

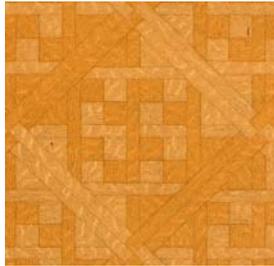


VERSAILLES PANELS

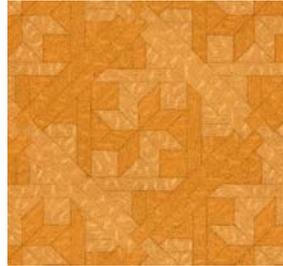
SHAPES AND DIMENSIONS

Versailles is a classical type of panel which mainly consists of a basket weave pattern surrounded by a square slat of parquet. However the designation is not unambiguous, as Versailles parquet exists in numerous variations, depending on time and place.

In the old picture book from August Lachappelle, which is still regarded as a reference by the old skilled parquet layers, there are many examples of the “Parquet dit de Versailles”.



fond 81



fond 83



fond 85



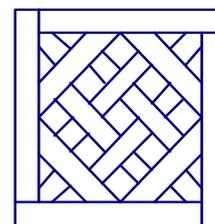
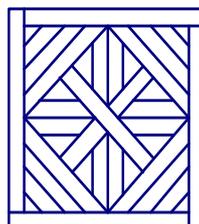
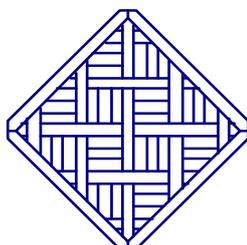
fond 86



Old parquet type Versailles type (fond 83)

Each manufacturer has his own interpretation on how this panel should be made, and we certainly should not underestimate the creativity of the architect.

Here are some examples from designs executed by BJ Parket as to a demand from a customer..

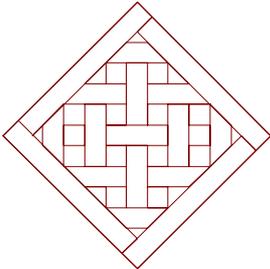


STANDARD DESIGN

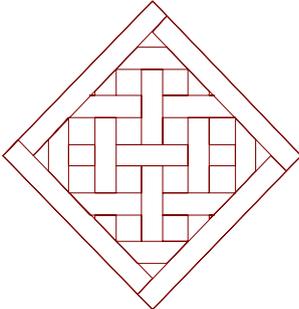
The standard pattern selected by BJ Parquet has twelve blocs an five diagonal weaves. This pattern has a stylish impression without being too overwhelming. Very prominent figures as we see in Russian and Polish castles are not favourites in our countries.

By adapting the size of the panel to the dimensions of the room we can achieve a nice harmony between floor and room. That's why BJ Parquet produces three different sizes. The basket weave is set up of slats from 55 mm (panels are 49,5 cm or between 55 and 73 cm) or 72 mm (panels from 65 cm or between 73 and 95 cm) or slats from 90 mm (panels from 102 cm wide). The exact adjustment from the panel to the Floor is obtained by adapting the size of the square blocs.

