Step by step instructions for assembling FPS-5228 on a prepared surface/base.
When constructing your project, be sure to keep all blocks level, square, and plumb. Use a four foot level and check often. Starting on a level foundation is key. When gluing blocks together, be sure not to use too much adhesive - this will cause the blocks to ‘swim.’ A small bead is ideal.

This project requires:

- 231 Dakota Stone™ (4x8x12)
- 2 Square Block (8x8x4)
- 2 Half Block (6x8x4)
- 4 Third Block (4x4x8)
- 2 Lintel Block w/ notch
- 1 Cap Block (27x27)
- 2 6x9 Ledge Rock
- 13 6x12 Ledge Rock
- 42 Fire Brick
- 3 Cut Fire Brick
- 1 Angle Iron (34”)  
- 9 Tubes Adhesive

All sizes in this document are approximate.
Tools Needed:
Dead Blow Hammer
Hammer
Caulk Gun
4 Foot Level Torpedo
Level Square
2 Ladders (6ft min.)

This set of instructions assumes you are building on a level grade on a level foundation.

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The "Square Foot Unit." consists of three block as shown. By rotating this unit (SFU) we are able to build quickly and easily while keeping bond lines broken up. These will always be shown in a tan color.

Sometimes SFUs are broken up or can't be used. The Double Unit is the next preferred unit. Double Units are grouped for strength and speed in construction. They are always represented in green.

The Single Unit is the basis for all the construction, of course. When used in a single or non-standard configuration, you will see Dakota Stone™ depicted in red.

Long Halves are simply made by cutting a block along its center on the longest axis.

Cutting four inches off the short end of a Dakota Stone will get you a Third block (and a Square one).

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12" x 12" Ledge Rock paver. Great to use as a large cap. Always shown in dark blue.

6" x 12" Ledge Rock paver. Great to use as a cap. Always shown in middle blue.

6" x 9" Ledge Rock paver. Great to use as a small cap. Always shown in light blue.

6" x 6" Ledge Rock paver. Great to use as a cap. Always shown in dark blue.

Lintel Block. There are two precision cut lintel block in your kit. They will be untumbled. "Age" the edges with a hammer before installing.

Fire brick. These hard refractory brick are very dense. Use them to line your firebox. Three come cut to a narrower width.

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This is your foundation block. One cannot over emphasize the importance of properly installing this layer. **Be sure to take the time to ensure it is “perfectly” square and level.** Any imperfections here will continue to show up over and over as you build this kit.
Consider not gluing these central block of the fire box floor (depicted by the darker shaded block). They will be much easier to flip over or replace if needed down the road.

The entire back of the fire-place is flush. There are no set-backs. Be sure to keep your fireplace plumb as you build. Use your 4' level and check often.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUILD WITH DAKOTA</th>
<th>FPS-5228</th>
<th>Standard Fireplace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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REVISIONS

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The entire back of the fireplace is flush. There are no set-backs. This should aid in keeping your fireplace plumb as you build.

Always start building from the outside corners. This will help ensure you keep your structure plumb.

Any time you see a block with just the wide top showing, fret not, it is a Square Foot Unit (SFU). The unit is just turned where the that is the only block you see.

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The side wall of fire brick will pass the rear wall as shown. Do not fill the air gap.
Always build the side walls of your fire box first. Start where the brick are denoted with an asterisk (*). Abut the fire brick to the front blocks and work toward the rear wall. Then lay the back wall. The side walls will pass the face of the back wall. Do not fill the air gap in the corner. Only glue the back of the fire brick to the block behind them. Do not glue the fire brick to each other. Follow this procedure for the entire fire box.

Fire Brick Pattern

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Lintel Block with notches. Remember to chip the edges of the block with a hammer to give it an "aged" look. You only need to do this on the side opposite the notch. This will be the 8x4" side that is visible on the outside.

Lintel Block with notches. Be certain to face the notch cuts inward toward the fire box.
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Place the angle iron such that the top of the angle leg is flush with the top of the lintel blocks. You may need to use coins as shims or add sand under the angle iron to make it flush. Be sure to roughly center the iron to the fire box opening. There will be extra room to allow for the angle iron to expand.

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Set these brick back to allow room for the angle iron. The top row of bricks will just pass the back wall a bit further.
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You will need to set up TEMPORARY support blocks before proceeding to the next step.

**DO NOT GLUE THESE SUPPORT BLOCKS!**
Be sure to just catch the corner of the support block. It will be easier to remove later.

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**DO NOT GLUE THESE SUPPORT BLOCKS!**
**6x8x4 Half Block**

There are only two of these in the kit. Be sure they are not the square block. These are true half block. Be sure you get the right ones.

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These block tend to want to rock back into the opening. Stack block to hold them into place until you place the next course. **Now is a good time to take a break (lunch).** This will allow the glue to set-up.

Keep the back wall of the fireplace flush. Rack the block in approximately 2" from each side.

*4x4x8 Third Block*

The back wall is **ALWAYS** flush.

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8x8x4 Square Block

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Keep the back wall of the fireplace flush. Rack the block in approximately 2” from each side.

Remove your support blocks from step 14.

4x4x8 Third Block

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Keep the back wall of the fireplace flush. Rack the block in approximately 2” from each side.

Remove your support blocks from step 14.
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Before gluing the top four blocks in place, TEMPORARILY lay out your crown blocks (blue shades) to ensure you have them properly positioned. **DO NOT GLUE THE CROWN BLOCKS AT THIS TIME.** Only glue the four cap support blocks (depicted in red). You want to pull your support block in about 1/2" to allow extra room when squaring your cap later.
Remove the crown blocks before you install the large cap block.

Allow the adhesive to fully cure before proceeding to lay the cap on these supports.

After the adhesive is set, place the cap block up-side-down on the top of your four block. Since the stone will be viewed from the ground looking up, the decorative side of the cap should be facing the ground. You may need to add some sand or coins to keep the cap from rocking on the block.

Placing the cap is the hardest part of the entire build. Use ladders and/or scaffolding. You can use the ledges created by the racked block as a “strairway” to move the block up until the final heave.
Add the finishing blocks. The back and sides of the crown are identical from one side to the other. Center the mantle blocks. There will be a slight overhang on the front and sides.
Allow the fireplace to cure for 72 hours before building your first fire. Then follow the 30/60/90 rule. Build a fire that will put itself out in 30 minutes. After it cools, build one that extinguishes itself in sixty minutes. Finally, build a 90 min-ute fire. Congratulations! Your fireplace is ready for use.

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