1 x mitre trimmer
- 4 x lengths of moulding



### Diagram 1

Remember that a mitre trimmer has exceptionally sharp blades and should be handled with care. Remove the handle when transporting it.

For safe use, bolt (or clamp) the trimmer base to a workbench.



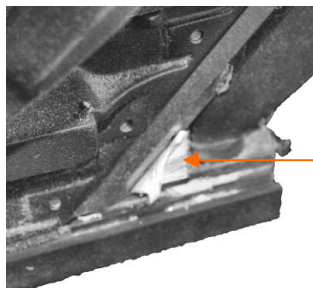
Fences set at 45°. The back of the moulding should run against the fence.



### Diagram 2

Close the blade across the gap. Moulding has back against the fence and sawn mitre cut butts up against the blade.

Open the gap up (handle pushed right) and slide the moulding forward by a fraction of a millimetre.



### Diagram 3

(VIEWED FROM THE BACK)

When you complete a pass, the trimmer blade should remove a shaving from the whole face of the sawn end.

This sheet really works in conjunction with **HH sheet 13a (Cutting Mitre Joints Using A Mitre Saw Part 1)** and **HH sheet 13b (Cutting Mitre Joints Using A Mitre Saw Part 2)**.

The mitre trimmer is used to put an accurate cut which is 90° in the vertical plane and 45° across the face of the moulding. It is an essential piece of equipment when you cannot fill and sand joints to create a perfect frame: this is usually when you are using a pre-finished moulding or one with an ornate profile.

When using in conjunction with a mitre saw, there are a few adjustments in cutting routines as described in the sheets mentioned above.

**ALWAYS CLAMP OR FIX THE TRIMMER TO A WORK SURFACE BEFORE USING.**

1. Follow the whole set of instructions on **Handy Hints sheet 13a**. You will then have 4 pieces of moulding each with a correctly mitred right hand cut.
  2. At this point you will use the mitre trimmer to create a perfect cut. Whenever you use the trimmer make sure that the face of the moulding is uppermost; the back of the moulding is against the "fence" so that the trimmer cuts into the rebate edge first.
  3. **You only need to take a fraction of a millimetre off the cut at any one pass of the blade.**
  4. **TO TRIM THE RIGHT HAND MITRE:** A good way of starting, is to use the handle (pushing from right to left) so that the blade is across the gap on the **left hand "fence"**. Now slide one length of moulding so that the face butts up against the blade. (**see diagram 2**) Push the handle to the right so that the gap opens up and now carefully nudge the moulding forward by a fraction of a millimetre. Now hold the moulding firmly against the fence, with one hand (keep hands away from the cutting edge), whilst using the trimmer handle to pass the blade across the sawn cut.
  5. A good cut will take an even shaving off from the whole face. (**see diagram 3**) If the cut jams, you are taking too much off in one pass and will need to reset the trim. Repeat points 4 & 5 for all 4 pieces of moulding.
  6. For the "return cut" follow the instructions on **Handy Hints sheet HH 13b** which will take you through how to measure and cut the "left hand" mitre of each piece.
- NOTE mark the lengths 1 to 2 millimetres longer than needed so that when you trim the lengths, you will trim away waste material until it fits your artwork perfectly.**
7. **TO TRIM THE LEFT HAND MITRE:** So repeat point 4 but with the mitre blade sweeping left to right and the moulding against the **right hand fence**. When checking the accuracy of lengths, check that opposite sides have been trimmed identically so that they match. This way you will ensure that the frame will have tight joints.
  8. When you have two pairs of matching lengths you are ready to join the moulding lengths to form a frame.