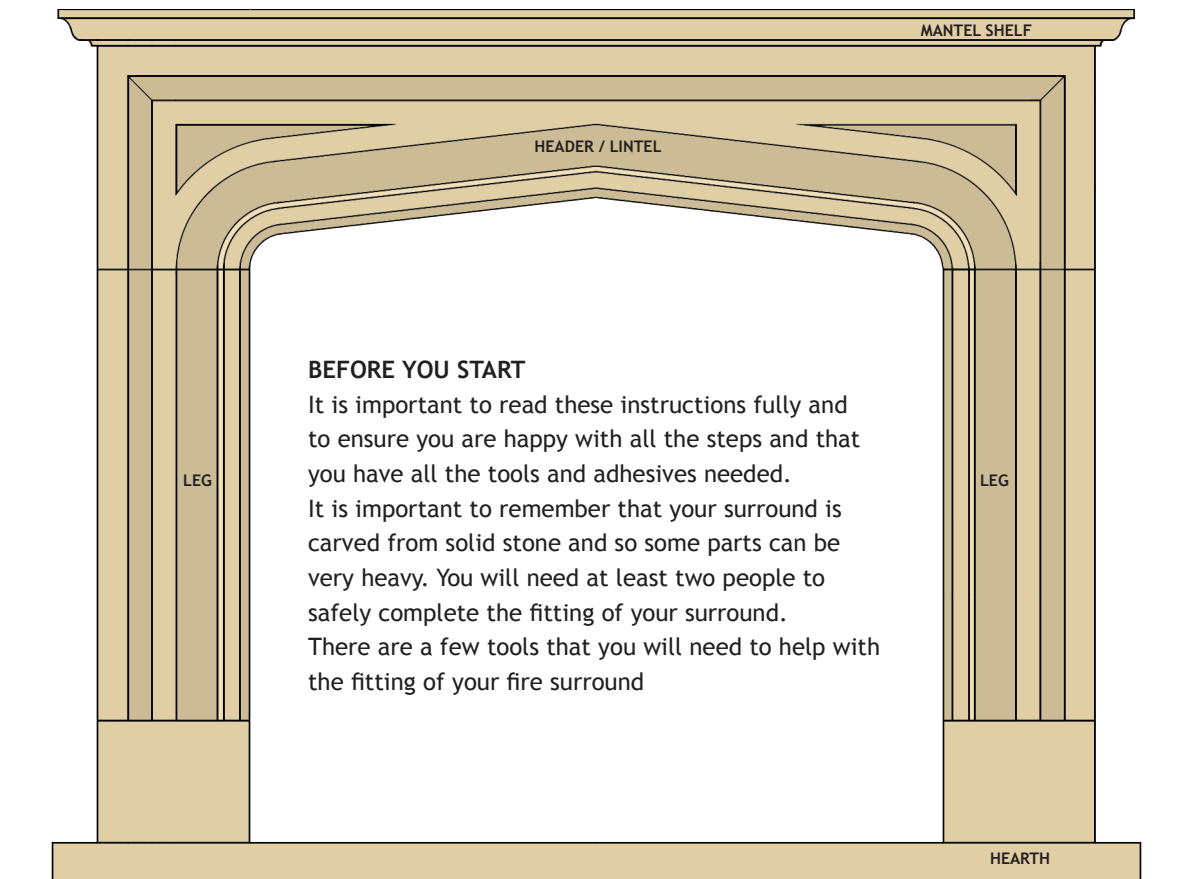


# ELIZABETHAN FITTING GUIDE



## BEFORE YOU START

It is important to read these instructions fully and to ensure you are happy with all the steps and that you have all the tools and adhesives needed. It is important to remember that your surround is carved from solid stone and so some parts can be very heavy. You will need at least two people to safely complete the fitting of your surround. There are a few tools that you will need to help with the fitting of your fire surround

## ESSENTIALS

Tape measure & pencil

Spirit level, ideally around 800-1000 mm in length or longer (a shorter spirit level will not be as accurate over wide distances)

Spacers (will be in your fitting kit if one was ordered)

Adhesive (will be in your fitting kit if one was ordered, alternatively see SUGGESTED ADHESIVES below) & trowel for mixing

Tile adhesive (see SUGGESTED ADHESIVES below)

Pieces of unwanted cardboard (to mix up the glue & to protect the legs on the hearth), that can be thrown away once finished

Drill with assorted masonry drill bits

2 buckets and a clean sponge

Rubber mallet (useful but not essential), small tool for mixing and applying the glue & masking tape

## SUGGESTED ADHESIVES

(Based on products we use and have used to fit fire surrounds, other similar products may be available locally, always consult with the retailer if unsure a product is fit for purpose)

**JOLLY** - A two part resin adhesive available in various colors, has a curing time that is dependent on stone and ambient temperature, we recommend testing a small amount first so you are aware how long you have to work with it before it cures. Curing times also vary depending on the color, for example the gold & clear glues cure slower than white or straw colors.

