



## How to Build a Mudroom Bench

*Both stylist and functional, this mudroom bench is sure to be your new favorite feature of the home. With storage both overhead and below the bench seating, this space is perfect for packing away bulky seasonal items and keeping your entry way tidy.*

*This project can certainly be tackled with proper planning, loads of patience, and plenty of hard work, but don't hesitate to contact a professional to help complete your dream space if it feels too large of a project to take on yourself.*

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### Plan your bench size

#### Example Shopping List:

- 2 sheets of 4'x8' MDF (medium density fibreboard) or plywood, 3/4" width
- 6 or 7 – 8' lengths of 1x2" primed pine trim boards (depending on your propensity for error)
- 1 panel of laminated pine or individual boards you can join together to make the top of the bench seat
- 3/4" trim piece for edge of laminated pine
- Optional: smooth 1/4" (approx.) board to put on the back of your unit, unless you have nice smooth walls
- Optional: quarter round
- Wood glue
- Nail gun/compressor and various lengths of nails
- Wood screws (1 1/2" and 3")
- Primer
- Semi-gloss paint
- Wood fill
- Baskets to fit lower cubbies and overhead storage
- 6' length of crown molding
- 5' length of brick molding
- 5' length of cove molding
- 3 – 8' lengths of 1"x3" boards (MDF or pine or primed boards are fine, avoid curved edges)
- Hooks
- Approx. 12' lattice boards – this is a trim piece that is about 1/4" x 1 3/8"

## Cut List: Bottom Bench:

*Note: Keep scraps for upper/back portion of bench.*

- 3 – 56" x 16" boards cut from the 4' x 8' MDF (this is for the top and bottom of the bench, bottom doubled up for stability and height)
- 4 – 16" x 19" boards cut from the 4' x 8' MDF (these are for the vertical pieces that go on the sides and the two dividers in the middle – be sure to add an extra if you do an extra cubby)
- 2 – 53" lengths of the 1" x 2" primed pine board
- 2 – 19" lengths of the 1" x 2" primed pine board
- 2 – 16" lengths of the 1" x 2" primed pine board
- 1 – 56" x 16 3/4" board cut from the laminated pine (or you can join boards together using a kreg jig to end up with these same dimensions)
- Hemlock trim to fit around the laminated pine – 3 sides needed if unit doesn't sit in a corner wall
- 2 – 16 3/4" lengths of lattice (cut two more if you have 2 exposed sides)
- 2 – 16 1/4" lengths of lattice (cut two more if you have 2 exposed sides); shorter if you are accounting for quarter round
- Quarter round to fit around the base of the bench
- Optional: Sheet of smooth 1/4" board cut to fit the back of your bench (you may choose to keep yours exposed to the wall)

## Cut List: Back/Upper Portion:

- 3 – 54 1/2" x 8 1/4" boards cut from the 4' x 8' MDF – these are for the horizontal pieces forming the top and bottom of the cubbies, and also one piece to support your cubbies and hold your hooks
- 2 – 6" x 8 1/4" boards cut from the 4' x 8' MDF – these are for the two vertical pieces that make up the cubbies (add more if you want more than three cubbies)
- 1 – 54 1/2" length of brick molding – as decoration and to support your cubbies
- 1 – 54 1/2" length of cove molding – as decoration and to support your cubbies
- 1 – 54 1/2" length of 1" x 3" for the back/base of the unit
- 2 – 56" lengths of the 1" x 2" primed pine board – to finish the vertical side boards
- 2 – 53" lengths of the 1" x 2" primed pine board – to finish the horizontal cubby boards
- 2 – 5 1/4" lengths of the 1" x 2" primed pine board – to finish the two internal vertical cubby boards
- 4 lengths of 1" x 3" board to create the board and batten detail – cut to fit once other pieces are in place
- 2 – 8 1/4" lengths of the 1" x 2" primed pine board – to support the vertical side boards and adhere them to the base
- Crown molding to fit around the top of the unit
- 2 – 56" lengths of lattice (cut two more if you have another exposed side) – vertical pieces for trimming the exposed vertical side
- 3 – 6 1/4" lengths of lattice (cut two more if you have another exposed side) – horizontal pieces for trimming the exposed vertical side
- Optional: sheet of smooth 1/4" board cut to fit the back of your bench
- Scrap pieces of 1" x 2" for attaching your crown molding

## Bottom Bench Part 1: Building the Frame

### 1. Assemble the lower bench first.

For maximum stability, use a three-prong approach of wood glue, wood screws and nails using a nail gun, apply wood glue where wood meets wood and pre-drill all screw holes to avoid splitting. Make sure all your nails are going in straight. Glue, screw and nail the top horizontal board to the sides of the vertical boards. Repeat for the bottom board.

