Laying laminate
Step by step procedure
Laying laminate
Explained step by step

The laying of laminate or parquet is increasing in popularity. With the simple click systems, the laying work itself is child play and homes shine in new splendour after investing just a short amount of time.

Although the laying work has become so easy, there are still DIY enthusiasts who do not tackle this subject. This is why we at wolfcraft® have made the laying of parquet and laminate even simpler, faster and safer with our new products.

We have written this guide for you, so that you can convince yourself of just how easy to use our innovative laying aids are. On the following pages, you will learn everything you need to know when it comes to laying “wooden flooring”. This guide is an ideal work of reference for all of your questions concerning the laying of parquet and laminate, due to its numerous photographs and many tips and tricks with which you can lay your dream floor faster and easier, with the clever new wolfcraft® products.

With this in mind, we wish much fun and success to all interested DIY enthusiasts and readers of this guide when laying their dream floors using wolfcraft® products.

wolfcraft® GmbH

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Wolff-Straße, D-56746 Kempenich
Service Hotline: 00 49 (0) 26 55 51 280

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The laying tool

You can only achieve a perfect work result with the right tool. With wolfcraft® products, you can rely on year-long experience in the development of high-quality, innovative products, always orientated to satisfy the user’s needs and provide him with the highest degree of benefit and safety. The handling of all of the products is as easy as ABC and helps you to complete your work quickly and precisely. This means that your dream flooring is ready in no time at all and we can guarantee that you will already be buying the material for the next room – and that is a fact!

The laminate cutters

The laminate cutters from wolfcraft® are the elegant alternative to jig and mitre saws. They cut laminate boards almost noiseless, do not need power and do not generate dust. This not only cares for your health, but also improves your relationship with the neighbours. After all, disturbing, loud machine noises are then a thing of the past. It should also be mentioned that the new laminate cutter also works faster and more precisely than any jigsaws. Besides all these advantages – working with this device is really fun!

The laminate cutter LC 300

The LC 300 for extensive laminate laying jobs in the most effortless and comfortable way.

The appliance cuts laminate boards up to a thickness of 11 mm. Thanks to the „hold-down“ function the LC 300 cuts up to 400 mm wide laminate boards and longitudinal cuts without any difficulties: The „hold-down“ function prevents the blade from getting stuck in the laminate board and like thus enable the user to pull the blade easily out of the board. Afterwards the laminate board can be pushed forward for the second cut.

The large limit stop of the LC 300 will ensure precise 90° cuts, although 45° cuts are no problem anymore thanks to the special limit stop geometry. Angle and lengthwise cuts are possible with the limit stop being removed.

The newly designed blade guiding as well as the toothing will ensure that the force is applied in the most optimal way at every point of the cut, so that the material is prevented from slipping while tongue and groove of the laminate flooring are protected.

Further features of the LC 300 are the practical support for the material as well as the appliance’s top-quality aluminium design, so that the appliance is not only light but also stable.
The laying tool

A professional tool is decisive

The laminate cutter LC 250
The LC 250 is ideal for small laminate laying jobs in one or two rooms.

The LC 300 is suitable for all commercially available types of laminate up to a thickness of 11 mm and a width of 210 mm. Like the LC 300, the LC 250 also performs exact 90° cuts as well as angular and lengthwise cuts.

Spacers, buffer and crow bar
It is always worth buying the right accessories. If you want to lay solid wood or ready-made parquet, it is imperative that you purchase the professional crow bar which is made of thick, extremely hard steel (image right). With this, you can firmly join every panel without difficulty.
**The laying tool**

*The laminate fitter*
With this small helper, you can mark the last panel so that it fits perfectly. Not only is the exact course of the wall automatically transferred (whether diagonal or crooked!), the expansion joints are also taken into account. Typical wolfcraft® – everything is taken into consideration! The wide clamping width of 25 cm can be used for almost every wooden floor covering.

*Angle bevel*
The exact cutting of borders or skirting boards is simplified due to the bisecting lines of the angle being displayed at every angle. With the integrated magnet, you can exactly adjust the saw blade of mitre saws in just seconds. Thanks to the retractable stop edge and the angle scale for the preadjusting of the required angle, the bevel can also be used as a normal stop angle. A centimetre ruler for small measuring work rounds the product off and soon turns it into an indispensable helper!

*Contour gauge*
The positions of heating pipes or smaller projections can be exactly callipered by the numerous movable touch probes and subsequently easily transferred to the wood panels concerned. Even complicated, richly profiled wooden laths can be precisely callipered in no time at all so that they can be transferred to other constructional elements. The device hereby indicates both the positive and the negative profile form.

