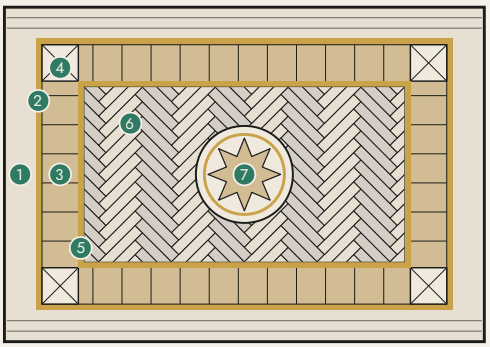
Borders, frames, *medallions* and inlays in wood floors

A framed floor is a field held by an apron, a border and feature strips. The apron absorbs the room, the border is dry-laid, a medallion follows the floor, and a brass line wants a nonferrous metal, a firm bond and a level just below the surface before the last sanding.

AT A GLANCE

Part	What it is	What to check
Apron	Planks or blocks between the border and the wall; it takes up the room's irregularity	Make cuts equal on opposite sides
Feature strip	A narrow line of brass or contrasting timber either side of the border	Metal: nonferrous if the floor is sanded after fixing
Border band	A frame around the field, in sections; the field ends on a whole or half repeat	Allow one extra section; match thickness to the field
Corner	Mitred, lapped, a corner block, a chequer, or a radius	Dry-lay the corners before the field is fixed
Medallion or inlay	A motif set into the floor, in timber, metal or stone	Fixed after the floor is laid; position signed off on site
Metal strip	Brass, copper or aluminium set flush, bonded and pinned	Set about 0.8 mm below the surface before the last sanding

Names and most guidance are from NWFA Technical Publication B300 (US, 2015); inch figures are converted. Partner workshops confirm every size.



Parts of a framed floor

1. Apron: planks, takes up the room
2. Feature strip (brass or timber)
3. Border band, in sections
4. Corner block
5. Feature strip, inner
6. Field: herringbone, chevron, panels
7. Medallion or inlay

A framed floor in plan, not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

A WORKED FRAME, FROM THE WALL INWARDS, EACH SIDE (4,000 MM ROOM)

Apron (the adjuster)	223 mm
Brass fillet, outer	3 mm
Border band, two rows of 90 mm blocks	180 mm
Brass fillet, inner	3 mm
Field, five repeats of a 90 x 450 herringbone	3,182 mm in all

A METAL STRIP IN A SANDED FLOOR (NWFA, CONVERTED)

Metal	Nonferrous (brass, copper, aluminium); not steel or stainless, because of sparks when sanding
Thickness	Preferably 1/4 in (6.4 mm)
Channel	Routed to the strip width, in a flattened floor
Fixing	Adhesive and pins together; pins of the same metal at 9 to 10 in (230 to 255 mm), heads sanded flush
Level	About 1/32 in (0.8 mm) below the wood before sanding

SPECIFICATION WORDING

FRAME AND BORDER

Frame to layout drawing [ref]: apron [223] mm of [species, width], brass fillet [3 x 6] mm, border band [180] mm of [two rows of 90 mm blocks, species], brass fillet [3 x 6] mm, then the [herringbone] field. Border corners: [mitred / lapped / corner block] as drawing [ref]; corner blocks [ref]. Field to end on a [whole] repeat at the border. Apron width adjusted to suit the room, cuts equal on opposite sides. At least [one] extra border section supplied. Border thickness [ ] mm to match the field.

BRASS STRIP

Strip [3 x 6] mm, [alloy per metal schedule ref], nonferrous, set flush in a channel routed to the strip width, bonded with [two-part epoxy / moisture-cure urethane] and pinned with pins of the same metal at [230 to 255] mm centres, strip [0.8] mm below the surface before final sanding, pin heads sanded flush. Finish [bright / satin / brushed / patinated, ref]. A sample including a sanding test approved before production.

MEDALLION OR INLAY

[Medallion, diameter [ ] mm, timbers [ ]] from the workshop drawing [ref], centred on [reference], position approved on site before routing. Installed after the surrounding floor is laid, within [ ] hours of routing the opening. Thickness [ ] mm to match the field. [Stone, glass or leather: plywood blank in place during sanding.]

SANDING AND FINISH

Sanding sequence agreed on the approved sample. Metal and small areas of changing grain sanded with an edger and buffer, not a drum or belt sander, with heat on the metal controlled and filings removed. Finish [oil / lacquer, ref] confirmed compatible with every timber and metal on the sample, applied by [roller].

TERMS USED

Apron
The band between the border and the wall. It takes up the irregularity of the room so that the border and the field stay true. NWFA's term.

Feature strip
A narrow line, often brass or a contrasting timber, set either side of a border band. NWFA's term.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- NWFA Technical Publication No. B300, Ornamental Floors: Design & Installation (3rd edition, 2015): read: layout, borders, inlays, metals, sanding.
- NWFA Installation Guidelines, Chapter 7 (revised 02.2016): read: working lines and layout.
- A UK distributor's guidelines (Jan 2024) and one UK supplier guide (2018): read: perimeter border sequence.
- BS 8201:2011: named; not read. Check against the current edition.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/borders-frames-medallions-and-inlays-in-wood-floors. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.