**ARDEX X7RW** - Is a flexible white tile adhesive, it has a relatively quick curing time and does not slump like cement does.

**CHEMICAL ADHESIVES** - Due to recent Health & Safety recommendations for the fitting of fire surrounds we now use the pin & bracket fixing procedures shown in these instructions. There are now more pins and fixings so it may be easier to effectively get adhesive in and around the holes and pins with a chemical adhesive than with the Jolly resin adhesive. You will need a caulking gun to apply any of the Chemical adhesives available.

Two products that we have used are -

**FISCHER F-BOND**, FIP300SF Polyester styrene free 300ml & **RAWLPLUG R-KEN+** Polyester styrene free 300ml, there is very little difference in the curing times of either of these two products, at 20°C the FISCHER has a work time of 5-10 mins and a curing time of 60 mins and the RAWLPLUG has a work time of 7 mins and a curing time of 50 mins

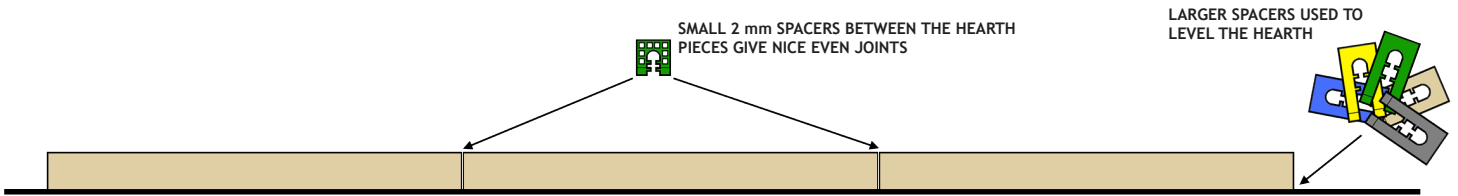
**NOTE:** Stated working/curing times are taken from the technical data of the two products and will vary depending on stone, product and ambient temperature and as such should be used as a guide only. We will always recommend testing a small amount of any adhesive first so you are fully aware of the working times you have.

## 1. FIXING DOWN THE HEARTH

This is probably the most important step, ensuring the hearth is nice and level will make the fitting easier. A stone, marble or granite (usually but not exclusively) hearth will usually come in a solid 50 mm thick stone in one piece or three equal pieces.

We would generally use a mix of glue and tile adhesive to fix down hearths, and a quick curing adhesive on the spacers, this enables the rest of the fitting to carry on straight away. The tile adhesive (you could use cement instead) then forms a supporting bed for the hearth once it sets fully.

