

## GENERAL INSTALLATION

### GUIDE #5

## Unfinished Parquet

Read instructions completely before starting installation.

It is the responsibility of the installer and/or homeowner to inspect all products prior to installation. If, before installation, you discover any product with perceived defects, please contact Oshkosh Designs immediately. Oshkosh Designs accepts no responsibility for cost of products or labor when products with perceived defects have been installed.

#### Tools needed:

- Adhesive
- Scrapper
- Framing square
- Tape measure
- Trowels
- Vacuum cleaner
- Straight edge
- File
- Miter box
- Table/ Circular/ Band saw
- Moisture meter
- Chalk line
- Utility knife
- Wood filler
- Broom
- Hammer
- Putty knife
- 40-tooth carbide blades
- Eye and ear protection

#### For nail down installation:

- Nail set
- Finish nails
- Nailer

#### California Proposition 65 Notification Raw Wood Product Exposure

Warning: Drilling, sawing, sanding, or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood)

## PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION:

This product must be protected from adverse moisture conditions. Interior environment must be controlled and humidity levels must be maintained between 30-50%. It should be stored above ground level and allowed to acclimate for **at least one week** prior to installation. Open the boxes and spread out the product. Avoid laying directly on concrete. Check NWFA guidelines for acclimation levels or requirements for your region.

A good installation begins with a good subfloor, whether it's a slab or wood. Oshkosh Designs decorative borders must be installed over a sound and flat subfloor that is in compliance with the National Wood Flooring Association, [nwfa.org](http://nwfa.org); 800.422.4556 (US); 800.848.8824 (CAN).

If the subfloor is concrete, follow NWFA guidelines and record moisture readings before installing.

Unfinished parquet  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. thick is a glue-down application on a subfloor only!

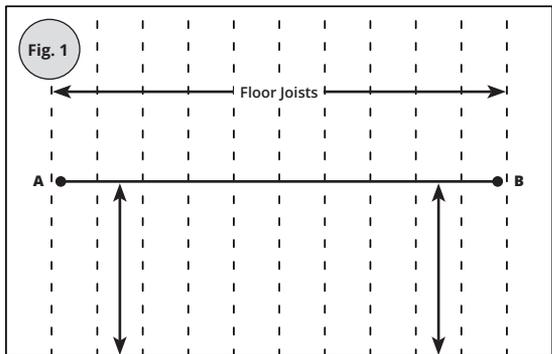
We recommend a urethane adhesive such as Bostik's Best or Franklin's 811 Plus for best results. **Do not use water-based adhesive.** Follow instructions on the container for proper parquet trowel size.

**Glue parquet tape-side up. DO NOT APPLY WATER TO REMOVE THE PAPER TAPE!** Moisture will be harmful to your hardwood floor. Sand-off the paper tape with a drum sander.

Plan the layout to maximize the effect of the pattern and to avoid problems.

**Determine the Primary working line:** Measure two facing walls to find the center point, and mark each point on the subfloor and wall.

Snap a chalk line between those two points. This represents the Primary (center) working line.



Determining center line.

**Determine the Secondary Line, the trammel point method (preferred method):** The Secondary Line must be exactly 90 degrees to the Primary Line. The directions below describe using trammel points and measurements of 3, 4, and 5 feet

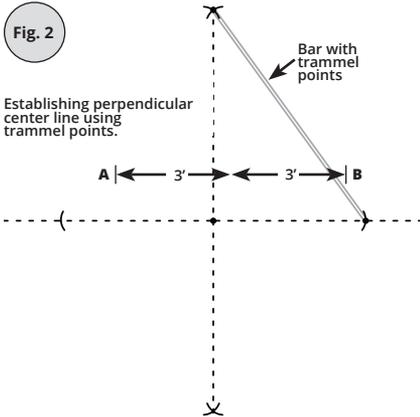


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in a room; however, larger rooms may require doubling, tripling or even quadrupling those dimensions.

Measure to find the center point on the Primary working line. Mark that point C.

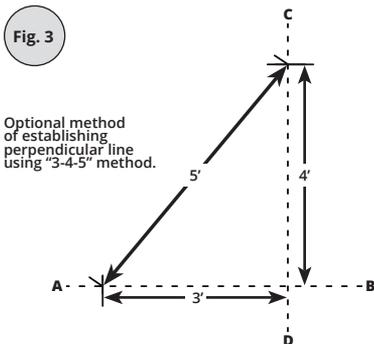
Using a 6-foot trammel point beam or bar compass set at 4 feet, scribe arcs on the Primary working line to the right and left of center point C.



From the points at which the arcs intersect with the Primary working line, adjust the trammel point beam or bar compass to 5 feet and scribe arcs in the general area of where the 90-degree Secondary Line will be. Do this both above and below the Primary working line.

Snap a line between the points where the arcs intersect, perpendicular to line AB. Also, make a mark on each wall where the Secondary Line meets the walls. This line will be the Secondary working line and should be a 90-degree-angle to the Primary working line.

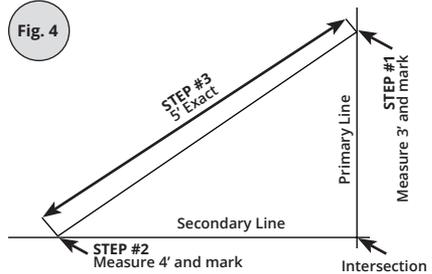
Verify all measurements using the 3-4-5 method before proceeding.



A minimum expansion space of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " must be left around the perimeter and all vertical obstructions.

