

## GENERAL INSTALLATION

### GUIDE #2

## Decorative Wood Border Installed into $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (19 mm) Wood Floors

### Supplies included:

- Decorative wood borders and corners as ordered
- Spline\*

**Note:**  $\frac{3}{4}$ " borders with metal or feature strips less than  $\frac{3}{4}$ " will not be grooved or spline provided.

### Additional tools needed:

- Tube of urethane adhesive
- A plunge router or power saw
- End matching bit
- Chalk line and marking pencils
- Straight edge 6 ft. to 8 ft. long
- Woodworker's glue
- Utility knife
- Sharp chisel
- Hammer
- Eye and ear protection

### California Proposition 65 Notification Raw Wood Product Exposure

*Warning: Drilling, sawing, sanding, or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood)*



920.582.9977

**Read instructions completely before starting installation.**

It is the responsibility of the installer and/or homeowner to inspect all products prior to installation. If, before installation, you discover any product with perceived defects, please contact Oshkosh Designs immediately. Oshkosh Designs accepts no responsibility for cost of products or labor when products with perceived defects have been installed.

### PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION:

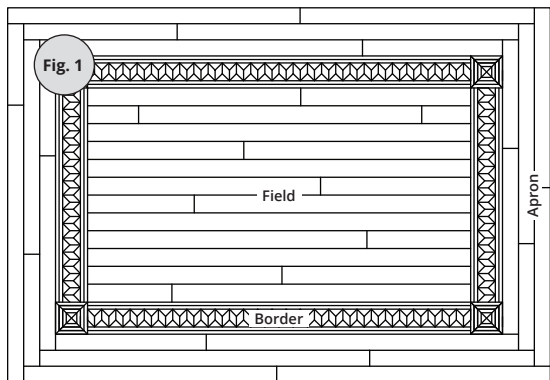
This product must be protected from adverse moisture conditions. Interior environment must be controlled and humidity levels must be maintained between 30-50%. It should be stored above ground level and allowed to acclimate for **at least one week** prior to installation. Open the boxes and spread out the product. Avoid laying directly on concrete. Check NWFA guidelines for acclimation levels or requirements for your region.

### Subfloor

A good installation begins with a good subfloor, whether it's a slab or wood. Oshkosh Designs decorative borders must be installed over a sound and flat subfloor that is in compliance with the National Wood Flooring Association, [nwfa.org](http://nwfa.org); 800.422.4556 (US); 800.848.8824 (CAN).

### The Field

Every installation is different: room size, configuration of field/border/apron and dimensions of flooring and border. The flooring field should be laid perpendicular to floor joists, particularly in nail-down installations. In planning the layout of the floor, the field dimensions should work out so that the full width of strips/planks of flooring will be used on both sides of the field.



### Dry-laying the border

- Dry-lay the border around the room, noting how the border approaches the corner blocks. Most borders are designed to be cut at the corner block no matter where the pattern falls.

- Some borders have "continual flow" (or integrated) corner blocks that allow the border to continue with no interruption in pattern. Continual-flow corners require adjusting the pattern in the middle of the border with a V-block to allow the corner to accept the end of a repeated section properly.
- Some border patterns may require "right-hand" and "left-hand" sections in order to flow properly.
- In most cases, it is possible to adjust the field flooring to fit the border layout, or a feature strip may also be added. However, adjustments to the field must also be made so that the end result is aesthetically pleasing.

### Measure twice, cut once

Make sure all measurements are accurate. Measure the space needed for the border and dry lay the border before installing the field. However, a dry layout should never be used for precise measurement purposes. Continue to take measurements and adjust throughout installation.

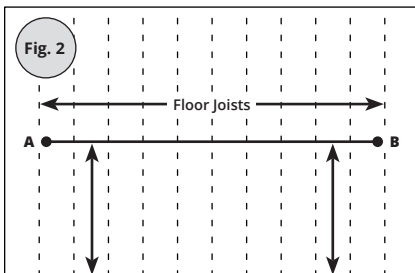
### Establishing center lines for the floor

Before beginning to install the floor, an accurate diagram must be drawn on the subfloor (or black felt or resin paper, if it is being used) to establish the starting points and layout lines for field, border, and apron.

### Determine the Primary working line:

Measure two facing walls to find the center point, and mark each point on the subfloor and wall.