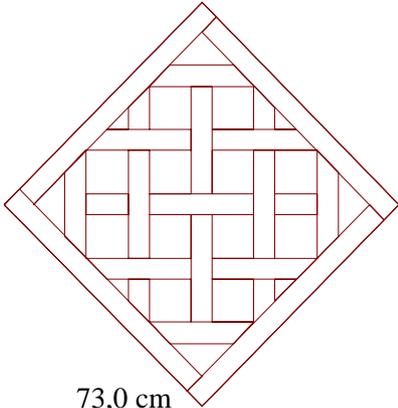
Basket weave 55 mm



49,5 cm

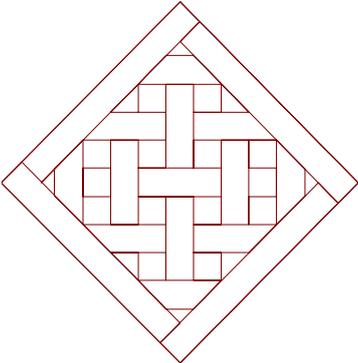


55,0 cm

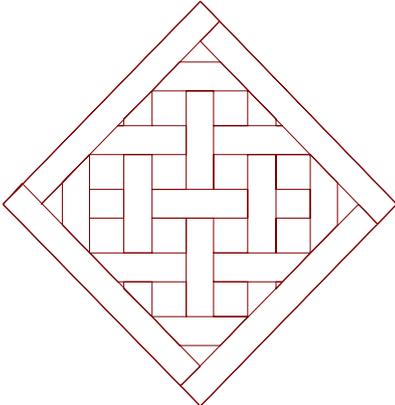


73,0 cm

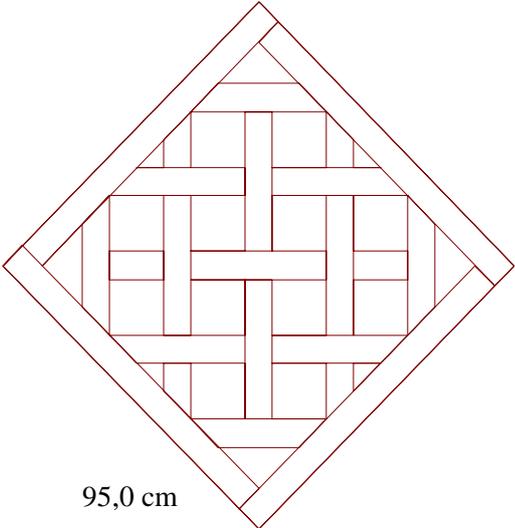
Basket weave 72 mm



65,0 cm

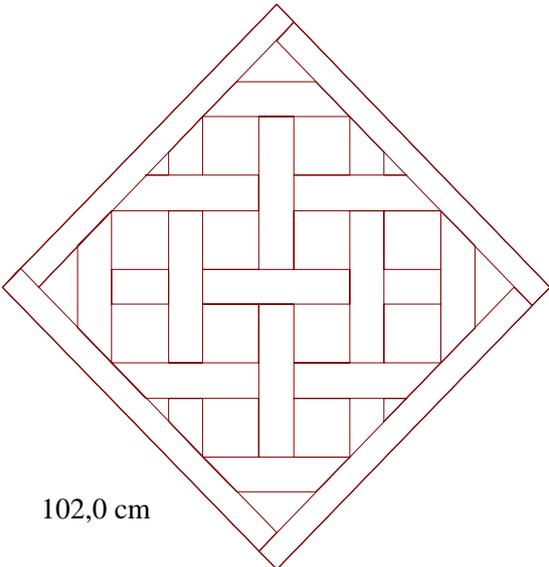


73,0 cm



95,0 cm

Basket weave 90 mm

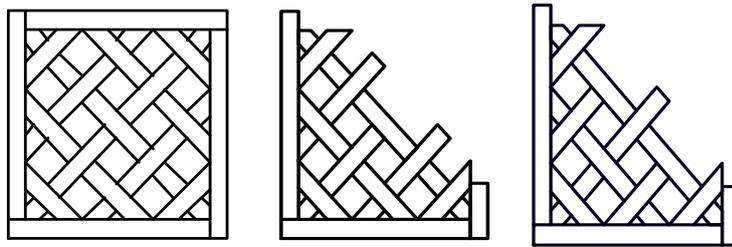


102,0 cm

MADE-TO-MEASURE

With an appropriate computer program, where the dimensions of the room, the border and the desired panel can be input the best possible configuration can be found. This way the diagonal installed panels fit at least on three sides, and by adjusting the surrounding border in most cases the parquet can be finished with entire panels on the four sides. This way you get a first-rate parquet floor, and this makes a totally different appearance than one where the panels have been cut through, as it is the case with panels produced to standard sizes.

Because Versailles panels are installed diagonally, half panels are needed on the side. When one cuts an entire panel in two, you always lose the thickness of the saw, and you just got a little less than half a panel. That's why BJ Parquet provides half panels in the two directions of the diagonal, and there is no price increase for this.



TYPES AND QUALITIES

Versailles panels are made in the grading extra, prime and bis/rustical; the thickness is 10 mm. Other qualities and wood species are possible too. In tropical wood species 55 mm wide is not a standard specification, so we make those panels in the range of 73 cm to 95 cm, with slats of 72 mm wide. The 10 mm thick parquet planks are sawn with great accuracy to length and mitre. Then these components are glued on the side, assembled in the right shape, tightened on the sides and dried. Finally the assembled plates are equally cut to its exact dimension and right angles to facilitate the work of the parquet layer to a maximum.



Besides nowadays there is more demand for aged, distressed panels. In that case the prime/bis and rustically grades are the most popular, as in these grades the character of the wood itself speaks out most. To get this aged look, the planks are sanded first and then distressed. As this treatment influences the measurements the planks can no longer be glued together on the side. In that case the planks are assembled into panels and are connected together by a foil on top, which has to be removed after installation.

INSTALLATION

When the made-to-measure panels are produced with great accuracy the greatest annoyance for the parquet installer is off. A good preparation and exact measuring are the main issues now. The best way to install a 10 mm thick Versailles tiles is gluing and nailing them onto an oak mosaic parquet sub floor. This sub floor has to be sanded flat to overcome unevenness in the screed.

On this sub floor the contour of the border is marked in a way that the exact position of the panel in the middle can be outlined. Once this panel has been put firmly in his place the job is almost halfway done. The other panels are installed against to each other and nailed with a few brads in the side slats and in some central blocs. The panels should be tapped on the floor to be sure the glue makes contact everywhere. The poly urethane Sikabond T54 is a good option because this glue is permanent elastic and allows the working of the wood without causing cracks or breaking loose the parquet. In the end the outsides are cut straight to fit in the border. Fill up the brad holes and sand the parquet up to abrasive n° 100. Finishing with oil, varnish or polishing wax.

