

# Builder Kit - Assembly Instructions



## Rockford Surrounds

*Congratulations on your new surround purchase! Now that the blood is pumping from unpacking the surround, you are ready to put it together. Good luck!*

### Parts included in Kit

Included in the builder kit is the following:

- One shelf
- Two columns
- Two strips of column trim

No hardware pack is included in this kit! Mounting boards are *not* included. (Mounting boards can be made out of any material you would like (i.e. 2x4, 2x6, 2x2, scrap wood, etc.)

### Tools and Supplies Needed

To assemble the surround, you will need the following (quantities are approximate):

- 25- 3” screws
- 25- 1¼” finish nails
- 5- 2” finish nails
- Wood glue
- Construction adhesive (optional)
- Mounting boards
- A drill with a phillips bit
- A hammer
- A level
- A saw to cut the columns (if needed)

### Step 1

Determine the desired height of the columns.

**COMMENT:** The standard height of the columns may suit your needs perfectly, but you may desire to make them shorter. This would depend on several factors: amount of exposed tile wanted around the firebox, amount of room available, personal tastes, etc.

**NOTE:** For the Rockford surround, if the columns are cut shorter, be sure to cut equal amounts off of both ends. This will maintain equal distance from the grooves to the end of the column. No more than 5” should be cut from both ends of the column, for a total of 10”. However, cutting the columns shorter will eliminate the routed detail at the top of the columns. If desired, the routed detail can be replicated using a “v-groove” router bit or by hand using a sander. If the columns are cut shorter, two small blocks are provided to replace the blocks at the top of the columns. If needed, attach the replacement blocks to the top of the columns using wood glue and 1¼” finish nails.

For the Preston surround, if the columns are cut shorter, cut the bottom of the columns only. This will preserve the routed detail at the top of the columns. Typically, no more than a total of 10” should be cut from the columns.

**ANOTHER NOTE:** If there is tile already installed around the firebox and it is wider than the space between the firebox and the column, the *inside leg* of the column can be cut the thickness of the tile to allow the tile to go “behind” the column. Be sure to *only* cut the *inside leg* of the column. (The “thickness of the tile” throughout the assembly instructions is defined as the overall thickness of the tile, mortar, backer board, etc., combined (the overall depth from the wall to the front of the installed tile). Please keep this in mind throughout the installation!)

## Step 2

Take the shelf and place it upside down on a padded surface.

## Step 3

Spread glue on the bottom of the shelf in the area where the columns will be fastened. Place each column on the shelf positioned flush to the outside corners, with the block at the top of the column against the shelf.

## Step 4

Using 1¼” screws, attach the columns to the shelf using the pre-drilled holes.

## Step 5

Carefully, turn the surround over to an upright position. Place the surround centered over the firebox. Draw a pencil line on the wall along the top edge of the shelf. Also, draw a pencil line on the wall along both vertical edges of each column.

## Step 4

Remove the shelf and columns. Attach mounting boards ¾” to the inside of the pencil lines made for the columns with construction adhesive (or glue) and 3” screws. Attach a mounting board 1 1/8” down from pencil line made for the shelf with construction adhesive (or glue) and 3” screws. **Pre-drill the mounting boards for screws.**

**TIP:** If possible use 3” screws to attach the mounting boards to a stud in the wall. If no stud is available, be sure to use construction adhesive and follow the product instructions.

**NOTE:** Make sure that the mounting board for the shelf is not longer than the notch in the shelf. In addition, make sure that it is positioned on the wall so that it will fit within the notch in the shelf.

## Step 5

Replace the surround centered over the firebox. Secure the columns to the mounting boards with 1¼” finish nails. . If desired, glue on the mounting boards may also be used in addition to the nails.

## Step 6

Secure the shelf to the wall by using 2” finish nails and nailing down through the top shelf into the mounting board.

## Step 7

**COMMENT:** Locate the strips of wood that are 9” wide by 48” long with one routed edge. These are the column trim strips and will go at the bottom of the columns. The routed edge will face up, towards the shelf.



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Miter and cut to size the column trim strips to trim all three sides of the bottom of the columns. Attach all pieces appropriately with glue and 1¼" finish nails.

**TIP:** If there will be tile around the firebox and it is not yet installed, cut the column trim for the bottom, inside leg of the column a little "short" (see picture). Cut it the depth of the column, less the thickness of the tile. This will allow the tile to fit behind the column trim piece, and avoid the need to notch the tile during its installation. If desired, the bottom column trim pieces can be mitered, cut to size and attached after the tile is installed to ensure proper fit.



### Step 8

The last thing to do is prep the surround for paint or finish. Putty any visible nail or screw holes. Caulk as needed between the wall and surround. Also, check all the joints in the surround itself and caulk as needed. Sand as needed (which is usually not much). **YOU ARE DONE!**

**Note:** If painting the surround, it is generally best to prime it prior to painting.