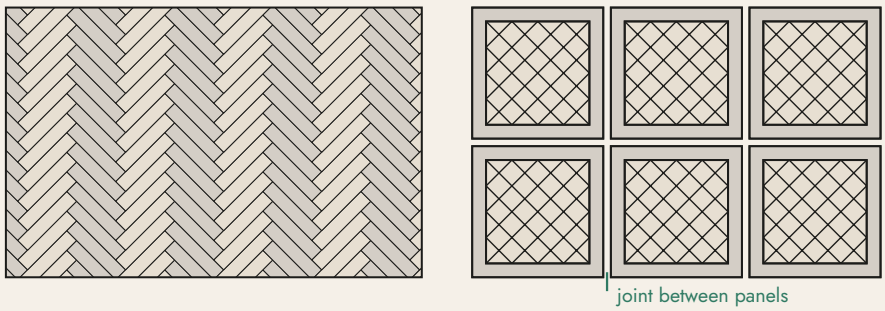
Parquet *panels* vs loose-lay: Versailles, Chantilly and how each is fixed

A parquet panel is assembled in the workshop and laid as a unit; loose-lay is built block by block on site. Choose the module from the room, bond the panels to a flat dry subfloor, and approve a whole sample panel.

AT A GLANCE

	Loose-lay blocks	Panels
What arrives on site	Individual blocks, battens or strips	Pre-assembled squares or rectangles of many pieces (MK1, MK3)
Where the pattern is made	On site, block by block, from a crown line (see herringbone sheet)	In the workshop; the fitter lays whole panels
Joints you see	Between every block	Between blocks inside each panel, and between panels: tongue and groove edges today (MK1, MK3), shuttle strips (navettes) in 17th century floors (DEAL)
Fixing today	Fully bonded and pinned (DIST, parquet guidelines)	Fully bonded with flexible adhesive (DIST, design flooring including panels; MK1)
Fixing historically	Hot bitumen for blocks (WIKI); nailed strips and planks	Pegged together without glue and nailed to battens over joists (DEAL)
Set-out	From a centre or crown line; the cut at the wall falls where it falls	Set by the panel module: size it to the room so whole or half panels meet the walls (MERCH, citing Roubo)
Repair	Replace single blocks (our reasoning; partner to confirm)	Work on or replace a whole panel (our reasoning; partner to confirm)
Suits	Irregular rooms; pattern carried through doorways	Period rooms; regular rooms; a floor needing pre-planned pieces and fast covering

Letters are the sources read (see the last section). 'Our reasoning' means the sources are silent: the partner confirms. Panels means pre-assembled parquet panels, not the Versailles tile pattern in stone.



The same area as a loose-lay herringbone field and as six panels. In the field every block is laid on site; the panels are made in the workshop and laid as units. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio, schematic.

SET-OUT: HOW MANY WHOLE PANELS A ROOM TAKES

Panel module	Room 4,000 mm wide	Room 5,500 mm wide
800 mm	4 whole, 390 mm each side	6 whole, 340 mm each side
900 mm	4 whole, 190 mm each side	6 whole, 40 mm each side
950 mm	4 whole, 90 mm each side	5 whole, 365 mm each side
1000 mm	3 whole, 490 mm each side	5 whole, 240 mm each side
1100 mm	3 whole, 340 mm each side	4 whole, 540 mm each side

Our arithmetic with a 10 mm perimeter gap, panels square to the room, no shuttle strips. 40 and 90 mm are thin cut bands.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

PANEL FORMAT AND LAYOUT

Pattern: [parquet de Versailles / Chantilly / bespoke design] in [species and grade], supplied as pre-assembled panels of [800] x [800] x [20] mm, top layer [6] mm, edges [tongue and groove], from workshop drawing [ref] showing the element sizes inside the panel. Panels laid [square to the room / on the diagonal] from [reference point], border [none / [ ] mm plank frame], [shuttle strips / no strips] between panels. Layout drawing [ref] to show the panel module, the border width at each wall and the threshold at each doorway.

FIXING AND CONDITIONS

Panels fully bonded to [subfloor type] with [flexible adhesive named by the workshop], applied with a notched trowel to the adhesive maker's instructions. Subfloor to be flat to [3 mm under a 2 m straight edge] and dry to [the limits the workshop states]. Room held at [45 to 65] % RH and [15 to 25] degrees C before, during and for the life of the floor. Perimeter gap [ ] mm, covered by [skirting]. Panels taken from [three] packs.

SAMPLE AND SPARES

One complete panel in the specified finish, with its joint detail, to be approved by [designer] before production. [ ] spare panels from the same run to be delivered with the order. The workshop is to state in writing how a bonded panel is lifted and replaced.

TERMS USED

Parquet de Versailles

A traditional panel design of large diagonal squares containing interlaced strips, made as pre-assembled panels; the form is associated with the Château de Versailles from the 1680s.

Chantilly

A panel pattern built from square elements within a rectangular surround; retail sources describe it differently, so the exact layout should be confirmed with the maker.

Panel parquet

Parquet delivered as ready-assembled square or rectangular panels rather than loose blocks, so the pattern is made in the workshop and the fitter lays the panels.

Navette (shuttle strip)

A narrow strip set between panels. A dealer says 17th century panels were often separated by friezes or navettes; one UK maker shows shuttle connections between its panels.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS 8201:2011: BSI: Current (31 October 2011). Not read.
- BS EN 13488:2002, BS EN 13226:2024, BS EN 14342:2013: 13488 and 14342 Current on BSI; 13226:2024 seen in reseller listings. None read: ask the partner which covers its panel.
- Roubo (1770), UK distributor guidelines (Jan 2024), UK makers' pages: Roubo second-hand; the rest are suppliers.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/parquet-panels-vs-loose-lay. 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.