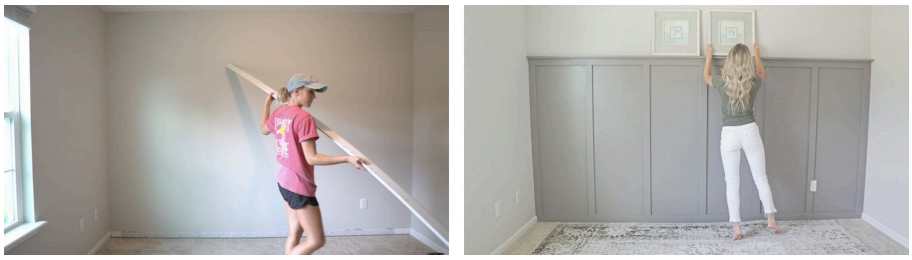
DIY Board and Batten Accent Wall

Add a board and batten accent wall for about $100 in lumber and paint. Ours is 131 1/2" wide, with hardboard panels to cover textured walls, a new baseboard, seven vertical battens and a top ledge.



Before (left) and after (right)

Tools

- [ ] Miter saw or circular saw
- [ ] Brad nailer with 1 1/4" brad nails
- [ ] Multi-tool (if you need to cut the existing baseboard)
- [ ] Jig saw (if you need to notch around an outlet)
- [ ] Tape measure
- [ ] Level
- [ ] Speed square
- [ ] Utility knife
- [ ] Pry bar
- [ ] Hammer and nail set
- [ ] Putty knife
- [ ] Caulk gun
- [ ] Safety glasses
- [ ] Painting supplies

Supplies

- [ ] Liquid Nails
- [ ] Wood filler
- [ ] Paintable caulk
- [ ] 320 grit sandpaper
- [ ] Painters tape
- [ ] Primer
- [ ] Paint: Creek Bend, Behr

Lumber list

Qty	Material	Used for
2	1" x 4" x 6'	Baseboard
7	1" x 3" x 8'	Vertical battens, top board and ledge
3	1/8" hardboard, 4' x 8' sheets	Covering textured walls (optional)

Cut list

Qty	Material	Length	Used for
1	1" x 4"	131 1/2" (two boards joined)	Baseboard
2	1" x 3"	131 1/2" (two boards joined)	Top board and ledge
7	1" x 3"	58"	Vertical battens

Lengths are for a 131 1/2" wide wall. Measure your own wall and adjust.

