

MINIATURE MANSIONS

How to guide...

MAKE A PILASTER FIT A ROOM

How a pilaster with its pedestal and capital can be made to fit any room.
(Photo 1) The pilaster can be made longer or height can be added to the pedestal.

Pic 1



Making the pedestal higher – Option 1

To add height to the pedestal, there are two options. Either hide the addition or make a feature of it (photo 2). The process is the same for both.

Step 1

Measure the distance that needs to be filled (photo 3). Now measure the base of the pedestal. Cut blocks of M D F that are the same size as the pedestal width and depth. The height must be the same as the distance needed to be filled. (photo 4). To make a feature of the addition, make the block 2mm wider (1/16”) and 1mm deeper (1/32”) than the base of the pedestal. Once the blocks are cut, check that they fit the pedestal and will take up the missing height (photo 5).

Step 2

Super glue the blocks to the pedestals (photo 6). Seal the MDF by giving them two coats of button polish. Wait until the first coat has dried before applying the second. Button polish can be brought from DIY stores. French polish or knotting sealer can also be used (photo 7). Once the polish has dried, rub it down with 250 grit paper until the surfaces of the MDF are smooth especially the ends.

Step 3

Carefully fill in any gaps between the pedestal and the M D F using car body filler. (photo 8) when the filler has set rub down until completely smooth and the only filler left is in the gaps (photo 9).

Step 4

Mount all the mouldings on to a spraying stick (photo 10). Spray with white car primer. This needs to be done with several light coats as white primer is quite thin and will not cover in one go. Do not rush; build up the coats slowly allowing primer to dry between coats. Spraying too much on in one go will result in puddles of paint or runs which will have to be rubbed down once dry.

Step 5

When the primer has dried check there are no gaps which have been missed when first filling. If there are still gaps fill them now, filler can be applied over primer. Rub down and respray. Often it is easier to see gaps once the primer has been applied. Now the mouldings can be painted in the medium and method of your choice. (Photo 11).

CONTACT

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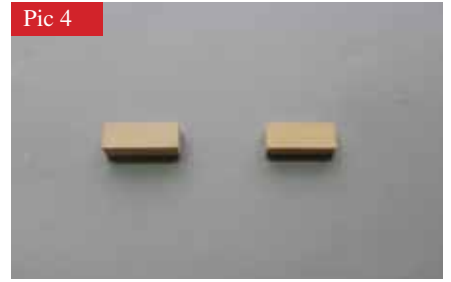
Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5



Pic 6



Pic 7



Pic 8



Pic 9



Pic 10



Pic 11



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Extending the pilaster - Option 2

The option to extend the pilaster (photo 12) requires an extra pilaster which can be cannibalised to extend the others.

Step 1

Measure the distance that needs to be filled. (photo 13).

Step 2

Cut the bottom off the spare pilaster, this needs to be done so the inserted piece will match. Mark around the moulding using a square and pencil. (photo 14) Place the moulding on a bench hook, remove the bottom with a razor saw. (photos 15 & 16).

Step 3

Measure and mark the amount required to make up the difference on the spare moulding and cut this off. (photo 17).

Step 4

Cut a pilaster in two, ready to insert the extension piece. Try a dry fit first to make sure the extended pilaster with its capital and pedestal is now the right size. (photos 18 & 19). Once satisfied with the fit, glue them together with Super Glue. When gluing item together make sure they are straight by holding them against a straight edge (photo 20) and on a flat surface.

Step 5

Lightly spray with white primer to show where any filling may be required. For large gaps use car body filler, but for hair line gaps use Tipp-Ex Rapid the correction fluid (photo 21).

Step 6

Once the filler has gone completely hard, carefully rub it down with 250 grit paper. Making sure not to damage any detail on the pilaster.

Step 7

Now lightly spray with white primer. Once dry, check there are no gaps, if there are, fill in. Rub down and spray again, repeat this process until the joint cannot be seen (photos 22 & 23).

Step 8

Place all the mouldings onto a spraying stick (photo 24) and spray in white primer. When the primer is dry the mouldings can be painted in a medium and method of your choice. (photo 25).

In this article I have used:-

Making the pedestal higher - Option 1

Capital SM15

Pedestal SM17

Pilaster SM16

Extending the pilaster- Option 2

Capital SM44

Pilaster SM47

Pedestal SM43

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