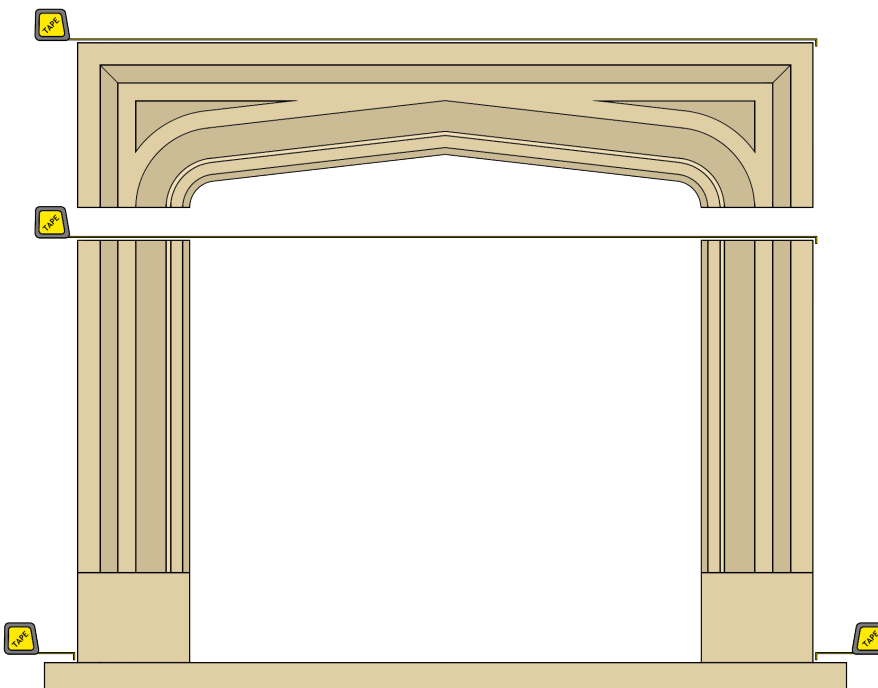
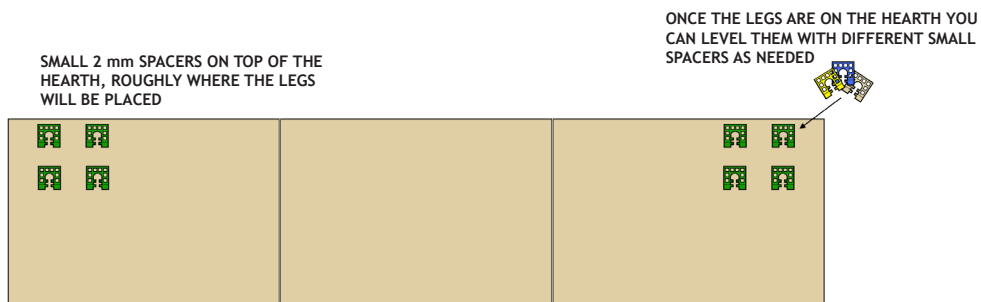
The hearth will need to be laid centrally to your opening, if the opening is on a chimney breast and this is not central you will need to decide if you are going to centralise off the opening or the chimney breast.



*TIP. You can mix sand with tile adhesive to make it go further*

Alternatively our slate hearths and some granite ones are supplied boxed flush with the top stone in either one piece or three equal pieces, shown on the left.

With a boxed hearth, as there will be a void underneath you will need to ensure there is plenty of cement or tile adhesive under to provide adequate support for the stone.

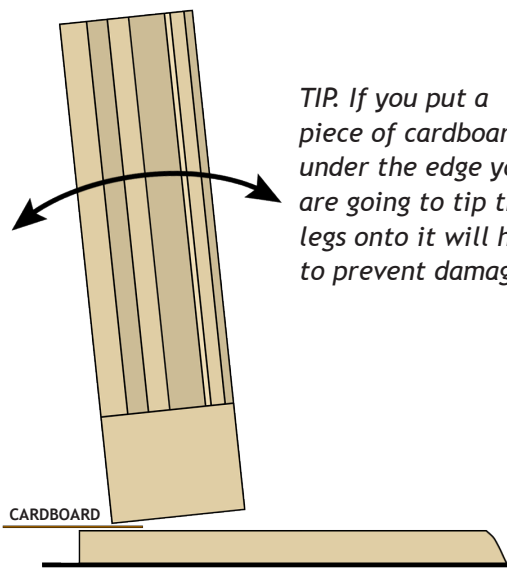


## 2. GETTING THE LEGS IN PLACE

It is important that you always have spacers between two pieces of stone, this protects the stone and also enables you to move the pieces around easier.

Place the legs on the hearth in roughly the right place on to spacers as shown then you can measure the header length. The header length will be the distance the legs have to be apart