Snap a chalk line between those two points. This represents the Primary (center) working line.



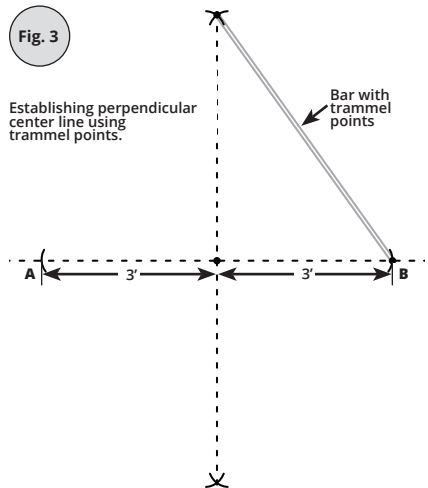
Determining center line.

### Determine the Secondary Line, the trammel point method (preferred method):

The Secondary Line must be exactly 90 degrees to the Primary Line. The directions below describe using trammel points and measurements of 3, 4, and 5 feet in a room; however, larger rooms may require doubling, tripling or even quadrupling those dimensions.

Measure to find the center point on the Primary working line. Mark that point C.

Using a 6-foot trammel point beam or bar compass set at 4 feet, scribe arcs on the Primary working line to the right and left of center point C.



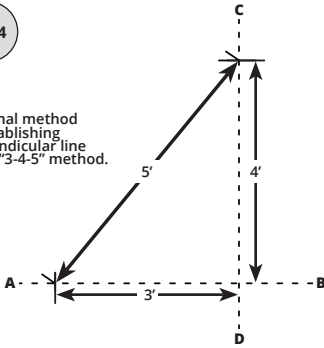
From the points at which the arcs intersect with the Primary working line, adjust the trammel point beam or bar compass to 5 feet and scribe arcs in the general area of where the 90-degree Secondary Line will be. Do this both above and below the Primary working line.

Snap a line between the points where the arcs intersect, perpendicular to line AB. Also, make a mark on each wall where the Secondary Line meets the walls. This line will be the Secondary working line and should be a 90-degree-angle to the Primary working line.

Verify all measurements using the 3-4-5 method before proceeding.

Fig. 4

Optional method of establishing perpendicular line using "3-4-5" method.



The two lines (AB & CD), will serve as the starting points for positioning the flooring field, the border and the apron. All measurements must be done from these lines.

**Perimeter working lines:** Establish working lines at the perimeter of the room, which will represent the estimated inside working lines of the border.

Perimeter working lines should be equal to a multiple of the width of the materials being installed, and should be equidistant from their adjacent walls. These lines should be adjusted to fit the width and the aesthetics of the border design. If the number of pattern repeats in the field is uneven, adjust the center working line so that the pattern is even on each side of the room.

Using a chalk line, snap parallel lines representing the inside of the border.

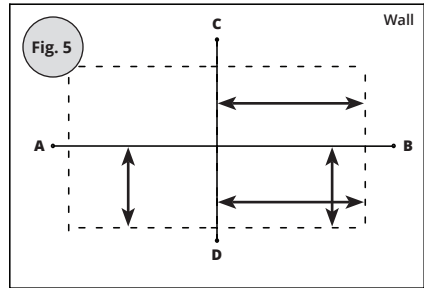
Working from the center of the room, build the field of the floor toward the perimeter working lines. Periodically check the measurements and make adjustments to ensure that the field will meet the perimeter working lines without the need for unsightly cuts or rips.

**Diagramming the field, border, and apron:**

You are now ready to dimension the field, then the border, and finally the apron. Using dimensions of the field from our original plan and confirmed in your "dry-lay" of the border, begin by measuring one half of the width of the field, first from one end of line AB and the other end of line AB. Snap a chalk line between these two points. Then, repeat the procedure on the opposite side of line AB. Next, working off line CD, you should mea-

sure one half of the length of the field from two points on opposite ends of DC.

Do so on both sides of line CD. The resulting chalk lines outline the outside perimeter of the field and the inside perimeter of the border. Use the "3-4-5" method at each corner to ensure that it is square. Again, trimming the width of the strips or planks should be avoided if possible. (Width can be increased or decreased by adding or subtracting flooring.)



Snapping perimeter lines of field.

