

# MITREPLAN PROJECT PLANNER

## Install or repair plasterboard



- An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a perfect result.
- Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.
- Includes a materials checklist.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is worth your time to read all steps thoroughly first to be sure you understand what is required.

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# #6

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**MIGHTY HELPFUL™ MITRE 10**



butt joints or corners occur. Put enough adhesive for one sheet at a time. Any more and adhesion would be lost as the glue may form a skin.

Place the plasterboard sheet into position against the wall. It should fit to within 15-30mm from the ceiling. Nail the recessed edges to the studs, then cut the edge, and any inside or outside angles. Use one nail every 150mm and around doors, windows and openings, nail every 300mm. Proper plasterboard nails are 'cupped' so they sit just below the surface without breaking the paper surface (Fig. 4). You'll be covering them later with plaster for invisible fixing. Use temporary plasterboard backs to make sure the board is pressed hard against the studs (Fig. 5) and leave 24 hours for the adhesive to dry. Leave a 10mm gap at floor level to allow for any house movement. External metal corner beads are nailed at 300mm intervals along each side.

### Step 6: Making neat joints

When all the boards are nailed they must be 'taped and bedded' for a smooth surface.

Lay the sticky side of the tape along the recessed joint and smooth firmly by hand. Cover the tape with a thin layer of jointing cement to a width of 100mm using the 150mm broadknife (Fig. 7).

Allow this to dry – it usually takes 24 hours. Then fill the area with cement to a width of 120mm until it's level with the surface of the board. When this coat is dry use the 250mm broadknife to spread the cement to a width of 250mm. Soften the outer edges with a water-moistened paint brush. Tilt one corner of the broadknife and smooth the edges of the cement leaving about a 1.5mm hump over the middle. After 24 hours, sand level and smooth with the 180 grit sandpaper.

Treat butt joints in the same way, except set the second coat of cement to 300mm wide and the third to 550mm wide. Outside corners edged with metal corner bead need a third coat of 250mm width on each face.