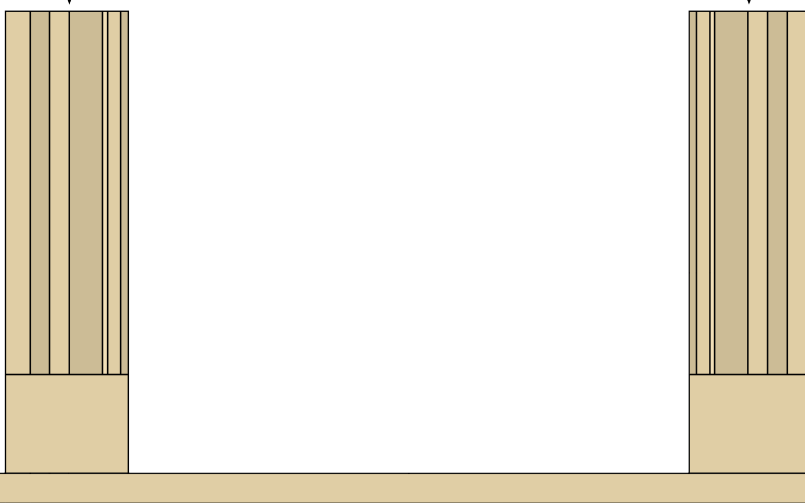
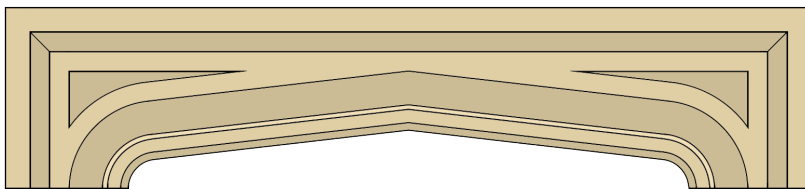
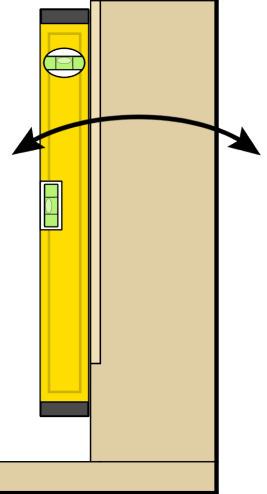
*TIP. If you put a piece of cardboard under the edge you are going to tip the legs onto it will help to prevent damage*



With a spirit level make sure the legs are both upright side to side and front to back and adjust with small spacers as required.

There are not many walls that are perfectly level so it is important to use common sense when leveling the legs, e.g. if your wall tips back you may need to have the legs tip back a little to keep the joint between the back of the legs and the wall as even as possible.

It may also be necessary to trim a little brick or plaster to get the legs back against the wall.



### 3. DRY RUN THE HEADER

Once you are happy the legs are nice and level place small green spacers on top of each leg and then carefully lift the header up on top of them.

You can now use the rubber mallet to carefully tap the pieces to make sure everything lines up.

Check levels and adjust the spacers if needed.

