

Installing Original Hand-Hewed Cladding As It Applies to Posts & Columns

A Step-By-Step Guide for Contractors & Do-It-Yourselfers

The owners of this beautiful Skaneateles Lakeside home wanted four laminated posts to appear more substantial when viewed from the lake; and to be more proportionally suited to the rest of his home. But, he also wanted to follow the hand-hewed theme of the main entrance and the home's interior accents.



The solution? ***"Original Hand-Hewed Cladding"*** by Levanna.

Installing this product with professional results is easy, and can be done over a weekend.

For your convenience, Levanna has put together this printable, easy-to-follow instruction guide to show you the installation process. You'll see how simple it really is to enhance the look of an existing structural member, or to add a desired architectural feature to your living or business environment.

Step 1:

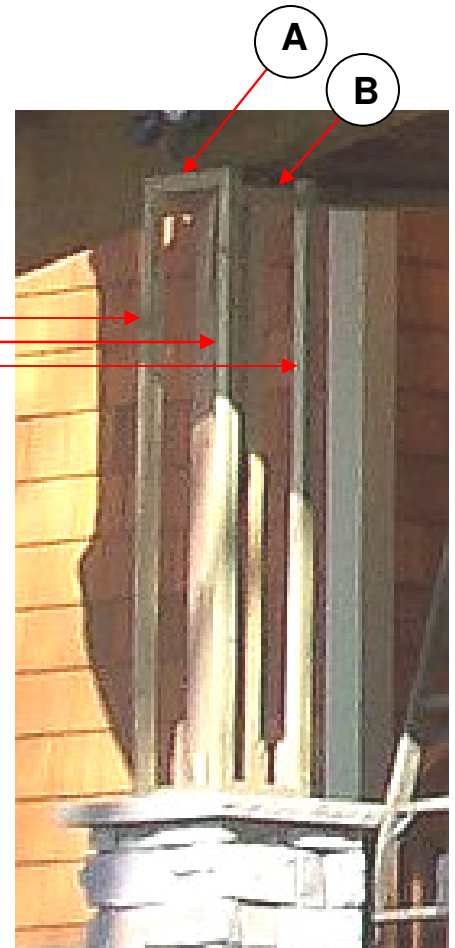
Visual Aids that help determine the overall footprint

- a tape measure to visualize new feature
- for further visualization, construct a simple template to scale out of paper, cardboard or scrap wood

Step 2:

To turn mediocre into massive ... Build a Frame

- Basic math is required for measurements
 - **Keep in mind** that the final footprint dimension will include the size of the frame + $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood thickness + Original Hand-Hewed Cladding thickness
- Build a simple, sturdy frame using 2 x 2's
 - (4) corners @ full height
 - (8) spacers @ equal lengths used as corner supports:
 - (4) each top & bottom
 - when using screws: pre-drill corners to prevent splitting
 - stagger spacers: see **A** and adjacent side **B** for spacer placement to eliminate fastener interference (typical for opposing sides, top & bottom)
 - **Exterior Use:** pressure treated 2 x 2's with Stainless Steel Screws or framing gun with SS Finish Nails (wood treatment will corrode other metal fasteners) Fastener length: $2\frac{3}{4}$ " – 3"
 - **For Your Protection**, it is advised to wear gloves when handling, and a mask when cutting PT wood. Use eye protection
 - **Interior Use over Wood:** standard 2 x 2's with standard screws / nails. Secure to floor
 - **Interior Use over Concrete:** a separator between the wood & concrete, such as 4 mil plastic, is recommended to prevent moisture transfer. Pre-drill wood & concrete as recommend by fastener mfr. Secure wood frame to concrete with 3" Tapcon or equal



Step 3:

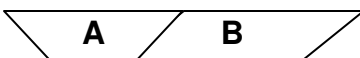
Installing 1/4" Plywood... use PT or exterior grade for outdoor applications

- measure & cut plywood 1/8" - 3/16" less than full height of frame
 - if using a circular saw and saw horses, a chalk line provides a quick, straight reference for cutting
- measure & cut side panels 1/4" greater than full width of corresponding frame side to create a snug joint
- Install plywood to full height of frame
 - using 3/4" screws, fasten @ 4" intervals, 3/4" in from flush edge or 1" in from lap edge
 - **for exterior installation**, completely fill & seal bottom gap with a high quality, exterior grade polyurethane construction adhesive (PL Premium or equal) to guard against water infiltration and wicking

Step 4:

Installing "Original Hand-Hewed Cladding"

- we have several species suitable for interior application, **but recommend White Oak Cladding Planks for exterior use**
 - for realism, planks on each post should be similar
 - species, color, texture, tooling, thickness
 - run ax marks downward for weatherization
- for exterior installation, use (1) thickness of 1/4" plywood as a spacer for Cladding from having direct contact with stone to aid against wicking
 - place on the cap stone or concrete and tight against the plywood-covered frame (as shown)
- measure & cut Cladding 1/4" less than full height of frame
 - for interior installations, do not use spacer
 - measure & cut Cladding about 1/8" less than full height of frame (more if using molding)
- miter edges to zero thickness (another words: a perfect miter)
 - if installing (2) Cladding planks per side (as depicted above) be aware of the need for a reverse miter on one edge of one of the planks to form the center joint (**left**)
 - **don't cut yourself short:** mitered plank (**A**) will reduce the visible width of the adjacent plank (**B**) by its thickness (because one mitered edge of plank (**B**) will be under the face of plank (**A**), so plank (**B**) must have a starting width equal to the face width of (**A**) + its measured thickness



Step 4: cont'd

- choose a corner to install Cladding plank
 - apply construction adhesive to back of Cladding
 - apply full width and full length from side-to-side in continuous “S” pattern approx. 1” from top & bottom edge
 - carefully slide Cladding up & over to align start of miter with edge of plywood
- nail Cladding to frame
 - (2) each 1” from top edge and 3/4” from bottom
 - 1 1/4” – 1 3/4” in from outer edge of Cladding, stagger nails in “W” pattern @ 8” intervals
 - use SS Finishing Nails: set heads below surface
 - run continuous bead of construction adhesive along plywood @ miter edge
- Repeat the process, sliding planks into position for tight joints
 - nail miter joints to close gaps as necessary before adhesive sets. **USE MINERAL SPIRITS** to wipe wood free of adhesive before adhesive sets
- round over corners with router, sander or draw knife for a more natural appearance
- remove spacer... and you're done