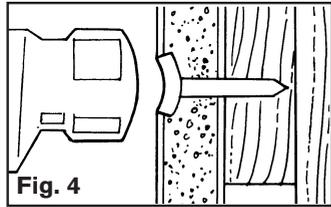


Fig. 4

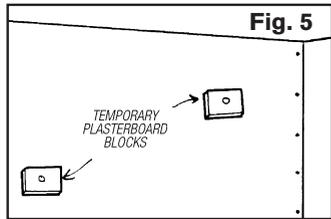


Fig. 5

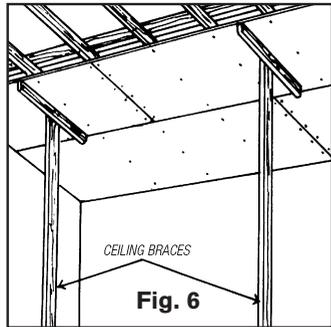


Fig. 6

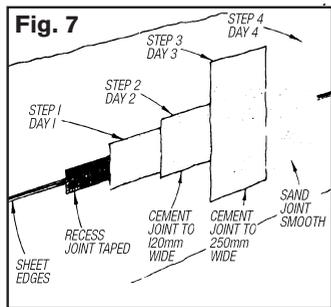


Fig. 7

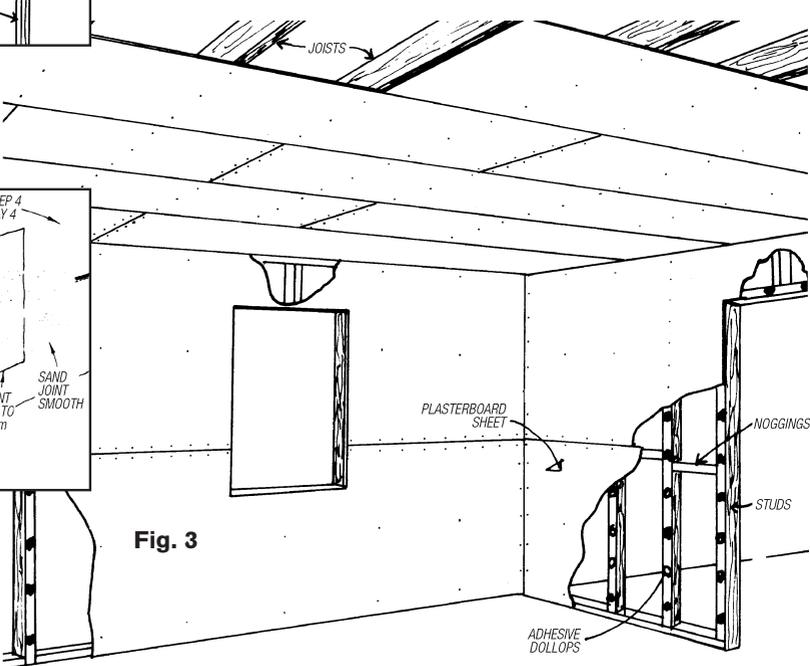


Fig. 3

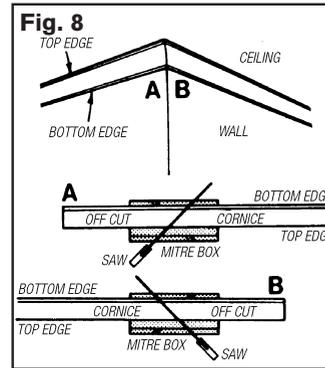


Fig. 8

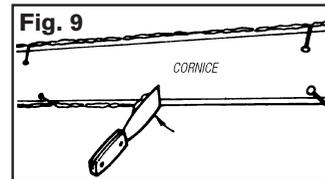


Fig. 9

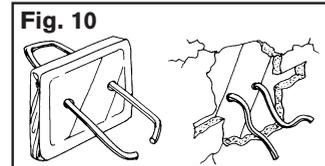


Fig. 10

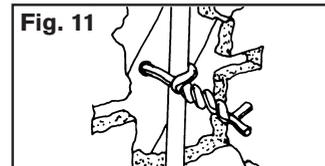


Fig. 11

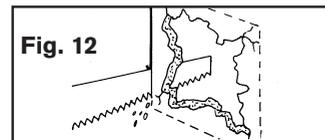


Fig. 12

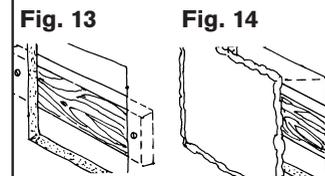


Fig. 13

Fig. 14

For inside corners, cut the tape to the exact length and lay from the top down. Place the centre of it into the angle and smooth firmly. Spread cement 100mm down one side only. After 24 hours, do the same on the other side, giving it a further 24 hours drying time. All nail indentations are covered with three coats of cement and sanded smooth when dry.

### Step 7: Putting up cornice

Mitre cut the cornice to the exact length using your mitre box, always keeping the wall edge uppermost on the outer side of the box (Fig. 8). To ensure an equal fit on both walls and ceilings, measure and mark down 55mm from the ceiling. Starting with the shorter lengths, apply 10mm wide beads of cornice cement along the back edge of the cornice and press firmly into the wall and ceiling angle (Fig. 9). Remove surplus cement and clean with a damp brush or sponge. Remove nails once adhesive is dry.

So you see, even if you've never done anything like this before, you can get professional results by doing it yourself. And doing it yourself – and saving money – is what this MitrePlan is all about.

### Repairing plasterboard

Unsightly holes often occur in plasterboard walls of old and new homes alike, especially when lively children are about. Or structural movement may cause cracks to appear. Fixing even large holes and cracks is simple with the range of modern filling compounds available today, many already pre-mixed and ready to use. Your Mitre 10 store will be happy to help you pick the right one for the job you have in mind.

For small cracks and holes use the edge of a stripping knife to remove any loose material. Brush out so there's no dust left. Using a filling knife, press the filler into the crack or hole, leaving it a little higher than the surrounding surface for shrinkage. When dry, sand to make the surface flush. Small but deep holes are best filled in two or three layers.

Larger holes may need some sort of backing to support the filling while it sets. A tin or plastic lid, larger than the hole, is a good improvisation. Drill two holes in it and loop a wire through it (Fig. 10). Cut slots in the plaster and slide the backing in holding onto the wire.

Twist the wire around a piece of dowel or wood to hold firmly in place (Fig. 11). Now apply your filler, leaving the centre below the wall surface. When dry, cut off the wire and apply the finishing layer of filling.

For even larger holes, you'll need a plasterboard offcut that is slightly bigger than the hole, so damaged plasterboard can be cut away. Place your offcut over the hole and run a pencil around it. Cut out the marked shape on the wall (Fig. 12). Next, cut a strip of timber about 200mm wider than the hole you've cut in the wall. Drill holes in the plasterboard and screw the timber in place (Fig. 13). Countersink the screws in the plaster. Spread some contact glue on the timber and filling compound around the edges of the patch and ease into place until the glue grips (Fig. 14). Allow to dry before filling any remaining cracks and screw holes.

## MIGHTY HELPFUL HINTS TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER

- When carrying a sheet of plasterboard, grip it at each side at about shoulder height and tilt back the top so you can walk without kicking it – if you allow it to tilt forward, it may pull you over.
- Use offcuts of 10mm plasterboard to keep your wall sheets 10mm clear of the floor. This gap allows for house settlement.
- Ask a friend to give you a hand when doing the ceiling.
- Use a plasterboard sealer before painting for best results. It makes both the board and cemented surfaces equally porous. A flat finish paint is best for hiding any imperfections.
- If wallpapering, an oil based sealer ensures that you'll be able to remove the wallpaper later if you wish without damaging the surface of the plasterboard.
- Put a temporary nail on the wall mark about 200mm from each corner to support the ends of a long piece of cornice while fixing it.
- Don't nail over glue joints – when the glue dries it shrinks, forcing the nails to stand above the surface of the board.
- When mixing cornice cement, put a small amount of clean water in a bucket and add the cement to it a bit at a time for a consistent, creamy mix. Lemon juice can be added to the cement to retard its setting time.

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