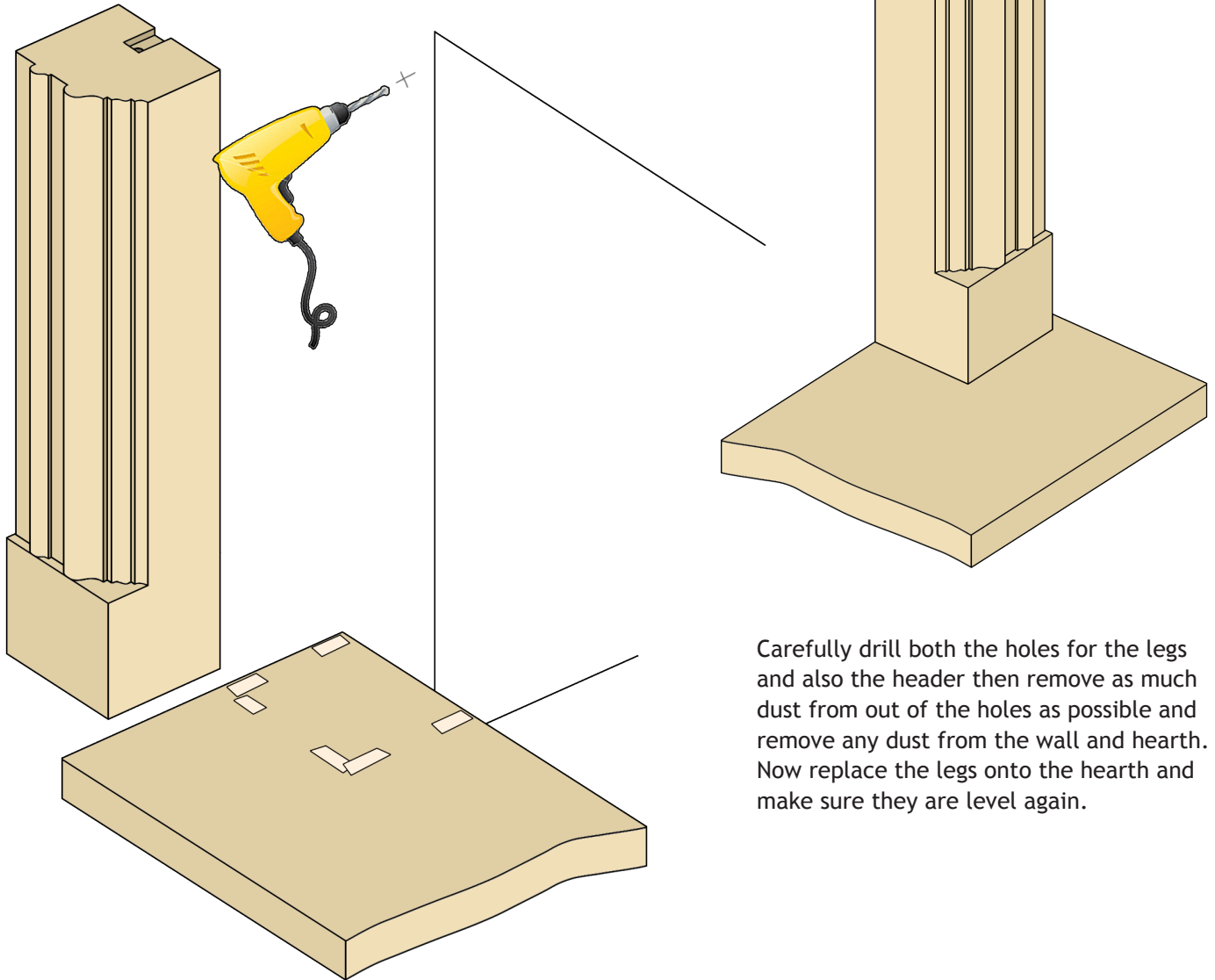
Now the header is in the correct position you can mark on the wall where you will need to drill the holes for the fixing pins.

Once you are happy, carefully remove the header without moving the legs.

*NOTE. We are constantly refining the fitting process so the pins supplied and holes/channels drilled/cut in your fire surround may differ from those shown here. Any changes should be obvious but please let us know if you have any questions regarding the pins etc*

#### 4. MARKING AND DRILLING THE WALL

With the leg in place carefully mark the wall with a pencil.  
Before you move the legs take a pencil or masking tape and mark the position of the legs on the hearth and walls, this will make it easier for you to re-locate them after drilling.  
Remember to make a note of the spacers you used under the legs so you can make sure they go back in the correct place when fixing.



Carefully drill both the holes for the legs and also the header then remove as much dust from out of the holes as possible and remove any dust from the wall and hearth. Now replace the legs onto the hearth and make sure they are level again.

#### 5. THE BIG GLUE

We refer to the next step as the big glue, once the holes have been drilled in the wall and the legs are back on the hearth all level its time to fix everything down.

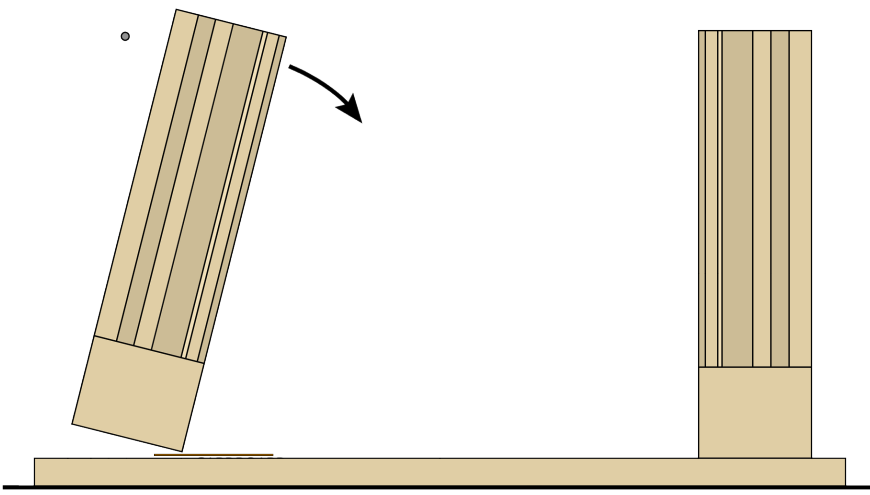
As you are going to fix the legs to the hearth and wall and also to the header in one step it is important you are prepared and ready.