Some  $\frac{3}{4}$ " parquet is appropriate for nail-down installation, as long as the pattern continues to have an exposed side tongue in which to nail.

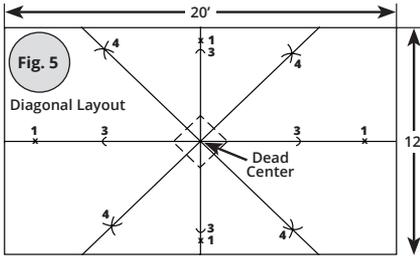
**Parquet installation requires two intersecting working lines:** Measurements and marks for the primary line are made as near to opposite ends of the wall as possible. Measure out trim size plus as many full units as it takes to reach the primary viewing area and mark the subfloor. Snap a chalk line through the two marks. Repeat this exact same process to establish the intersecting secondary line (measuring from secondary wall). These two lines must intersect, forming a perfect 90° angle.



Measure three of anything: feet, yards, or any unit. Use feet-yards (meters) in big rooms. Measure 36 in. (914.4 mm or three units) on one line. Mark 48 in. (1219.2 mm or four units) on the other and measure the distance between marks. It should be 60 in. (1524.0 mm or five units) exactly. If not exactly 60 in. (1524.0 mm or five units), adjust the secondary line by pivoting on the intersection point until the diagonal reads 60 in. (1524.0 mm or five units). Be sure you are reading on the same side you rule.

If you have any doubt at this time, open a couple of boxes and, without adhesive, dry lay a row along both lines to the walls to confirm balance and planning. Dry lay will give you peace of mind as you start the floor, and it takes just a few extra minutes.

**Diagonal Pattern:** Certain patterns require an offset from the dead center to produce balance at the walls as shown in Fig. 5. A diagonal pattern is recommended in corridors and in rooms where the length is more than one and half times the width. This diagonal placement minimizes expansion under high humidity conditions but does not change the requirements for expansion at the wall lines. It takes a bit longer to fit trim, but gives your customer diamonds instead of squares.



- 1.** Mark on the subfloor along the 20 ft. (6096.0 mm) walls at the middle or 10 ft. (3048.0 mm) point of the room. Snap a chalk line between these two points to establish a primary line.
- 2.** Mark on the subfloor along the 12 ft. (3657.6 mm) at the middle of 6 ft. (1828.8 mm) point of the room. Snap a chalk line between these two points at center of room to establish the secondary or perpendicular line. Adjust secondary line using the 3-4-5 Pythagorean Theorem (Fig. 3). The two lines you have just drawn are the most important. All other lines will be measured from these lines.
- 3.** To establish two 45° lines, measure out 5 ft. (1524.0 mm) from the center of the room and place a mark on each line in both directions as shown. Use trammel points or beam compass to make this step easy and accurate.
- 4.** Using the same 5 ft. (1524.0 mm) measurement, draw an arc from each of the points established in Step 3 on the subfloor where 45° line will cross, showing four bisected arcs. Snap chalk lines between these points. These new lines should go directly through the center of the room as shown.
- 5.** Dotted line shows first four parquets meeting at the dead center of the room.

### GETTING STARTED:

- 1.** Use the wood manufacturer's approved adhesive. Follow the spread rate, trowel size and installation procedure as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.
- 2.** After allowing the proper "flash" time for the solvent, install the unit at the intersection of the working lines.
- 3.** Install using a pyramid or stair-step pattern. Wood parquet "squares" are not always square. They are not "die cut" or stamped out. They are cut on saws and the wood is affected by moisture changes. They will not be perfect and there-

fore must be installed in the pyramid pattern — not row by row. Place the parquet unit carefully at the intersection of your two lines. Lay the next units ahead and to the right of the one, along the lines. Then continue the stair-step sequence, watching carefully the corner alignment of new units with those already in place. Each unit, as it is placed, should be adjusted to keep the corners true, or "on point" and if necessary, give up a tight fit along the sides. Install in a quadrant of the room, leaving trimming at the walls until later. Then return to the base lines and lay another quadrant, repeating the stair-step sequence. Install the last quadrant from the base line to the door. A reducer strip may be required at the doorway, if transitioning to another floor. To lay row-by-row and tight guarantees that after five or six rows the variations continue to compound themselves and will produce disaster. Most wood mastics will allow the tiles to slip or skid when sideways pressure is applied for some period after the open time has elapsed. Avoid this sideways pressure by working from "knee boards" or plywood panels laid on top of the installed area of flooring.

- 4.** Build the field by maintaining the pyramid and enlarging it, with constant reference to the working lines. Be sure to "seat" each unit in the adhesive. Adjust the units as you go and stay within the limits of the adhesive. If the product requires rolling, do so within the time frame of the adhesive.
- 5.** Add transition strips in doorways, if necessary.
- 6.** Cut and fit the final row at wall lines, being certain to allow the required expansion for solid floors. The mastics we recommend are soft and the wood floats. Our solid parquets must have expansion.
- 7.** Sand off the face paper.
- 8.** To achieve the most uniform look to your parquet floor pattern, trowel the entire floor with a matching wood filler to fill all the little gaps and any open wood grain.
- 9.** Sand, clean, and apply the finish to the floor.
- 10.** Add moldings as required. Molding to cover the expansion space around the outside of the room should be attached to the wall and not to the floor.

**Note:** Ask yourself, "What does the customer expect the floor to look like?" Take precautions to avoid mastic, sawdust, or bootprints.