*The cranked hand saw*
This saw with the offset handle is the only one enabling you to saw into the lower end of the door frame, so that the wooden floor can be laid underneath it. This not only looks much more professional; but, is also extremely important, so that the floor has enough space to “work”. The best thing, however, is that you do not need to be a professional to do this work successfully – the saw does it for you!
What to Choose

The Dilemma of Choice

Ready-made parquet or laminate

There are many reasons for installing a parquet or laminate floor. The most important one is the simple “click” laying systems.

Ready-made parquet is always of a three-layer design. The top layer is an approx. 3-4 cm thick wear layer in the required type of wood. The layer beneath is a thicker centre layer, normally of pine wood, running crosswise to the top layer. Right at the bottom, a thinner countertraction layer, also softwood and having the same fibre, runs as the top wood layer.

The top real wood layer is normally provided with a high-quality surface sealing and a long-wearing varnish or an ecological oil/wax surface. This is a very complicated process. This real wood layer provides the floor with its unique appearance, as each panel is a unicum!

The durability is really great; however, it is not the same as with a high-quality laminate floor. Due to a correspondingly thick wear layer, however, worn ready-made parquet can look as good as new again, if one completely sands it off and then reseals it. The original varnish layer of the floor can then be replaced with an oil/wax layer at a later date, for example. This “renovation advantage” is not offered by laminate floors!

Laminate is normally much less expensive that parquet and can in some cases also be a less expensive alternative to a classical carpet. One should not choose the cheapest version, however, as its durability is not as good. The floor has a “run-down appearance” after just a short period of time.

High-quality laminate floors have a much more durable surface than most of the parquet floors and can then be installed in very frequented areas. The decor layers are manufactured with such a high, elaborate quality that even professionals sometimes have difficulty telling the difference between an artificial wood decor and a genuine wood surface.

The simple glue less laying of the click system also enables a laminate floor to be easily removed and installed elsewhere. For many renovation jobs, the low wood density (min. 7mm) is already an important reason for selecting this type of floor.
The laying surface

Parquet and laminate flooring is simply laid so that it “floats” on the laying surface. This means that the flooring is not adhered to the laying surface. To put it in simple terms, a large plate of narrow floor panels, pushed together, are loosely positioned on the laying surface. This large plate must be at a sufficient distance from the surrounding walls, however, so that it can expand without difficulty when subjected to temperature and air humidity fluctuations. If this space is not provided, the flooring will camber. This is why it is extremely important that the floor panels have a minimum clearance of approx. 10 mm from the wall. This gap will be perfectly closed by an approx. 20 cm wide skirting board later.

The correct pre-treatment of the laying surface is just as important. If the flooring is to be directly placed on a wash floor, it is imperative that you lay a special PE foil as a vapour barrier against rising damp. It is also advisable to determine in advance the residual moisture in concrete floors, when laying these in new buildings. You should also level out any unevenness in the laying surface that exceeds 3 – 4 mm along a length of one metre with a self-spreading filler beforehand. Under no circumstances should you directly lay the wooden flooring on carpets for health reasons.

If you want a good soundproof insulation, the trade offers you numerous well-engineered products, achieving a high degree of soundproof and levelling out unevenness in the laying surface (max. 3 mm). The use of a soundproof insulation is therefore indispensable and should also match the existing laying surface. The popular 2 mm soundproof foam insulation is not suitable for laying on underfloor heating, for example. In this case, you should install the classic ribbed board or consult what type of insulation is suitable for underfloor heating.

A vapour barrier against rising dampness is absolutely necessary when laying wash floors and underfloor heatings. A 0.2 mm thick PE foil is laid in a trough form, i.e. it should also be laid approx. 4 cm up the wall. At joints, the widths should overlap by approx. 20 – 30 cm and be fixed in place with adhesive tape.
The laying surface

The laying direction

After the laying surface has been treated and the soundproof insulation has been installed, you must make a decision as to the laying direction of the parquet or laminate flooring. In doing so, the main source of light in the room is a key factor. If the laying direction follows the main source of light, the joints are automatically pushed together with the floor panels; this not being so easy to detect. If the joints are crosswise to the main light source, the light repeatedly shines against the joints, so that a possible unevenness is immediately visible.