You may need a bit of time to get everything glued in one so it is important to use an adhesive you are both comfortable with and also that will give you a long enough working time.

e.g. With the 2 part Jolly resin - the clear or gold colors have a much longer working time than the white or straw colors. If you are unsure always test some first.

*TIP. If you are really unsure about using some of the quicker acting adhesives for this step, Gripfill or Stixall may also be considered as they have quite a long working time. You will however have to leave the fitting after the big glue to allow them to set properly before you continue. Always consult the product packaging for curing times and if in any doubt check with the retailer for suitability.*

*A chemical fixative may also be good for fixing the pins into the wall as their nozzles will be able to get deep into the holes.*

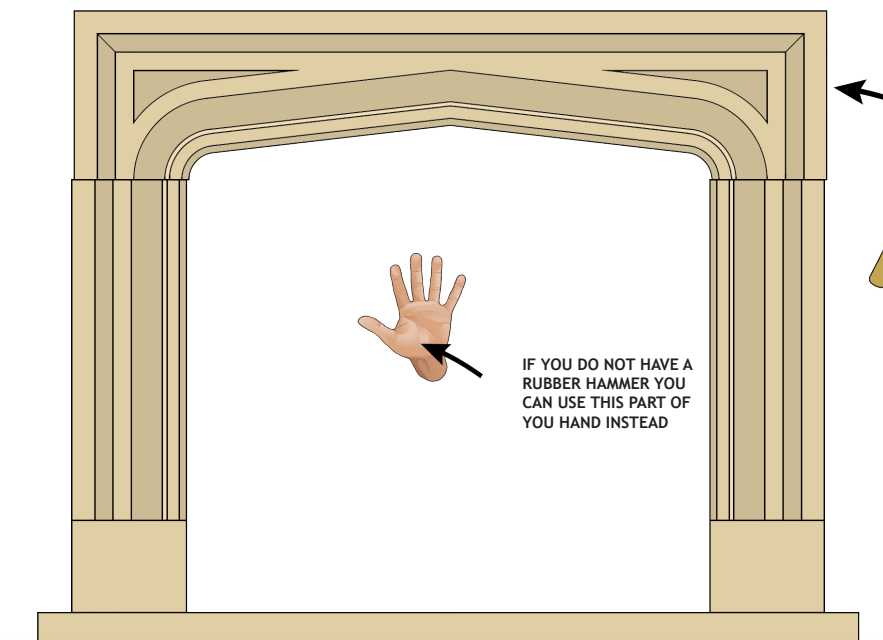
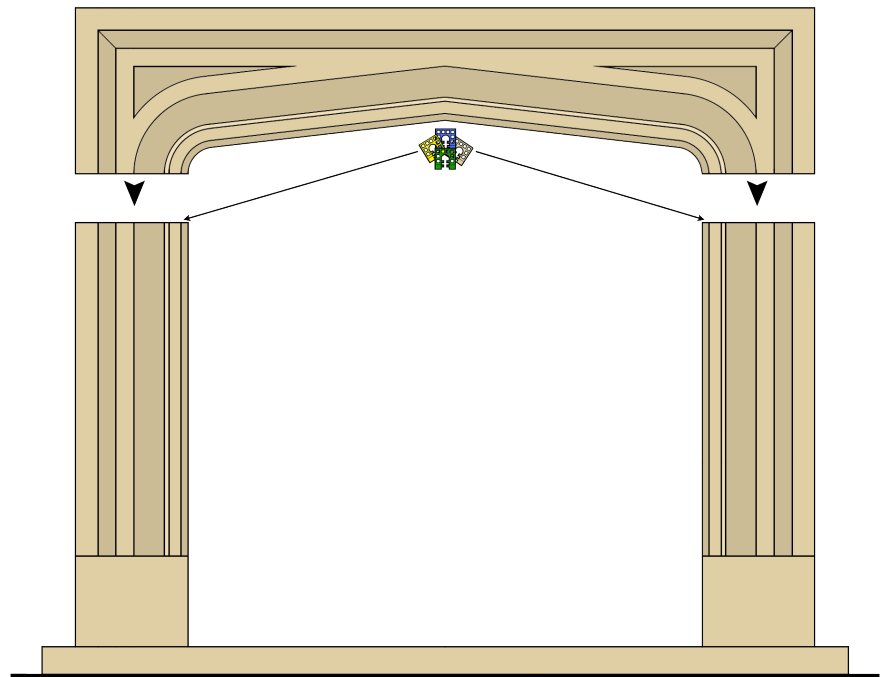


Carefully tip each leg and apply glue on and around the spacers underneath then tip back upright making sure each leg is in the correct position.

