

Ready and Waiting

by Fran Casselman

Setting:

- #41782 Green Imperial Stripe Wallpaper
- #7021 Black Walnut Wood Flooring
- #5031 Traditional Slim Working Window
- #25793 White Drapes with Cornice
- #25794 Sheer White Panel
- #42342 Caspian Rug

Furnishings:

- #76417 Miller Estate Grandfather Clock
- #53148 Comfortable Cream Sateen Sofa
- #53152 Circle and Columns Coffee Table
- #53153 Circle and Columns Occasional Table
- #53149 Comfortable Cream Sateen Armchair

On fireplace wall:

- #54016 Turned Candlesticks Trio
- #5745 Framed Renaissance Lady (Blond)
- #78575 3 Rows of Books
- #68024 Small Square Terra-Cotta Pot
- #66087 Red, White and Green Stocking
- #45134 Christmas Pillar Candle
- #49108 3-Pc. Della Robbia Garland Set
- #22426 Black Swan
- #33994 Antique Baroque Mirror
- #2331 Grate with 12V Lighted Embers
- #66083 Red and White Stocking
- #5013 Set of 12 Handcrafted Books
- #5738 Framed Renaissance Lady (Brunet)
- #62721 10 Peppermint Candy Canes
- #62720 10 Peppermint Lollipops
- #3092 Six-Pc. Glass Canister Set
- #1639 Red Poinsettia
- #1640 White Poinsettia
- #40330 Pair of Scroll Bookends
- #40601 Row of Old Books
- #40610 Row of Worn Books
- #40340 Pair of Horse Bookends
- #40630 Stack of Books
- #40640 Stack of Encyclopedias



Accessories:

- #62308 Poinsettia Arrangement in Woven Basket
- #23404 Resting Golden Retriever
- #29878 Socks (cat)
- #39116 Della Robbia Christmas Tree
- #25017 Set of 6 Large Assorted Wrapped Packages
- #36196 Better Homes & Gardens "Simply Joyful" Magazine
- #23962 Oval Silver Basket
- #41041 Six Vintage Christmas Cards
- #25687 Lycopodium
- #32061 "A Christmas Carol" Book
- #44119 Large Present with Bow
- #44105 Triple-Stack Wrapped Presents
- #53980 3-Pc. Liquor Gift Set
- #6090 "The Night Before Christmas" Book
- #40620 Stack of Large Books
- #88107 Holiday Fruit Bowl

Crafty Extras:

- Pillows and throw made from wired craft ribbon, remove wire for pillows.
- See below for construction instructions for fireplace/bookcase unit.
- Used Holliday Gift Bags and Letters to Santa printies.

Fireplace/bookcase wall unit

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The fireplace/bookcase unit shown uses two modified #6942 Pediment-Top Bookcase Kits

Materials & tools:

#6942 Pediment-Top Bookcase Kits
#2403 Jamestown Fireplace
#17512 3/8" width Strip wood
#17513 1/2" width Strip wood
#778 1/2"-Scale Rough Brick Sheet
#7069 Small Crown Moulding
Gray-black acrylic paint
Clear satin varnish

Cut back and side pieces of bookcase kits to height of fireplace. Assemble bookcases according to kit instructions, using the larger spacing template for the two lower shelves. Install the toe-kick panel at the front edge, not recessed. *Tip: Save leftover bookcase pieces for other future projects.*

Glue spacer pieces of strip wood to sides of bookcases, flush with front and back; 3/8" width strip wood near the fireplace and 1/2" width strip wood at the outside. Add end panels if needed for your installation.

From the back of the fireplace, trim away the side mantel overhang to allow the modified bookcase to fit directly against the fireplace. Do not cut away the front of the mantel; allow it to extend over the spacer piece.

Finish fireplace hearth and firebox as desired. I used a scrap piece of 1/2"-Scale Rough Brick Sheet for the firebox, dry-brushed with gray-black acrylic paint over white primer for an uneven look. (The firebox is open at the top back, so it is easy to insert an interior piece.) The "slate" surrounding the firebox opening is a small

laminated countertop sample, cut to fit and scored to look like tiles. (Install after finishing.)

Sand as needed and paint the components as desired. Also paint a short length of small crown moulding to trim the top of the bookcases.

When all the paint is dry, glue the three components together, making sure they are flush at the back and bottom.

After the glue has dried, add the trim molding to the top of the bookcases, cutting the fireplace end to fit against the mantel edge. (If needed for your installation, miter the open end and continue the molding around the corner.)

To create an even top surface, put the assembled unit upside down on a piece of poster board or smooth-surface mat board. Trace the outline of the top and cut out. Paint all sides, including edges, and let dry well. Glue the top to the unit, clamping and/or weighting as needed.

Sand and touch up paint as needed. Apply one or two coats of clear satin varnish to entire unit.