Moulding proportions by *ceiling height*

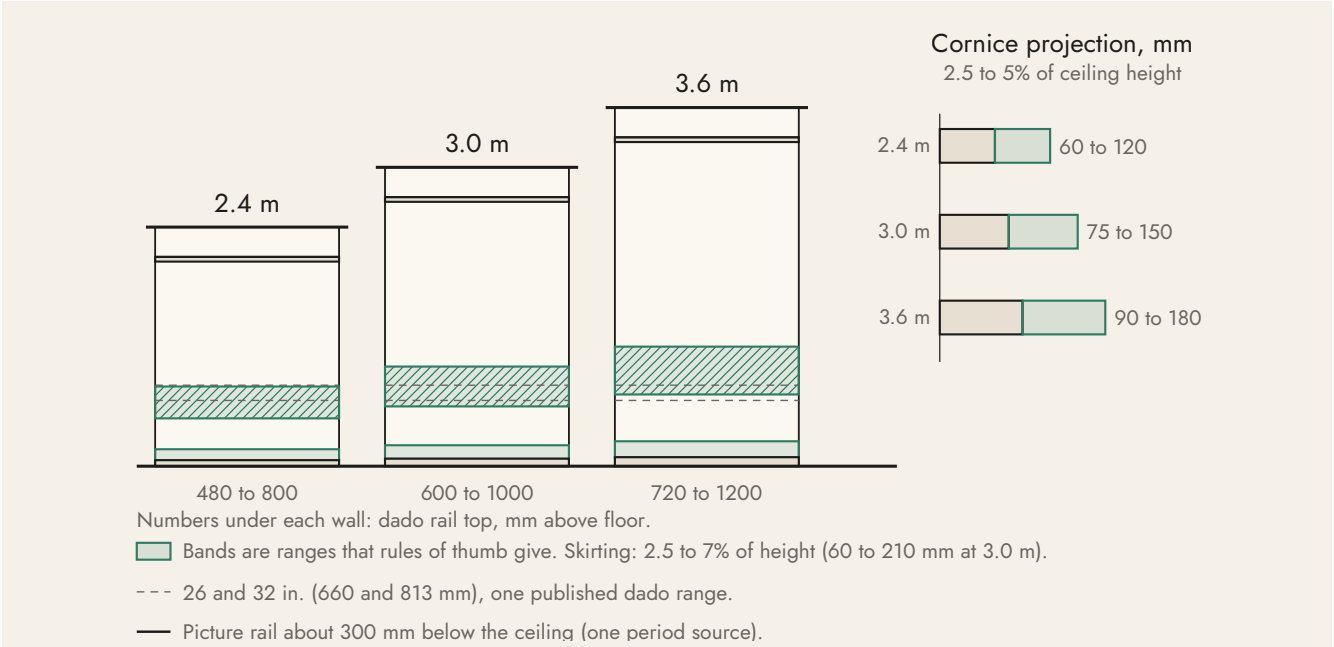
No standard sets the size of any moulding. This sheet works the rules that circulate out for ceilings from 2.4 to 4.2 m, shows them side by side, and tells you to fix each size on a drawing.

AT A GLANCE

Ceiling	Skirting height, mm	Cornice projection, mm	Dado rail top, mm	Picture rail top, mm
2.4 m	60 to 170	60 to 120	480 to 800	2,100
2.7 m	70 to 190	70 to 135	540 to 900	2,400
3.0 m	75 to 210	75 to 150	600 to 1,000	2,700
3.6 m	90 to 250	90 to 180	720 to 1,200	3,300
4.2 m	105 to 295	105 to 210	840 to 1,400	3,900

Millimetres from finished floor, rounded to 5 mm. Our arithmetic on rules in circulation: skirting 2.5 to 7%; cornice projection 2.5 to 5%; dado rail top a fifth to a third; picture rail about 300 below the ceiling. Starting points, not standards. Architrave and cornice drop: no ratio rule found.

THE BANDS ON THREE WALLS



Ranges from rules in circulation, to one scale. Not recommendations.

A WORKED 3.0 M WALL

Band	From, mm	To, mm
Skirting	0	150
Dado (lower wall)	150	800
Wall above the dado rail	800	2,700
Frieze	2,700	2,880
Cornice	2,880	3,000

SPECIFICATION WORDING

MOULDINGS SCHEDULE, SIZES FIXED

Sizes in this schedule are set by the designer and shown on the drawings: skirting [150] mm high, dado rail top [800] mm, picture rail top [2,700] mm, cornice projection [100] mm and drop [120] mm, all from finished floor level and the ceiling as built. No proportion rule (a fraction of the ceiling height) is to be applied by the workshop in place of a drawn size.

MOCK-UP

Before production, a mock-up of the skirting, dado rail and cornice at the sizes above is to be fixed on [one wall] of [room] and approved by [designer]. Sizes may be adjusted by up to [ ] mm at that stage; the adjusted sizes become the schedule.

DATUMS

Dado rail top is tied to [the window stool / the door head] at [ ] mm. Picture rail and cornice are measured from the finished ceiling [at the highest point of the room]. The contractor is to confirm the ceiling height as built before the schedule is issued.

TERMS USED

Cornice
The moulding at the head of a wall where it meets the ceiling.

Projection
How far a moulding stands out from the wall; for a cornice, the distance from the wall to its outer edge.

Drop
The vertical height a moulding occupies below the ceiling.

Frieze
The band of wall between the picture rail and the cornice.

Dado
The lower part of a wall, between the skirting and the dado rail.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document B Volume 2 (England), 2019 edition with amendments to 2026: paragraphs 6.3 and 6.6. Read 7 Nov 2026.
- No standard fixes any moulding proportion: the rules in the table are conventions; none is taken from a British Standard.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/moulding-proportion-guide-by-ceiling-height. 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.