**2. Attach the stabilizing bottom piece using wood glue applied in a “S” or zig-zag pattern.** This allows for air to escape, whereas a circle would trap air.

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## Bottom Bench Part 2: Trim Work

### 1. Trim out the front of the bench using 1"x2" primed pine boards.

Attach the trim with glue and nail gun along the face of the bench. The trim will perfectly align with the double-board base and will overhang the width of the top and vertical pieces.

### 2. Next, trim out the sides using lattice pieces.

Glue and use nail gun with short nails to attach. If applying quarter round, take that into account when attaching lattice. Lattice may be placed above quarter round, not behind it.

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## Bottom Bench Part 3: Back, Prime & Paint

### 1. Next attach the backboard behind the bench cubbies (optional).

Glue and nail backboard to the bench frame.

### 2. Prime and paint the entire bench.

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## Bottom Bench Part 4: Bench Seat

### 1. Stain laminated pine and ¾" trim and coat with a polyurethane finish.

When dried, attach bench seat to the base with wood glue and nails.

**2. Cut and attach stained and finished trim to the exposed edges of the stained and mounted bench seat using wood glue and a nail gun.**

## Bottom Bench Part 5: Build In Your Built-In

### 1. Move the bench to the desired location and attach it to the wall and the floor.

For an added “built-in” look, add quarter round to the base.

### 2. Fill in any screw/nail spots on the painted portion with wood fill and touch up with paint.

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## Back/Upper Portion Part 1: Building the Frame

### 1. Build the frame for the shelf and sides.

Use wood glue and nails to install the bottom of the shelf, then add vertical dividers for the cubbies, as done on the lower bench.

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## Back/Upper Portion Part 2: Trim Work

### 1. Stabilize the unit and create a polished look by adding the 1"x2" primed pine board over your frame, as done to the face of the lower bench frame.

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## Back/Upper Portion Part 3: Attach to bench

### 1. Build the frame for the shelf and sides.

Using L brackets, mount the frame to the wall. If one or both of the vertical sides abuts a wall, screw the frame to the wall.

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## Back/Upper Portion Part 4: Install the Back Wall

### 1. Insert smooth board to fit in the upper frame (optional).

Using L brackets, mount the frame to the wall. If one or both of the vertical sides abuts a wall, screw the frame to the wall.

### 2. Use 1"x2" primed pine board for added support by adhering pieces where the inner panels of the upper frame side walls meet the bench seat.

### 3. Add a support for the upper storage by adding an 8 1/4" piece of MDF or plywood to the

**back of the unit, just under the bottom shelf of the storage cubbies.**

Attach brick molding over the MDF/plywood just under the shelf. Attach cove molding just below brick molding.

**4. Next, create a board and batten detail along the back wall by attaching a support piece of 1"x3" horizontally where the bottom of the upper frame meets the bench seat.**

Add four (depending on number of cubbies) vertical 1"x3" pieces against the back wall, between the two pieces of horizontal trim. One piece will line each of the side panels, with the other two evenly distributed along the back wall, coinciding with the vertical dividers of the storage cubbies.

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## Back/Upper Portion Part 5: Finishing Details

**1. Use 1"x2" primed pine board for added support by adhering pieces where the inner panels of the upper frame side walls meet the bench seat.**

Attach a piece of lattice board between the perimeter trim corresponding to the placement of the lower shelf of the cubbies.

**2. Attach crown molding to the top of the unit.**

You may use leftover scrap wood as support.

**3. Apply wood fill for every screw/nail hole.**

Use paintable caulk to cover all seams. Caulk can even be used where the unit meets the wall.

**4. Prime and paint the back/upper portion of the unit.**

**5. Install hooks on the horizontal MDF trim piece for added strength and insert baskets/trays in storage cubbies.**

Source: [houseupdated.com](http://houseupdated.com)