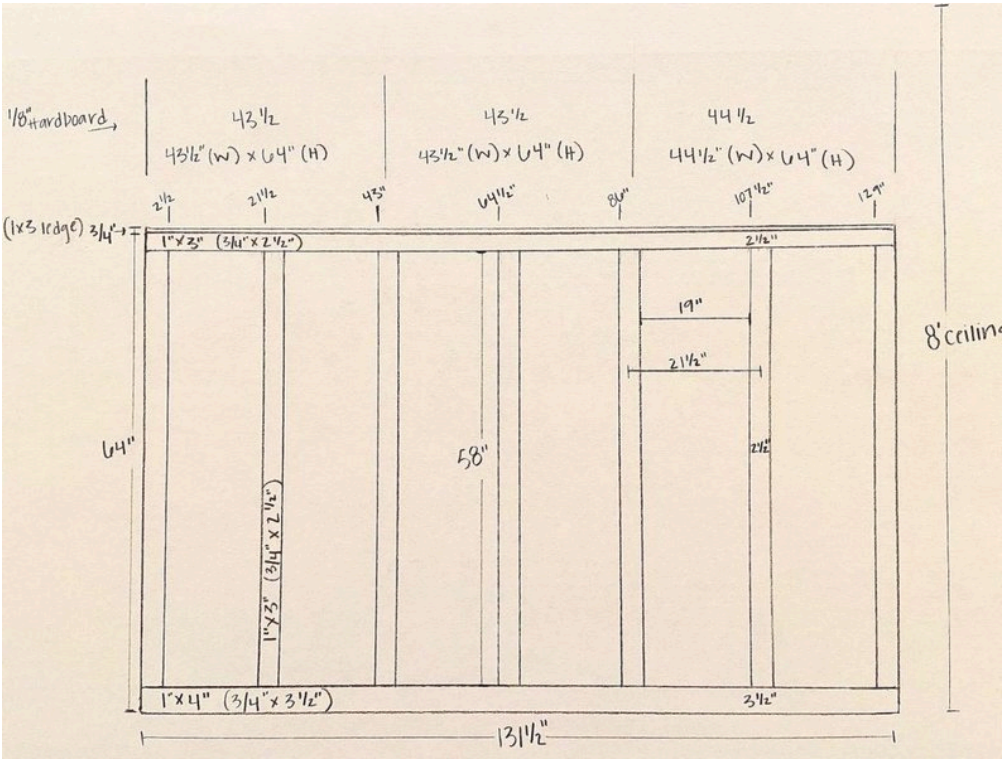
Cost

Item	Cost
Lumber	$87
Paint	$16

Prices from 2020. To spend less, use unprimed boards, or rip a 4' x 8' MDF sheet into strips on a table saw. This plan contains affiliate links. If you buy through one, I earn a small commission at no extra cost to you.

Step 1: Make a plan

Sketch your wall on paper and decide where the battens go. Write down every measurement so you can build your cut list.



Step 2: Remove the baseboard

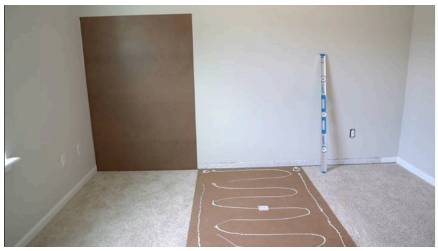
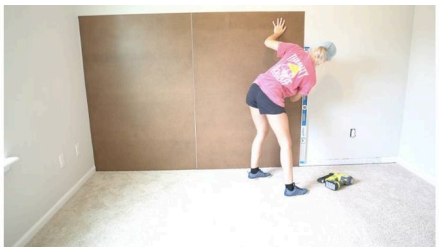
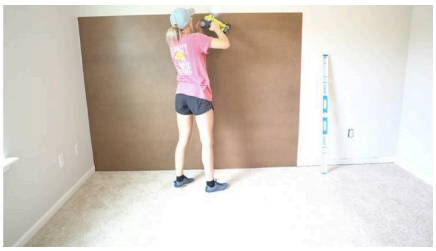
Hold a batten against your existing baseboard to see how they line up. For a seamless look, replace the baseboard with a 1" x 3" or 1" x 4" board. It's fine if the new baseboard isn't the same height as the baseboard on the other walls.

To remove it, score the caulk with a utility knife, then carefully pry the trim off the wall with a pry bar. Pull out any leftover nails.

Step 3: Install hardboard (for textured walls)

If your walls are textured, 1/8" hardboard panels give you a smooth surface so the paint looks much more professional. Skip this step if your walls are smooth. Home Depot can cut the panels to size for you.

1. Plan the panel layout so every seam lands behind a vertical batten.
2. Remove outlet and switch covers.
3. Apply plenty of Liquid Nails to the back of a panel, press it onto the wall, and spread your weight across it so the glue grabs. Check it with a level.
4. Brad nail only the outside edges, where the battens will cover the nail holes.
5. For outlets, transfer the measurements to the panel, drill a hole in each corner of the rectangle, and cut it out with a jig saw.

