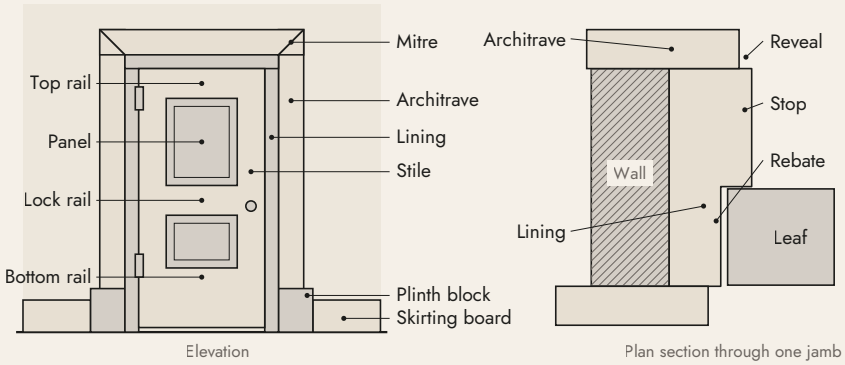
Joinery and moulding *glossary*, A to Z

Plain definitions of joinery and moulding terms, a labelled door and trim, and UK and US names. The web glossary adds sources, watch-outs, section details and abbreviations.

AT A GLANCE

UK name	US name	Note
Skirting board	Baseboard	Both name the board along the foot of a wall.
Architrave	Casing (door or window casing)	Same job: covering the joint between wall and lining.
Cornice (coving if plain and hollow)	Crown moulding	Trade usage; coving is not always plaster.
Dado rail	Chair rail	The lower panelled wall is wainscot in the US.
Rebate	Rabbet	The Wood Handbook uses 'rabbet'.
Housing (a groove across the grain)	Dado (the joint)	UK 'dado' is a zone of wall.
Lipping, edge band	Edge banding	Trade usage overlaps in the UK.
Carcase	Carcass	Spelling; also 'case' in US casework.
Plinth	Toe kick, toe base	The recessed base under cabinets.
Timber	Lumber	The Wood Handbook defines 'lumber' as sawn and planed timber.
Planed all round (PAR)	S4S, surfaced four sides	Both mean planed on four faces.
Mitre, moulding	Miter, molding	Spelling.

The Wood Handbook uses the US words (rabbet, lumber, S4S). The other pairs are common trade usage with no source read; confirm with the partner workshop.



A two-panel door in its lining with architrave, plinth blocks and skirting, and a plan section through one jamb. Schematic: sizes are illustrative. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

THE GLOSSARY IN BRIEF

Architrave. The moulding round a door or window opening, covering the joint with the wall.

Cornice, coving. The moulding where a wall meets the ceiling; coving is a plain hollow one.

Dado, dado rail, picture rail. The dado is the lower wall; the dado rail is the moulding along its top.

Doorset, leaf. The leaf is the moving door; the doorset is leaf, frame, seals and ironmongery as one assembly.

Flat sawn, quarter sawn, rift sawn. Flat sawn: rings under 45 degrees to the face. Quarter sawn: rings at 45 to 90 degrees.

Lining (door lining). The timber that lines a wall opening and carries the door.

Lipping, edge band. A solid strip, or a thin strip, fixed to a board edge.

Mitre. Two pieces cut at an angle, usually 45 degrees, to meet at a corner.

Mortise and tenon. A slot (mortise) and the projecting tongue (tenon) that fits it.

Nominal, sawn and finished size; PAR. Nominal is the size a piece is sold by; finished size is after planing and sanding.

Profile. The shape you would see if a moulding were sawn across its length.

Rebate. A step cut along an edge or into a corner.

Reveal. The strip of lining left showing where the architrave is set back.

Scribe. To cut an edge to follow an uneven surface, such as a wall.

Shadow gap. A deliberate recessed gap at a junction, reading as a dark line.

Skirting board. The board along the foot of a wall that covers the wall and floor junction.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

TRIM ITEM

Architrave: [species] [ ] x [ ] mm to the profile on drawing [ref], full size, with a reveal of [6] mm, mitred at the head and finished at the foot with [plinth blocks], scribed to the wall, fixed [ ], finished [ ]. Where the profile name and the drawing differ, the drawing governs.

DOOR AND LINING

Doorset: leaf [ ] mm thick, [flush / panelled] with [fielded / flat] panels; lining [ ] mm with a [rebated / planted] stop; threshold [ ]; clear opening width [ ] mm. All parts as drawing [ref]; fire and acoustic ratings, where required, apply to the complete doorset.

TERMS CLAUSE

Joinery terms on these drawings and schedules have the meanings given in [project glossary / the Technical library glossary dated [ ]]. Where a name could describe more than one profile or joint, the section drawing governs. Dimensions are finished sizes unless marked nominal.

TERMS USED

Datum

The single reference level or line that all heights on a drawing and a survey are measured from.

Plumb

Truly vertical. A wall out of plumb leans.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- USDA Forest Products Laboratory, Wood Handbook, FPL-GTR-282 (2021), glossary and figures 10-6 and 10-8: read 6 Nov 2026; US usage.
- Approved Document K (2013) Appendix A; Approved Documents B, M and E: as read for the earlier sheets and for the acoustic doors sheet.
- BS 1186-3:1990, Timber for and workmanship in joinery: specification for wood trim and its fixing: BSI lists it current, under review. Not read.
- BS 8888 and BS EN 12519: BS 8888: BSI announced a 2025 edition (status not confirmed on a product page). BS EN 12519 (windows and pedestrian doors, terminology): the 2004 edition is withdrawn, the 2018 edition is current by retailer listings. Neither read.
- Library sheets cited in the tables: each lists its own sources.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/joinery-and-moulding-glossary. 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.