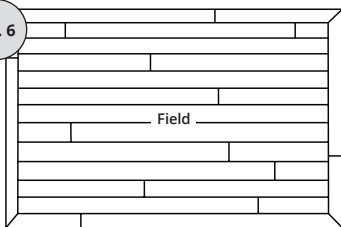
To diagram the outside perimeter of the border, measure the width of the border from the chalk lines you have just snapped. Do so on all four sides. Snap chalk lines. These lines form the outside perimeter of the border and the beginning of the apron.

**INSTALLING THE BORDER:**

The first step in installing the border is to "dry-lay" or fit the border sections to the perimeter of the field. Trim section lengths as required. Or, other adjustments can be made to adjust the field or floor to ensure proper pattern repeats of the border.

- a. The field can be "picture-framed" with flooring. This will add equal amounts of length and width to the perimeter of the field.

Fig. 6



"Picture-frame" the field to adjust for border.

**b.** Up to ¼ in. (6 mm) of width can be trimmed off the width of the outer strips or planks. End-match the flooring if the field is trimmed.

**c.** Up to ⅜ in. (3 mm) (⅛ in. [1.6 mm] on each side) can be trimmed from the width of the border. This should be accomplished with a good table saw and guide fence.

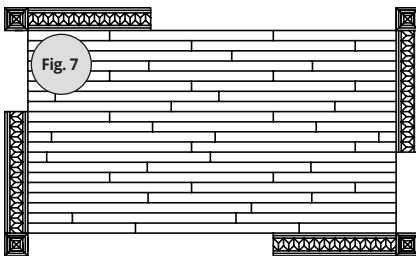
**Note:** In a ¾ in. (19 mm) nail-down installation, the border should be joined to the field on all four sides with either the tongue of the flooring or slip tongue inserted and glued by the installer. Likewise, the border should be joined to the apron with spline.

**Note:** Borders specified for ¾ in. (19 mm) thickness from Oshkosh Designs are shipped with edges grooved and spline provided for tongue-and-groove installation.

At this time, cut out your floor paper in the area where the border will be installed. Spread a high quality wood flooring adhesive (we recommend Bostik's Best or Franklin's 811 Plus urethane wood floor adhesive) either on the underside of the border or on the subfloor where border sections will be positioned. Be sure to use the trowel size and trowel profile recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.

**Note:** The adhesive and trowel size used takes the place of felt paper.

Lay the first section of border with corner making sure that the corner extends beyond the field. See Fig. 7. Go to the next corner and lay another border section with corner. Repeat this procedure until you have one border/corner section attached at each corner and along each side.



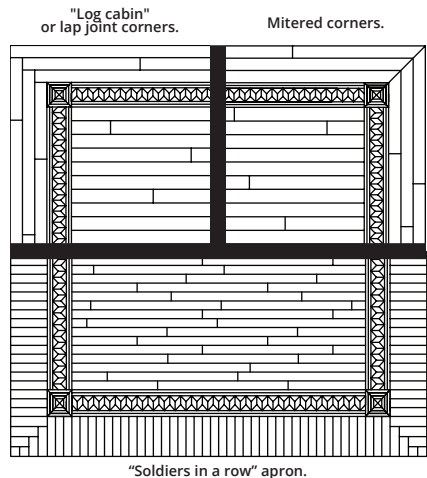
Begin installation of border with section at each corner.

Then, use border sections without corners to fill in gaps. The border section, which mates with the next corner, may have to be trimmed to fit only at the corner blocks. Fill gaps on all four sides with border sections until border installation is completed using spline between all joints.

In a tongue-and-groove ¾ in. (19 mm) installation, once the border is completely installed, a spline should be glued into the entire perimeter of the border. Borders should then be nailed to the subfloor through the slip tongue every 8 in. to 10 in. (200 mm to 250 mm).

### INSTALLING THE APRON:

To install the remaining floor, known as the apron or skirt, around your border, one of three configurations can be used: (1) "picture frame" with mitered corners, (2) "picture frame" with "log cabin" or lap joints, (3) "Soldiers-in-a-row" construction. Remember to allow room for expansion between the outside edge of the apron and the wall (approx. ½ in. to ¾ in. [13 mm to 19 mm]).



**Note:** To complete the installation up to the wall or your expansion space, you should top nail (or glue) the last frame around the apron. Use base molding to cover nails.