Types of *moulding* and their profiles

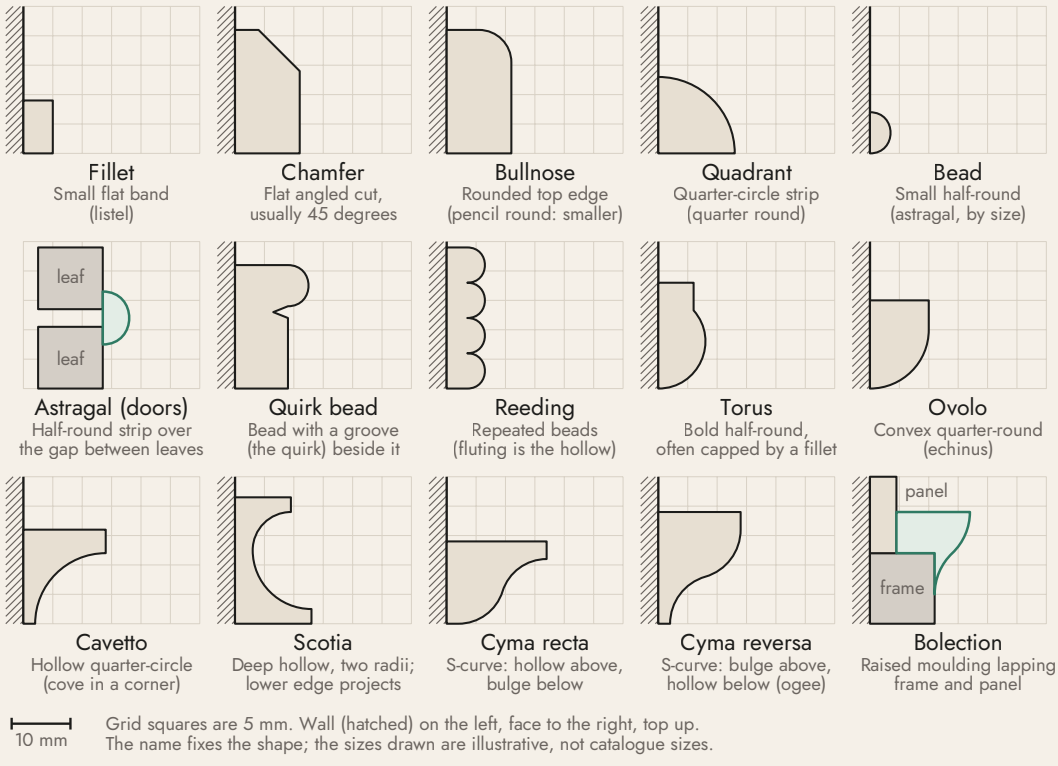
Fifteen moulding profiles drawn on one 5 mm grid and named, with the naming conflicts, the English fire position, and wording for a moulding schedule. A name never fixes a size, so specify a profile by a drawing.

AT A GLANCE

Profile	Shape	Where you meet it
Fillet, chamfer	Narrow flat band; flat angled cut	Between mouldings; edges of rails and skirting tops
Bullnose, quadrant	Rounded top edge; quarter-circle strip	Skirting tops; quarter round at a floor junction
Bead, astragal	Small half-round	Edges and joints; cover strip on a pair of doors
Quirk bead, reeding	Bead with a groove beside it; row of beads	Edges of boards and casings; reeded panels
Torus	Bold half-round, often capped by a fillet	Column bases, skirting and dado rails
Ovolo	Convex quarter-round, often with a fillet	Panel edges and cornice members
Cavetto, cove	Hollow quarter-circle	Cornices; coving where wall meets ceiling
Scotia	Deep hollow of two radii, lower edge projecting	Column bases between two tori; mantels, stairs
Cyma recta, reversa	S-curves: hollow over bulge; bulge over hollow	Cornices, rails, skirting; the reversa is the “ogee”
Bolection	Raised moulding lapping frame and panel	Panelling and doors

Drawn in the chart below. “Where you meet it” is a tendency, not a rule: any profile can be cut for any member.

PROFILE CHART



NAMES USED ON THIS SHEET

- Cyma recta and cyma reversa. Recta: hollow above, bulging below. Reversa: bulging above, hollow below. Joinery usually says "ogee" for the reversa, but the word can mean either, so name the cyma or draw it.
- Astragal. A small convex half-round (drawn with the bead, by size); also the strip that covers the gap between a pair of doors.
- Torus, quarter round, bullnose. No fixed size or radius. "Quarter round" is used for both the ovolo and a plain quarter-circle strip.

MOULDINGS AND FIRE CLASSIFICATION IN ENGLAND

In England, Approved Document B leaves architraves, cover moulds, picture rails, skirtings and similar narrow members out of what counts as a wall lining (Volume 1 paragraphs 4.3, 4.6; Volume 2 paragraphs 6.3, 6.6; 2019 edition incorporating amendments to 2026; read November 2026). The wall behind is still a lining, and cornices and wall panelling are not named, so the fire engineer or building control decides. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are not covered.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

MOULDING SCHEDULE LINE

Ref [M-01]: [skirting] moulding, profile as detail [D-12], drawn at 1:1 on drawing [no.]. Overall section [120 x 25] mm finished, with [torus] head as drawn. Material [MDF, paint grade / oak, clear finish]. Finish [ ]. Where a catalogue or profile name differs from the drawn section, the drawn section governs.

MATCHING AN EXISTING MOULDING

Profile to match the existing [cornice] in [room]. Template to be taken on site by [name] with a profile gauge before production. Where the existing profile is damaged, the reconstructed section is to be agreed on a 1:1 drawing before cutters are ordered.

TERMS USED

Profile

The shape you would see if the moulding were sawn across its length. Two mouldings with the same name can have different profiles, so a drawing is safer than a name.

Astragal

A small convex, circular moulding. The word is also used for the half-round strip that covers the gap between a pair of doors.

Torus

A bold convex half-round moulding, larger than an astragal, found at the foot of columns.

Cyma recta

An S-shaped moulding with a concave upper half and a convex lower half.

Cyma reversa

An S-shaped moulding with a concave lower half and a convex upper half. In joinery usually called an ogee.

Bolection

A moulding that projects beyond the face of a frame or panel, used where a frame and an inset panel meet at different levels.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document B Volumes 1 and 2 (England), 2019 edition with amendments to 2026: Volume 1 paragraphs 4.3, 4.6; Volume 2 paragraphs 6.3, 6.6. Read November 2026.
- Heritage thesaurus (Components) from county Historic Environment Records: the meanings of the profile names.
- Wikipedia: Molding (decorative); Designing Buildings: Moulding
- BS 1186-3, wood trim and its fixing: named only; not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/moulding-profiles. 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.