The laying direction can have a positive effect on the room size as well. A narrow room appears to be less “tubular,” for example, if the panels are laid along the short side of the room. Whereas it appears to be even narrower if the panels or wood grains follow the long side of the room.
The laying surface

Soundproof insulation

The most diverse soundproof systems are offered in the market, depending on the laying surface. The ribbed boards and the approx. 2 mm thick special foam is most frequently used. An ecological insulation of granulated cork or felt can also be a good alternative. It is very important to seek advice from the supplier and also ask the manufacturer of the floor covering what they recommend. These companies often offer a hotline service, if you should require it.

Rolling out the soundproof insulation

The rolling or laying out of a soundproof insulation is really easy. You should ensure that the rolled out widths do not overlap, however. It is therefore advisable to fix the butt joints of the individual widths with adhesive tape. In this way, you ensure that the widths are not pushed on top of each other. We recommend that you roll soundproof insulation out in the same direction as the laying direction. This has the advantage that you initially only have to roll out one width and can then lay some rows of panels. If you roll the soundproof insulation out crosswise to the laying direction however, you must start by laying the insulation throughout the entire room before you can start laying the first row of panels. You can only lay the other rows by walking over the insulation, causing possible damage.

Laminate with integrated soundproof insulation

The trade already offers a number of floorings with integrated soundproof insulation. A corresponding soundproof insulation in the form of foam or felt is adhered to the back of the floor panels. This means that you save yourself the work of rolling out insulation; however, you no longer have the same flexibility as to the sound protection. When having to choose, you should obtain advice from a specialist.
Laying the flooring

It is time to start, step by step

Laying the first row of panels
Start by laying the first panels along the wall. You should mark any projections/unevenness on the floor panel with an angle and subsequently saw it out with a jigsaw. It is imperative that you ensure that the important expansion joint of 10 mm between the floor panel and the wall or projection respectively is also taken into account.

Marking the last panel in the row
Place a floor panel next to the row of panels already laid. Ensure that there is sufficient clearance from the wall for the required 10 mm expansion joint or “space”. You now only have to place an angle over the floor panel, align it at the end of the floor panel row edge and mark the flat joint with a pencil.

Cutting the laminate flooring to length
The floor panel is then placed in the laminate cutter and aligned with the cutting die. Now press the cutting die down and cut through the panel. When doing so, the panel is firmly pressed against the front stop edge in the laminate cutter and can no longer slip throughout the entire separating process. Contrary to a sharp cutting edge, the blunt cutting edge of the cutting die protects the user from serious injuries, whilst providing an effortless and clean cut through the panel. This means that the cutting edge never needs to be re-sharpened, being almost wear and maintenance-free.
Laying the first row of panels

Fix the panel row with wedges
After the first row has been laid out, you should use wedges at the end of the row and towards the wall in order to ensure that the expansion joint of 10 mm is adhered to. These special plastic wedges are especially useful for this as they have a ribbed surface. The ribbed surfaces of the wedge are simply laid against each other and moved until the required clearance is achieved. Do not forget to place two of these wedges for each butt joint.

Laying the second panel row
Currently there are numerous different click systems, either driven in or swivelled downward. Basically, it does not make a difference which system you choose, as all of them have their advantages and disadvantages. With the click system shown here, the complete next row of panels must be clicked together at the ends before they can be swivelled into the previous row.

Clicking the second row of panels in
The inserting and lowering of a complete row of floor panels proves to be quite laborious for a single person to do. You should therefore obtain help in doing so. On the other hand, you do not require a hammer or buffer when clicking in and this means that you do not make noise and annoy the neighbours – decide for yourself!

Laying the last panel in the row
Insert the cut off panel in the groove of the floor row and start the next row using the remaining piece of the floor panel. Ensure that the offset of the butt joints amounts to 40 cm from one row to the next. You will otherwise have to cut the remaining piece to length until you achieve this offset.

Laying the flooring
The first row of panels
Roll out an additional amount of footstep sound insulation and fix with adhesive tape
After you have laid the flooring out almost to the end of the first soundproof insulation row, the next insulation row is rolled out. It is imperative that you fix the butt joints with an adhesive tape so that the tow insulating strips cannot be pushed over each other. A simple adhesive package tape suffices.

After just a short amount of time ... ... you can enjoy your first impression of your new dream floor. You will be amazed at how fast you have laid the flooring. Reinforced by this sense of achievement and the clever laying aid from wolfcraft®, the rest is merely “a technicality”.

Shortening door frames
The door frame (door cladding) is to be shortened in keeping with the floor panel thickness. Take an oddment of a floor panel and place it in front of the door frame. Guide a hand saw with a bent handle (hand saws with a straight handle cannot be used!) over the floor panel until the door frame is completely sawn through. Now you only need to rework a little with the firmer chisel.