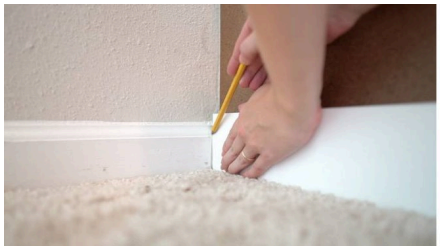
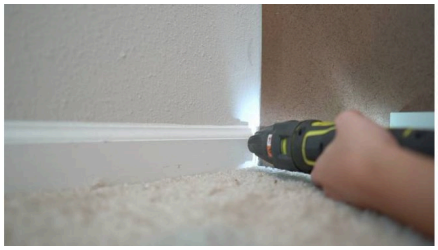






Step 4: Install the baseboard and top board

You may need to notch the existing baseboard on the side walls so the new baseboard fits. Mark where to cut and cut it with a multi-tool. Secure the new baseboard with Liquid Nails and brad nails.

For the top board, measure up from the floor (or down from the ceiling) to where you want it. Nail one end, level the board, then nail the rest.

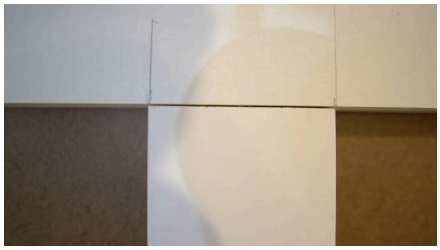


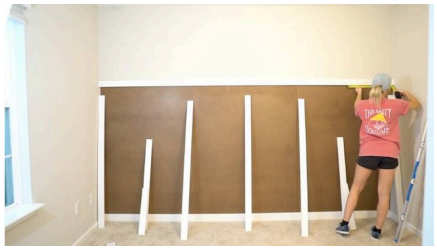


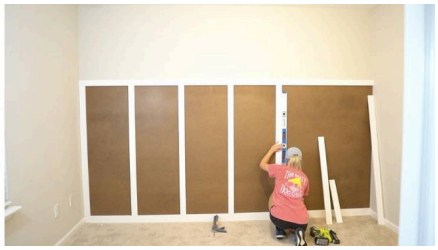

Step 5: Install the vertical battens

Mark where each batten goes on the top board. Measure from the baseboard to the top board for each one, since they may all be slightly different. Cut them and dry fit them.

Check each batten with a level, then secure it with Liquid Nails and brad nails. Notch around any outlets or switches with a jig saw.





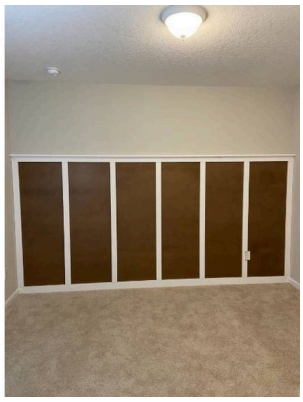




Step 6: Install the top ledge

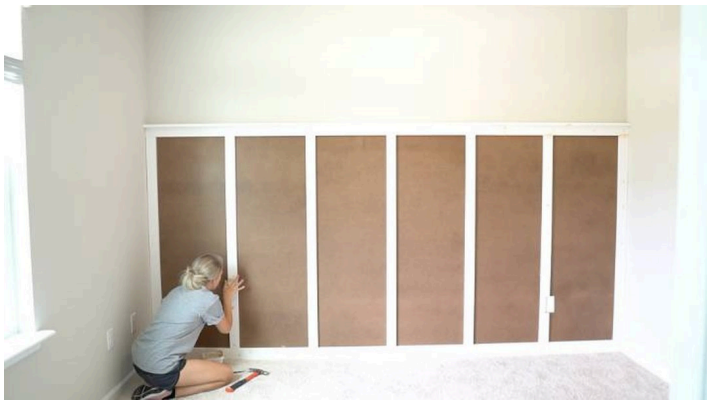
Secure a 1" x 3" ledge on top of the top board with Liquid Nails and brad nails. I pieced mine together from scrap boards to reach 131 1/2".





Step 7: Fill the nail holes

Fill all the nail holes and the joints where the battens meet the horizontal boards. If any nails stick out, set them with a hammer and nail set first.



