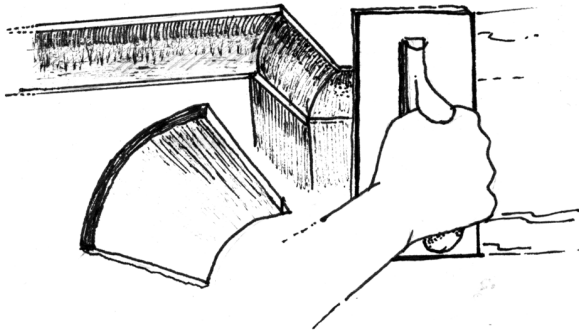




PLASTERBOARD JOINING & CORNICE 16



Before purchasing tools, timber and materials, read every step thoroughly then talk to one of our experts

Once all your plasterboard sheets are in place and the adhesive has had time to dry, the seams and corners of the plasterboard need to be finished off with joint tape and premixed jointing compound. Jointing is not as easy as it looks, so take your time and use smooth strokes and clean tools ... and be prepared for some frustration at the beginning.

Cornice styles are wide ranging and are the ideal way to finish off the look of a room and do not require any special skills to erect. Fitting cornice will remove the need to undertake detailed finishing of the corner where the wall and ceiling meet.

Tools and Materials

Some or all of the following tools and materials will be required depending on the actual work being carried out.

Fibreglass Jointing Tape	External Corner Bead
Jointing Compound	Dust masks
Trimming knife	Tin snips
Corner trowel	75, 100, 150mm Broadknives
250mm curved trowel	275mm plasterer's flat trowel
Sanding float and 150 grit sandpaper	
Cornice	Cornice Cement
Measuring tape	Fine-tooth saw

Cornice mitre box or tool such as Gyprock Mitremasta™

Keep in mind that the tools you'll use when jointing are being used to create a smooth finish, any kinks or scratches in the edge of the tool will cause rough areas in the plaster and create more work for you.

Before You Start

Ensure that all fixings, screws or nails, are seated below the surface of the plasterboard. These should be just below the surface, any fixings that are driven too far into the plasterboard will cut the paper of the board causing problems such as 'popping'.

Tidy up any damaged areas of plasterboard such as broken corners. It is usually easier to remove these

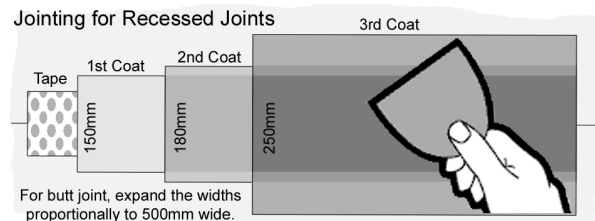
completely and fill them with cornice cement prior to continuing.

Remove any dust or loose material from the plasterboard.

Step 1: Jointing

Apply self-adhesive fibreglass mesh tape, along the full length of each joint. Smooth down avoiding any wrinkles.

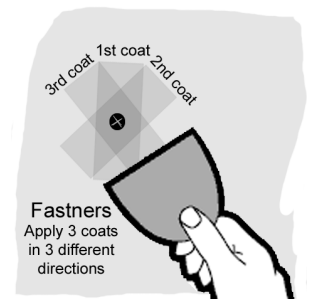
Use a 150mm broad knife to apply a layer of premixed jointing compound to completely cover the tape and fill up the recessed area so that it is level with surface of the sheet. Allow at least 24 hours to dry.



Do not apply the second coat until after the first has dried completely. First, hand sand off any excess and lumps from the first coat and then apply the second coat to a width of 180mm. Allow at least 24 hours to dry.

When the second coat is dry, lightly hand sand and use a 250mm curved trowel to apply the finishing coat, feathering the edges about 50mm beyond edges of the second coat. Allow at least 24 hours to dry.

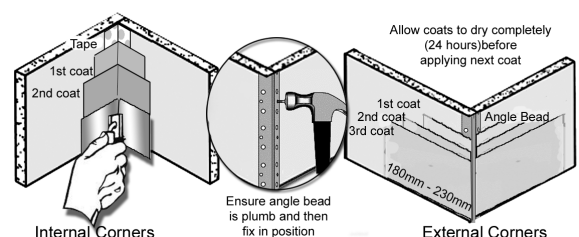
Fasteners also need to be covered with 3 coats of premixed jointing compound so you should do these as you do the joint coats. Using the same principals, apply each coat in different directions and extend each coat about 25mm beyond the previous coat. Taping fastener divots is not necessary.



For internal corner fold the fibreglass tape along its centreline and apply along the full length of the corner joint. Use an internal corner trowel to apply two coats of premixed jointing compound, extending at least 125mm each side of the joint. Allow at least 24 hours to dry between coats.

Any external corners will need to have angle beads fitted to enable a sharp square corner to be produced. These are right angled, galvanised metal strips which have holes in the side fins for nails to go through for fixing. To cut them, simply measure and mark to length then use a pair of tin snips.