Screwing the compensating profile on
There is normally a slight difference in height in the door area leading to the neighbouring room or the hall. This corresponds to the laminate thickness plus the thickness of the insulation. It is imperative that you alleviate this “trip hazard” with a compensating profile. The bottom floor rail is directly adhered to the wash floor before the flooring is laid on top of it (adhere to a 10 mm expansion joint!). The chamfered compensation profile is finally screwed onto the floor rail.
The last row of panels and the skirting boards

The skirting boards

Transition profile with large rooms
You should not only place a transition profile between two rooms; expansion joints must also be worked in rooms that are longer or wider than 8 m. The trade supplies diverse profile types, either of metal or of the wood type matching the floor.

Adapting the last row of panels
If possible, the last row of panels should not be narrower than 5 cm. You should also leave space for a 10 mm expansion joint here. If you mark the last row using the new laminate fitter, you will not have to think about the expansion joint as the device automatically takes this into account. Every wall course will be perfectly transferred to the floor panel, no matter how complicated it is – as easy as can be!

Measuring the mitre joint of the skirting boards
You should best leave this fiddly job to the new angle bevel from wolfcraft®. Simply place the bevel in the corner of the room until both of the legs are firmly positioned against the wall. Now lock both of the legs in position with the screw set. The yellow corner leg hereby exactly adapts itself to the matching mitre joint of the skirting boards.

Adjusting the mitre saw with the angle bevel
Place the black leg against the stop plate of the mitre saw and swivel the saw blade so far to the leg that it is positioned against the yellow corner leg. A magnet in the yellow corner leg ensures an exact position against the saw blade. This enables you to master complicated room cross sections in next to no time without any expensive miscuts.
If not now, when?
The laying of new flooring is the ideal time to finally deal with the problem of tangled cables. Telephone cables, satellite cables or loudspeaker cables are almost completely concealed behind a sufficiently large floorboard. If you make the skirting board yourself, you will not only save money, but also design the cable duct as you wish.

No problem with a router table
You can insert a precise cable duct in your skirting board in no time at all by using a wolfcraft® router table and a straight bit. This can either be a rebate (L-shaped recess) at the edge of the wood or a groove in the rear of the board. A rebate is especially to be recommended if a large number of thin cables are to be accommodated. Please do not forget that you should only remove a max. of 6 – 8 mm of the wood edge per routing run.

A hot tip!
The fixing of skirting boards with nails is an ordeal, depending on the masonry – not to mention toe narrow spaces underneath the radiators, which suffer more from the hammer than the nails in the skirting board. The skirting boards can be quickly, cleanly and reliably mounted by using a powerful hot-glue gun, irrespective of the substrate. The cable is concealed in a groove and reappears at the required space in the corner.

Perfect mitre joint and newly laid cable
An inconspicuous square board from the DIY store, being rounded off and notched, forms the end of this flooring. A comparable ready-made skirting board (solid beech with an integrated cable duct) costs more than double; therefore, a self made one can be worth it, if your home workshop is equipped respectively.
With the clever laying aids from wolfcraft®, the laying of parquet and laminate flooring is great fun and you can be very proud of the results. Be careful, however! The products can become addictive and it is possible that you will be enhancing the next room with your dream flooring in just a few hours.
## Your shopping list

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<td>1 Mitre gauge, aluminium with retaining clamp</td>
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<td>6925 000</td>
<td>1 Hand saw with bent/rotatable handle</td>
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<td>6936 000</td>
<td>1 Laminate cutter LC 300</td>
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<td>1 Laminate cutter LC 250</td>
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<td>1 Jigsaw blade set “Laminate” U-shaft, 3-piece.</td>
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<td>6931 000</td>
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### Other purchases
- Hammer
- Footstep sound insulation
- Jigsaw
- Adhesive tape
- Mitre saw
- Pencil
- End strips incl. fixing materials
- Radiator anchor plates
- Laminate/parquet
- Transition profiles for door
- Vapour barrier
- Expansion profile for room sizes exceeding 8 m

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Wolff-Straße 1  
D-56746 Kempenich  
Service Hotline: 00 49 (0) 26 55 51 280  
Fax 00 49 (0) 26 55 51 180  
e-mail: customerservice@wolfcraft.com  
Technical Support  
Fax 00 49 (0) 26 55 50 20 80  
e-mail: technical.Service@wod.wolfcraft.com