mouldings

Guide to panelling on Stairs using Timber Mouldings (Picture frame style with dado)

To set height for dado rail, measure up to your preferred height off top of skirting (typically 900mm to 1000mm) in your hallway and landing, placing a mark at each end of the run. Place a line through the marks using a chalk line. Alternatively, you can use a long straight edge (Fig 1)

To set height for dado on stairs, draw a vertical line up, at the bottom and top of the stairs, off the top of the string. Next, mark the height of the dado. This should be approximately the same height as your stair balustrading handrail. In this example we have set the height to 900mm. Mark height top and bottom and strike a line through both marks using a chalk line. Lengthen all the lines so they intersect with each other (**Fig 2**)

Next, take an angle finder and place on junction where the lines intersect at the bottom of the stairs. To work out what angles are required to mitre the pieces at this point subtract the angle finder reading from 180, then divide by 2 to give the angle of cut required **(Fig 3)**

Example Angle finder = 138 degs Then 180 minus 138 = 42degs Divide 42degs by 2 = 21deg cut

Repeat for intersection at top of stairs.

Measure, mark and cut dado rails to length.

Apply fast grab adhesive to back face and offer up to chalk lines. Secure with nail gun

Alternatively, if you do not have an angle finder, place a piece of dado up to the horizontal line and mark a line along the bottom edge of the dado. Repeat this on the stairs to create a set of tramlines. Strike a line through where they intersect, this can be used as a template to mark your dado rail (Fig 4)



Offer a length of dado up to the horizontal tramlines and mark position of mitre location onto the dado. Align saw with both marks and cut **(Fig 5)** Fig 5 Fig 6 Fig 7 Fig 8

Repeat procedure for dado on the stairs. Mark and cut (Fig 6)

Once all pieces are cut, apply fast grab adhesive to backs and offer up to chalk lines. Secure with nail gun (Fig 7)

For the panels, there are no set rules, it is purely down to personal preference how many panels you want or the size of gaps between them. In the following example, we are going to show 4 panels on the stairs using a 100mm gap.

Draw a vertical line down from the corners on your dado rail (Fig 8)

Next, measure 100mm from the underside of the dado and mark at both ends of the run. If you make a 100mm block this will save time. Using the block mark out the rest of the run. Then place block on top of skirting and mark at both ends of run. Repeat for stairs. Using a chalk line, strike a line through all marks (Fig 9)

Fig 9 Fig 10

On the two vertical lines drawn from the corners of the dado, offset the line 50mm on each side to create a gap of 100mm (Fig 10)

At either the bottom or top of the run, extend the bottom 100mm line so it intersects the furthest 50mm offset vertical line.

Measure the distance "X" as this will help in working out panel sizes (Fig 11)

Measure the distance between the two inner 50mm vertical lines (this is where your panels will start and finish) where they intersect the bottom 100mm line. Decide on how many panels you require. In this example we are going to have 4 panels (**Fig 12**)

Example Distance = 3479mm 4 panels = 3 gaps Distance "X" = 134mm Multiply No of gaps by distance "X" (3 x 134 = 402) Subtract this number from distance (3479 – 402 = 3077mm) Then divide by 4 panels (3077/4 = 769mm)



Measure up the stairs and mark the panel length. Mark a vertical line up. Then measure distance "X" up the stairs (in our example this was 134mm) then mark another vertical line. Repeat the procedure up the stairs until all panels have been marked out (Fig 13)

Check you are happy with the design before you start cutting the panel strips

Measure the overall size of the panels. Mark the strips using either an angle finder or using the offset option used for the dado. Cut panel strips to size (**Fig 14**)

Fig 13 Fig 14 Fig 15

Fig 16

Apply fast grab adhesive to the panel strips and offer up to lines. Secure with nail gun (Fig 15)

Repeat until all panels on the stairs are done (Fig 16)

On the horizontal run at the bottom mark 100mm from beginning of the run with the 100mm block top and bottom. Draw line through marks.

Then measure distance from vertical line to the previously marked 50mm offset line (Fig 17)



Decide how many panels you prefer. In this example we are going to set out 2 panels Subtract 100mm (1 gap) from the distance measured then divide this by 2 to get panel lengths (Fig 18)

Example

Distance = 1866mm 1866mm minus 100mm = 1766mm 1766mm divided by 2 = 883mm panel length



Fig 19

Cut all strips to length.

Apply fast grab to all strips and offer to drawn lines. Secure with nail gun.

Repeat for top horizontal run.

Fill any gaps and joints with filler/decorator's caulk. Sand to a smooth finish. Remove any dust with a damp cloth or vacuum cleaner.

You are now ready to paint (Fig 19)