Step 8: Sand

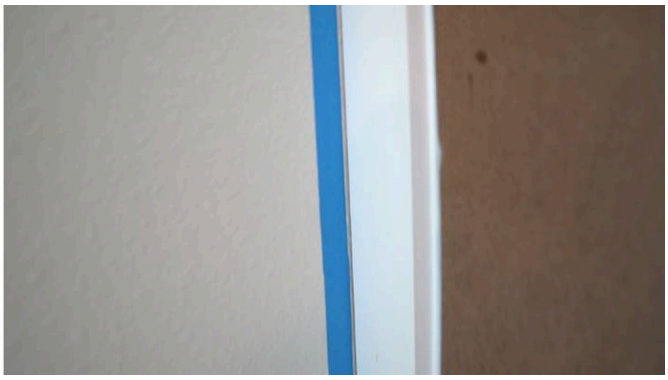
Sand off the extra wood filler with 320 grit sandpaper, then lightly sand every board before painting.

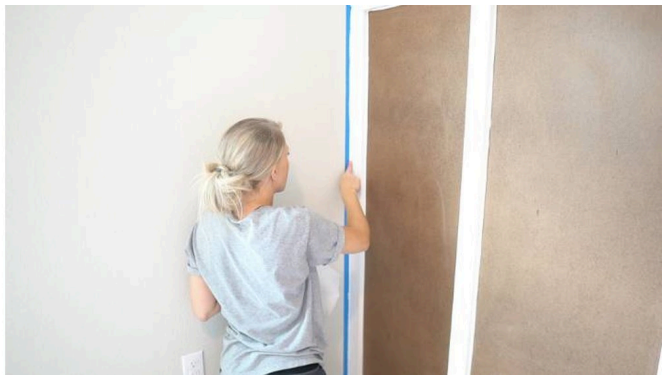


Step 9: Caulk

Vacuum the dust and wipe the wall with a damp rag. Caulk every seam with white paintable caulk.

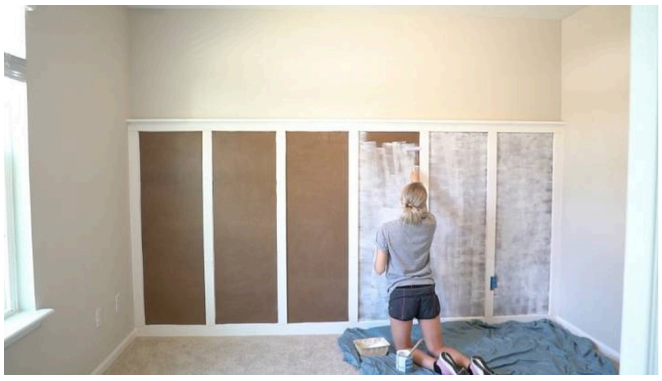
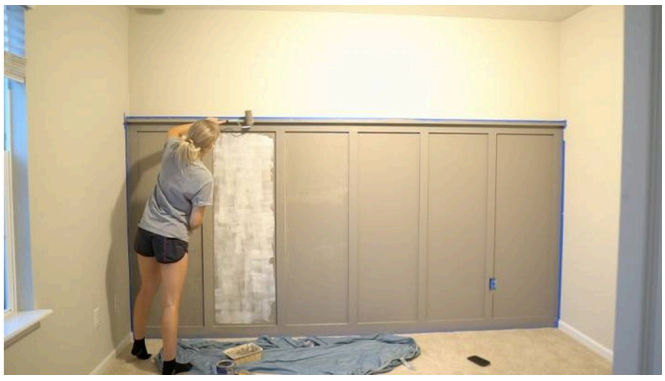
Where the boards meet the side walls, tape off the wall with a small gap, run a bead of caulk, smooth it with a wet finger, and pull the tape for a clean line. The inside seams don't need tape since they'll be painted.



Step 10: Prime and paint

Prime anything that isn't pre-primed (for me that was just the hardboard), then paint. I used Behr in Creek Bend.

More from this project

- Watch the full YouTube tutorial
- IKEA RAST Nightstand Hack (from the same room)