Next glue the pins into place making sure you have plenty of glue in the holes and on the pins.

Make sure all the spacers are nicely tucked under the legs and not sticking out. If any are sticking out a little they can be pushed under with another spacer.

Put your spacers back in place on top of the legs and apply small amounts of glue to them, make sure not to apply too much glue toward the edges to help minimize the amount of glue that squeezes out through the joints. Then carefully lift the header into place. Use a rubber hammer to tap all the pieces so they line up and are nice and square to the wall.

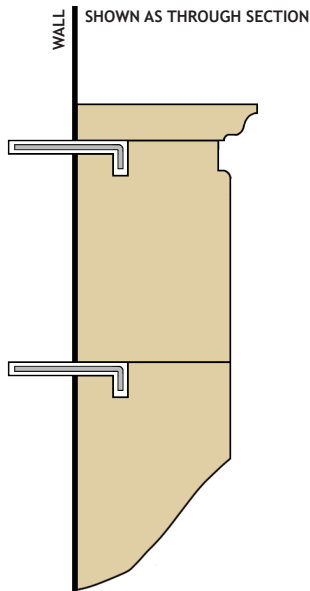


IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A RUBBER HAMMER YOU CAN USE THIS PART OF YOU HAND INSTEAD

Once everything is in place you can glue the pins into the header. Then wait until all the glue has cured enough so that there is no movement.

*TIP. Any excess glue that squeezes through the joints will need to be removed before it cures fully, most chemical fixatives and the 2 part resins will have a rubbery stage before they go completely hard.*

**SEE NOTES AT THE END OF THIS GUIDE FOR REMOVAL OF CURED ADHESIVES**



#### 6. FIXING THE MANTEL SHELF

The mantel shelf on the standard Elizabethan fire surround is quite thin and does not project very far so is simply glued onto the lintel.

Carefully place the mantel shelf onto small green spacers then level as required with small spacers. Once happy remove the mantel shelf again.

Apply glue onto the spacers on top of the header and then lift the mantel shelf up into place making sure it is central to the header then when happy leave for the glue to cure so there is no movement.

#### 7. FILLING JOINTS

Fill all the joints between the stone parts and in the hearth, washing down with water and a sponge as you go to remove any excess filler or caulk.

The guide below will help you choose the best material for your surround.

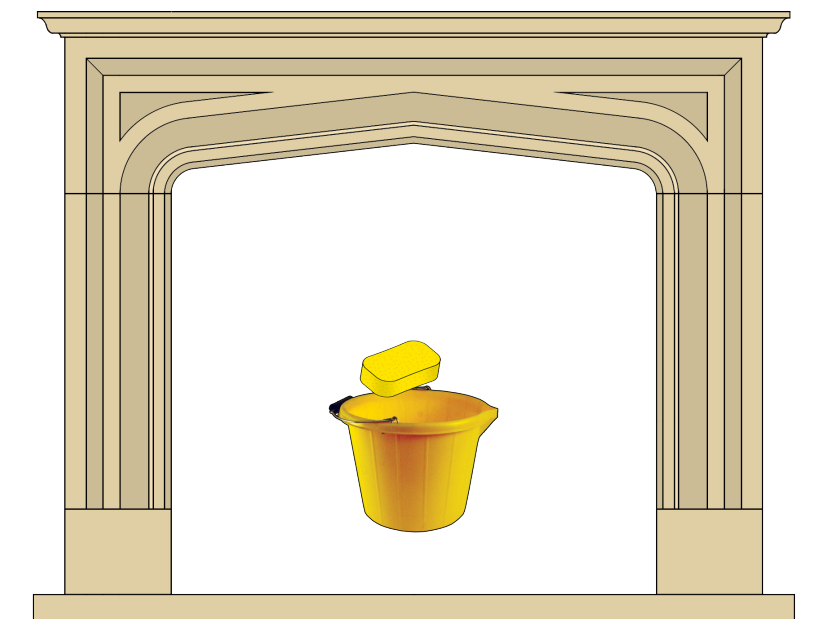
**LIMESTONE** - White tile adhesive does a good job for limestone fire surrounds, if it is very white you may need to add a tiny amount of buff colored cementone to get a better color match.

