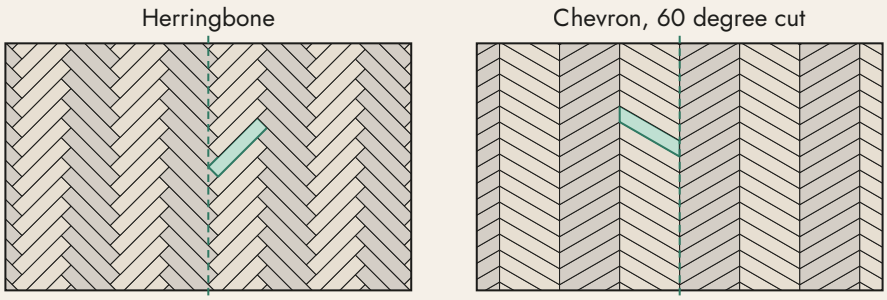
Herringbone vs *chevron*: geometry, set-out and where each goes wrong

Herringbone has square ends meeting the side of the next block; chevron has angled ends meeting in a V on a straight spine. At 45 degrees they share a lattice. The set-out is arithmetic: the repeat decides what each wall falls on.

AT A GLANCE

	Herringbone	Chevron
The block	Rectangle, square ends: length L by width W	Parallelogram: long edge, width W, cut angle θ
How the ends meet	End meets the side of the next block at 90°	End meets end, point to point: a V of 2θ
Handing	None for square-edged blocks; tongue and groove blocks come handed (one supplier)	Left- and right-hand blocks, in equal numbers
Line to build from	Control line and working lines, 45° diagonals (NWFA); column edge stepped	The spine: every V point on it; column edge straight
Repeat across / step along (90 x 450 block)	636 mm / 127 mm	45°: 636 / 127 mm; 60°: 779 / 104 mm

Distances: our arithmetic for a 90 x 450 mm block (chevron long edge 450 mm). Naming follows the pattern atlas.



Herringbone and a 60 degree chevron in plan, one block picked out in each. Same block width and length. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SET-OUT: 4,000 MM ROOM, 90 X 450 BLOCK, CROWN LINE ON THE CENTRE (OUR ARITHMETIC)

	Herringbone	Chevron 60°
Repeat across the room	636 mm	779 mm
Pattern lines every	318 mm	390 mm
Wall falls past the last line by	91 mm	51 mm (a sliver)
Whole repeats for the field	6 = 3,818 mm; or 5, 409 mm each side	5 = 3,897 mm; or 4, 441 mm each side
Block that divides the room	L = 471 mm (6 repeats)	Long edge 462 mm (5 repeats)

SPECIFICATION WORDING

LAYOUT DRAWING

Pattern: [herringbone / chevron] to layout drawing [ref]. Block [90] x [450] x [14] mm; for chevron, end cut [60] degrees measured between the end cut and the long edge, and [450] mm is the long edge, not tip to tip. Crown line on [the centre line of the room / the centre of doorway ref], dimensioned from [two fixed references]. Points face [the longest dimension of the room / the window wall]. Frame or apron [ ] mm wide takes up the irregularity of the walls; cuts at the walls to be equal on opposite sides.

BLOCK TOLERANCE AND HANDS

Block width tolerance [+/- 0.2] mm and length tolerance [+/- 0.5] mm, stated by the workshop; blocks outside tolerance de-selected before laying. Chevron blocks supplied in equal numbers of left- and right-hand [and tongue and groove blocks handed], drawn from at least [three] packs while laying.

START AND CHECKS

Crown line of two rows laid first, checked with [a chalk line / a laser], and left to cure for [24] hours before the rest is laid. Alignment re-checked every [ ] rows against the working lines; no row adjusted to follow a wall.

QUANTITIES AND APPROVAL

Quantity [ ] m2 calculated by the workshop from layout drawing [ref] for the cut specified, with an allowance of [ ] %. A sample area of [2 x 2] m dry-laid on site and approved by [the designer] before fixing.

TERMS USED

Herringbone

A pattern of rectangular blocks laid so the end of each block meets the side of the next at a right angle, forming a zigzag of staggered rows.

Chevron

A pattern in which the ends of the blocks are cut at an angle so that neighbouring blocks meet point to point, forming a continuous V rather than a stepped zigzag.

Crown line

The first two rows, laid exactly on the set-out line and left to cure before the rest is built from them. One UK supplier's term; NWFA speaks of a control line with working lines either side.

Repeat (pattern)

The distance after which the pattern starts again; across the columns it is 636 mm for a 90 x 450 mm herringbone (our arithmetic).

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- NWFA Technical Publication No. B300, Ornamental Floors: Design & Installation (3rd edition, 2015): read: layout, working lines, herringbone, aprons.
- NWFA Installation Guidelines, Section III, Chapter 7, Parquet Installation (revised 02.2016): read: herringbone layout.
- A UK distributor's guidelines (Jan 2024), two UK supplier guides (2015, 2018): read: crown line, sizes, tolerance, handed blocks.
- BS 8201:2011, BS EN 13226, 13227, 13489: named; not read. Check current editions.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/herringbone-vs-chevron. 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.