To fix in position place the spirit level on the corner to be beaded, if it is plumb fix the bead on using galvanised plasterboard nails. If the corner is out of plumb, hold the bead at the prominent part of the corner and nail at that point then use a spirit level to adjust the bead before nailing in position.



After attaching the metal corner strips use a 100mm broadknife to spread compound mix 75mm to 100mm out from the nose of the bead.

When the first layer is completely dry, sand it lightly and apply a second coat of compound mix, feathering the edges about 50mm to 75mm beyond the first coat.

If a third coat is needed, feather it 50mm to 75mm beyond the preceding coat. This creates a tapered finish of joint compound approximately 180mm to 230mm wide at each metal corner.

Step 2: Sanding

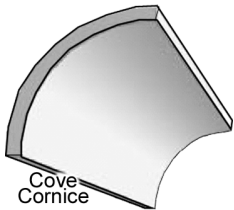
When the final coat is thoroughly dry, sand lightly to a smooth finish using 150 grit sandpaper with a hand sander. and use medium pressure to make smooth, long strokes diagonally across the joint feathering the edges as you go.



Sanding joints is a very dusty business so, for safety, you should wear a quality dust mask and goggles

Step 3: Cornices

Cornice is the generic term that describes a decorative overhang or moulding located at the junction where the ceiling meets the walls. It is composed of gypsum plaster encased in a strong linerboard, and comes in a range of designs, of which the most widely used is Cove cornice.



Cove cornice is a scotia profile with square edges and is commonly available in 55mm

and 90mm nominal projections and in a range of lengths from 2400mm.

Step 4: Preparation

Cut off a small 100mm length of cornice to use as a template. Use this piece to mark the top and bottom edges of the cornice on the walls and ceiling all around the room. Make the marks at regular intervals and then join them with a straight edge.

Step 5: Cutting Cornice

Use a mitre box or a specialised tool, such as a Gyprock Mitremasta™, to help cut accurate mitres.

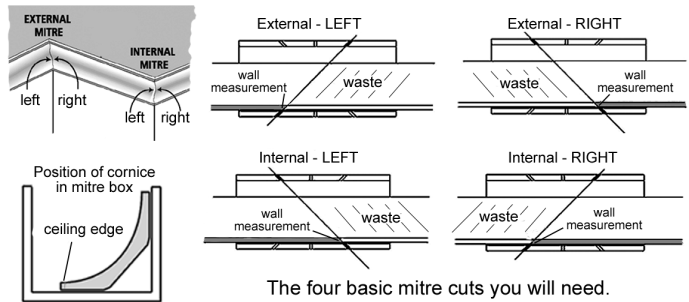
To help avoid cutting the mitre joint the wrong way, you will find it most helpful to first establish which way up your cornice should be fixed to the wall and then, mark the BACK of the cornice that is to be attached to the WALL at frequent intervals with "W/E", meaning wall edge

This will help you at all times to be constantly aware of exactly which face goes to the Wall and which face goes to the Ceiling.

Before proceeding to cut into any long useable lengths of cornice always use a small off cut to do some practice mitre joint cutting. This will give you confidence whereby you can avoid error and enjoy the end results.

If you have any 'external' corners in the room, you will need to cut the two ends which join here with mitres in the opposite direction. This often causes problems since, not only have you got to remember to cut the angle the right way, but also the point to which you measure is different. The best way to remember and get it right is to always measure for the bottom edge of the cornice on external angles and the top edge for internal angles.

Use a mitre box to accurately cut the corner mitres, make sure that the mitre box is large enough so that the two edges of the cornice can fit flat against the bottom and side of the box. Refer to the diagram below to see the four basic mitre cuts you will need.



The four basic mitre cuts you will need.

Step 5: Fixing Cornice

If using powder cornice cement, mix some in accordance with the instructions ... don't mix too much as it will only be usable for 20 to 30 minutes.

With a filling knife, spread an even 10mm layer of cornice cement over the top and bottom of the back of the moulding ... the areas that will be in contact with the walls and ceiling. You should also "butter" any joints.

Position the length of cornice along the marked line and with the mitre in the corner. Press the cornice into place, gently pressing along the length of the coving to ensure that the adhesive is spread evenly.

Long lengths of cornice may sag or fall off before the adhesive has set, so temporarily support the bottom edge with one or two nails, you might also find it beneficial to put a couple of these nails in the ceiling as well to stop the cornice rolling forward.

Remove surplus cement with a small broadknife and clean down with a brush or sponge. Use surplus cement to fill and smooth off mitres.

Try to make as few joints on the walls as possible. It's worth buying an extra full length piece of cornice rather than use up two shorter sections. If you must make a join, you should splice the ends as shown.



Cornice Hints

- Have a friend help support lengths of cornice while they are being fixed in place ... they have some degree of flexibility but can easily break under their own weight.

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