Specifying a custom or *matched* moulding profile

A made-to-order or matched moulding is only as accurate as its brief. Send a 1:1 section, an envelope, a datum, the material, finish, lengths and corners, and a template if matching.

Compliance guidance. This sheet deals with how to brief a moulding. It gives no cutter costs, prices or lead times: those depend on the partner workshop and the profile. Where the building is listed, whether work needs consent is for the local planning authority; this is not legal advice, so confirm with your conservation officer or adviser.

AT A GLANCE

Item	What to give	Without it
1:1 section drawing	The profile at full size, with the lines that must match marked	The maker guesses which curves matter
Envelope	The largest section the stock can be, in millimetres	Stock is cut too big or too thin
Datum	Where the profile starts: floor, ceiling, rail or lining, and which face is the reference	A profile set from the wrong face
Material	Species or board, grade, moisture and whether solid, veneered or built up	A match in the wrong timber looks different painted or stained
Finish	Paint, stain, oil or lacquer, and sheen	Finish hides or exaggerates the profile
Lengths and quantity	Run lengths, total metres, spares, and the longest single length allowed	Waste and joints are decided on site
Corners and joints	Mitre, scribe, cope or block; where joints may fall	Visible joints in the wrong place
Fixing	How it is fixed and to what, and whether fixings may show	Mouldings split or fixings telegraph
Existing sample or template	A short piece, a traced template or a gauge print, labelled with where it came from	A match with nothing to match to
Photographs	Square-on, with a rule or scale bar in frame, lit from the side	Dimensions cannot be read from a photo
Evidence required	Any fire or sustainability evidence the project needs	A supplier cannot provide it after the event

Eleven items. Process stages and cost drivers follow; no cutter cost or lead time is given because we hold no partner figures. Content is general practice, flagged for a partner joiner to confirm.

FROM DRAWING TO WALL: THE HOLD POINTS

Stage	What happens	Hold point
1. Brief	1:1 section, checklist, template	Designer
2. Profile drawing	Partner redraws and returns it	Designer approves
3. Tooling	Cutters or knives made, or stock profile altered	Partner
4. First-off sample	Short length compared with the existing	Designer approves
5. Production	Run made, finished, packed	Partner check
6. Fit	Fixed, mitred, scribed	Site: first corner and junction

No durations or costs are given: they come from the partner workshop for your profile.

TAKING A TEMPLATE

Press a contour gauge square against the moulding, trace onto card, cut and check for light gaps. Template where the paint is thin; label the room, wall and height; add a photograph square-on with a rule. Keep the template for the first-off sample.

LISTED BUILDINGS

Section 7 of the 1990 Act requires authorisation for works that would affect a listed building's character. Authorities draw the like-for-like line differently: ask the conservation officer first. Not legal advice.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

BESPOKE PROFILE LINE

Ref [M-01]: moulding, profile as detail [D-30] at 1:1, envelope [90 x 25] mm, datum [top face to ceiling]. Material [ ]. Finish [ ]. Total length [ ] m plus [ ]% spares; longest single length [ ] mm. Corners [mitred / scribed]. First-off sample to be approved by the designer before the run.

MATCH TO EXISTING

Ref [M-02]: moulding to match the existing in [room], from template [T-02] taken on site on [date] at [location], paint [stripped / not stripped]. Profile to match the approved template within [ ] mm at the arris lines. First-off sample to be held against the existing at the new and old junction in [room] and approved before production.

LISTED BUILDING

The building is [Grade] listed. Work to the existing mouldings is subject to consent from [the local planning authority]; the contractor is to confirm the consent position in writing before any moulding is removed or replaced.

TERMS USED

Profile
The shape of a moulding seen in cross-section, which is what has to be drawn, matched and cut.

Contour gauge
A tool with a row of thin sliding pins that take the shape of a moulding when pressed against it.

First-off sample
The first length run from new tooling, kept for approval before the full run is made.

Datum
The face or line a profile is measured from, such as the floor, the ceiling or a rail.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 7: Read 7 Nov 2026.
- BS 7913:2013 conservation of historic buildings: Current (BSI, 7 Nov 2026). Not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/specifying-a-custom-or-matched-moulding. 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.