**SANDSTONE** - Sand & White Cement is ideal but it can be difficult to get it to stay in the joints. Sand mixed with white tile adhesive stays in the joints better and is similar in color

**WHITE MARBLE** - White Decorators Caulk. For some older white marble surrounds the caulk may be a little too white so you can use white tile adhesive instead as this is usually not quite as brilliant white in color

**SLATE & GRANITE** - White tile adhesive mixed with black cementone, you will need quite a lot of the cementone to get a black rather than a dark grey.

**WARNING.** *With the black cementone be extra careful when filling the joints on the hearth if your finished floor surface is already installed, this can be very messy when removing the excess and may stain carpets.*



#### 8. FINISHING OFF

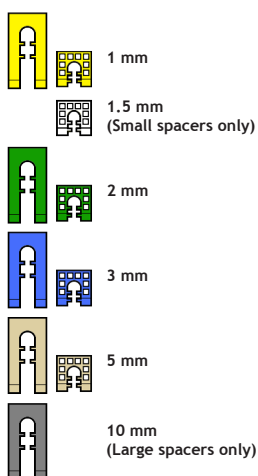
Once all the joints are filled the only thing left to do is to give the surround a good wash down with clean water and a sponge.

Limestone and sandstone fire surrounds may require a couple of washes to get all the residual dust off.

*TIP. If you have a limestone or sandstone surround and intend on sealing the stone to prevent any staining it is important that you give the surround plenty of time to dry out first before sealing, this may take a few days or even a few weeks depending on the temperature in the room.*

## NOTES

1. We always start with 2 mm spacers for all the joints and adjust as needed to get pieces straight and level. Larger spacers are used for the hearth and smaller ones for the rest of the surround. You can easily cut the spacers with a sharp Stanley knife if needed.
  2. If you use a two part resin some of them go through a rubbery stage before they go completely hard, it is important to remove any excess that squeezes through the joints when it is in the rubbery stage. It will be much easier to remove when rubbery than hard.
- Most of the chemical adhesives also have a rubbery or gel stage before they cure completely
3. After caulking it is important to wash down the surround thoroughly to ensure any excess caulking is removed from the surround before it sets.
  4. Sandstone and limestone fire surrounds and hearths can be gently sanded with a 80 or 220 grit sand paper to remove any pencil marks and adhesive or caulk that has dried hard. Extreme caution must be taken if your surround or hearth has a high polish surface so as not to damage the finish.
  5. When marking the position of the leg/footblock on the wall and hearth, rather than pencil you can use masking tape instead.



### IF WE SUPPLIED A FITTING KIT

The fitting kit will come with an assortment of both large and small spacers, the thickness and color is shown on the left.

The fire surround comes with the stonework and the metal fixings required to fit the surround, and the fitting kit also includes 2 part resin adhesive appropriate for your surround.

***AFTER THE ANTIQUE LIMITED supplies this guide for the fitting of fire surrounds supplied only by After the Antique only. To be used as a guide only, we cannot take any responsibility for the correct installation of your fire surround.***

*Installation of fireplaces, hearths, gas fire, flues and their related appliances are governed within the UK by building regulations approved document J 2010 edition.*

*Document J outlines various British Standards that cover all aspect of fireplace installation. A number of those listed include BS5871 part 3, B5440 part 1, BS1251, BS8303 part 3, BS6461, BS5258 and BS8000. Also the fixing of stonework is covered by BS8298 'Code of Practice for Design and Installation of Natural Stone Cladding and Lining'*

*While many stages of the surround installation are suitable for someone experienced in general building practices, others like the installation of appliances for solid fuel, flue lining, gas work and the sweeping/testing of flues must be carried out by a suitably qualified professional.*

*In your own interest and safety, it is law that all gas appliances are installed by a competent person, in accordance with the current Gas Safety Regulations by a registered GAS SAFE installer.*

*In your own interest and safety, it is law that all solid fuel appliances are installed by a competent person who is HETAS registered.*

***If you have any questions at all regarding your installation please contact us on 01366 327 210***

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES