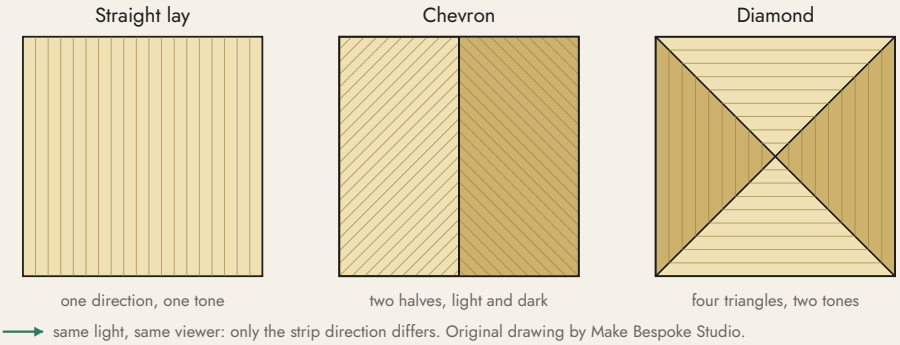
Straw marquetry *specification*

Why the same straw reads light and dark, what to name in the ground and the finish, what the conservation literature says about fading, and wording for the specification. No standard exists for straw marquetry, so working sizes are left to the partner.

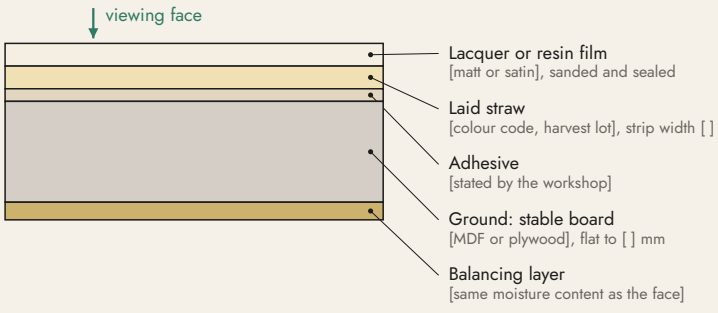
AT A GLANCE

Item	What our pages and the sources say	Why it matters	Ask for
Material	Rye straw, split lengthwise, flattened and cut to shape (our pages)	Dyed or natural; colour by code	Name the colour codes and one harvest lot
Lay	Laid by hand piece by piece: straight, chevron, diamond, star or pictorial	Light and dark come from strip direction, not from two dyes	Approve the lay in the light of the room
Ground	A stable, flat board	Straw shows what is beneath it	Name the board, its flatness and its moisture content
Finish	Lightly sanded, then a matt lacquer or clear resin (our pages)	Protects the surface; sets the sheen	Name the finish and the sheen target
Light	Natural colour holds in normal interior use; can lighten in direct sun (our pages)	Dyes vary in sensitivity; no rating for the straw was found	Ask for a light-fastness report on the dye used
Panel size	Set by the partner; no published limit found	Larger runs have joins	Ask for the largest panel and where the joins fall
Repair	No published method found	A later repair may not match	Ask what can be re-laid and keep a spare from the same lot

Material and finish statements are what our own straw pages say. No standard, trade guide or partner data sheet for straw marquetry was found.



Three lays in plan under one light. In a straight lay all strips read one tone; in a chevron and a diamond the strip direction makes one group read light and the other dark. Flat tints, not product colours. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



Schematic, not to scale. Bond and balance at the moisture content of the finished room. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

A straw panel in section: film, straw, adhesive, ground and balancing layer. Schematic, not to scale; the brackets are what a specification should name. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

TIME TO A JUST NOTICEABLE FADE, HIGH-SENSITIVITY COLOUR (CANADIAN CONSERVATION INSTITUTE, TABLE 3)

Illuminance	Time
50 lux	1.5 to 20 years
150 lux	6 months to 7 years
500 lux	about 2 months to 2 years
5,000 lux	5 days to 2 months
30,000 lux (daylight)	1 day to 2 weeks

8 hours a day, 3,000 hours a year; museum context; not a prediction for straw. Faded colour cannot be recovered.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

STRAW MARQUETRY PANEL

Straw marquetry panel to elevation [ref], [ ] × [ ] mm, [straight / chevron / diamond / pictorial per artwork ref], laid piece by piece from split and flattened rye straw, colour codes [list from the partner's chart], strip width [ ] mm, joins only where shown on shop drawing [ref]. All straw for the scheme to come from [one] harvest and [one] dye lot, set aside and held by the partner before work starts. Approved sample [ref] and mock-up [ref] govern colour, lay and sheen.

GROUND AND BONDING

Ground: [stable MDF / plywood / other], [ ] mm thick, flat to [ ] mm over [ ] mm, with a balancing layer of [ ] on the reverse. Ground conditioned to [ ] per cent moisture content before bonding, to match the expected room condition of [ ] per cent relative humidity. Adhesive and method to be stated by the workshop in a method statement.

FINISH AND SHEEN

Surface lightly sanded and sealed with [matt lacquer / clear resin], sheen [ ] gloss units at [60] degrees measured to [method stated], to approved sample [ref]. No visible runs, dust, orange peel or witness lines under raking light at [500] mm.

LIGHT

Panels are located as drawing [ref] and are not to receive direct sun. Where daylight reaches them, [blinds / UV-filtering film] are to be provided by [party]. The partner is to supply a light-fastness report to BS EN ISO 105-B02 [edition] for each dye used, or state that none exists, before the colours are approved.

CARE, SPARES AND REPAIR

The partner is to provide written care instructions for the handover manual. A spare [panel / offcuts of [ ] m²] from the same harvest and dye lot is to be supplied and stored by [party]. The partner is to state what repair is possible and what colour match can be expected.

TERMS USED

Straw marquetry
A surface made by splitting and flattening rye straw and laying the strips on a ground to form a pattern, picture or plain field. Not the same as veneer marquetry, which is cut from wood.

Sheen direction
The direction in which a flat, shiny straw strip reflects light most. Strips laid at different angles read light or dark from the same viewing point.

Ground
The board a decorative surface is laid on. It has to be flat and stable because a thin surface shows what is beneath it.

Blue Wool scale
A set of eight dyed wool references used in the ISO light-fastness tests. Canadian Conservation Institute classes: 1 to 3 high sensitivity to light, 4 to 6 medium, 7 or 8 and above low.

Balanced construction
A construction such that changes in moisture content will not cause warping, for example matching faces on both sides of a board (Wood Handbook glossary).

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- USDA Forest Products Laboratory, Wood Handbook: Wood as an Engineering Material, FPL-GTR-282 (2021): Table 4-2; Chapter 10 pp. 10-13 to 10-14; glossary. US species. Read 8 Nov 2026.
- Canadian Conservation Institute, Agent of Deterioration: Light, Ultraviolet and Infrared: page dated 2018-05-17. Museum context.
- BS EN ISO 105-B02:2014, colour fastness to artificial light, xenon arc: current per sellers and ISO (search summary); BSI page not read.
- Our straw marquetry and dyed straw pages: material, lay, finish and colour statements. No standard for straw marquetry was found.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/straw-marquetry-specification. 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.