

# full-length Dressing Mirror

With decorative overlay and a functional design, this free-standing mirror will be at home in any room.

A full-length mirror really completes the look of any room. Aside from its practical purpose, it's also a nice, decorative accessory. And what I find appealing is how a mirror gives the illusion of more space in a room.

One of the things I really like about this mirror is the way it appears to “float” within the frame. What I mean is it sits up off the backing board and has a consistent reveal around all four sides. Even the frame looks like it's suspended off the floor because it sits on short, hidden feet. Small blocks at the top of the frame space the mirror away from the wall. And since it's not fastened to the wall, you can easily move it anywhere in your home.

You can build this project to suit your decor by selecting a wood to match your furniture and then choosing a contrasting wood for the filler strips. I used cherry with walnut fillers.

The techniques used to build this mirror are very straightforward. The hardwood frame is mortise and tenon construction with a rabbeted recess for the mirror. The great-looking overlay is really just a series of thin strips of contrasting woods applied directly to the face of the frame, as shown on the next page. I'll show you a technique for gluing up the pieces to get an “inlaid” look without all the hassle normally associated with intricate inlay work. It's what makes this mirror “stand out” from the crowd.