

Flatweave Installation Guide

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1 Introduction to Flatweave



Fitting a Roger Oates flatweave runner requires skill, craftsmanship and considerable attention to detail but the time and care taken is always justified by the quality of the end result. A skilled and experienced eye is needed to ensure straightness of line and correct placement of stripes.

It takes several hours to fit a straightforward flight of stairs. Our carpets require strength and a firm yet delicate hand to encourage them into position, particularly around winders and onto landings.

In order to achieve a satisfactory installation the quality of the preparation is key. The stair nosings should be smooth and rounded as sharp angled nosings cause premature wear. It is essential that nosings have a lip if you intend to use the product on a winding staircase. All sub-floors (staircases and landing areas) need to be in good condition.

Flatweave is not a backed flooring product therefore any major dips or holes in the floorboards will become visible over time promoting premature wear and tear. Should you be in any doubt about the condition of a sub-floor it is recommended that these areas are hard-boarded prior to the installation taking place.

If this is the case please see Appendix I for our guide to hard-boarding which should be completed before moving on to the Step By Step Guide.

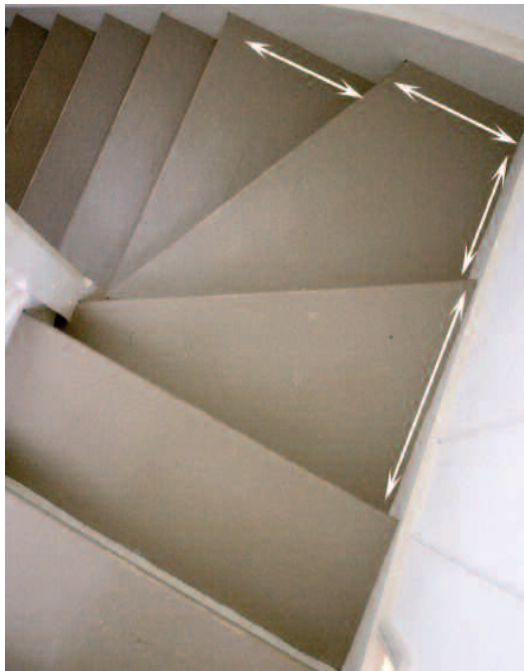


2 How to Measure

- 2.1 Measure one riser and one tread to give the length needed for each step. Include 'Nose' in measurement, (see pic a).
- 2.2 Count steps.
- 2.3 Multiply the number of steps x length per step.
- 2.4 Add the top riser.
- 2.5 Add an extra 50cm per flight to allow for adjustment. Check that all treads and risers on your stairs have the same measurements. If not, you will need to measure each step individually and add the measurements together. The 'Nose' should be rounded and the stairs should be in good condition. To calculate the quantity needed for winding steps, measure the distance along the outside edge of each kite shaped stair, (see pic b).

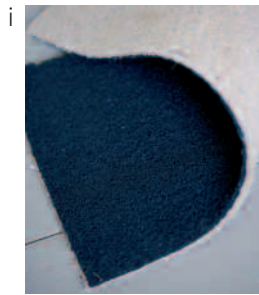


(a)

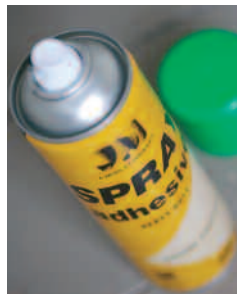


(b)

3 Recommended Tools



i A good quality felt topped underlay with rubber crumb base (needs to be approximately same height as gripper)



ii Spray Adhesive



iii Microplast gripper rods (or short pin gripper – dressed down once fitted)



iv Sigaway adhesive (for winders and fixed hallway/landing runners)



v Staple Gun*

* Powered plug in Staple Gun - capable of putting 18mm staples into staircases.



vi Toptac (landings)



vii Blunt bolster chisel



viii Scissors



ix Latex Adhesive (such as Copydex)



x Tape measure and pencil

- Carpet Tuck
- Crochet hook, bradawl or something similar
- Plumb Line/length of string
- Hammer
- Headless nails

4 Runner Installation on Straight Steps

4.1 Positioning

- 4.1.1 As our Flatweave is woven on hand looms exact widths may vary slightly. This can also be influenced by the design chosen, therefore it is critical that you measure the narrowest point of the physical product that you are fitting prior to marking out the staircase and doing your preparation.
- 4.1.2 Find central point on staircase marking out each step individually. The normal procedure is to align the runner centrally using a plumb line, however this may have to be adjusted due to external factors such as a narrowing staircase or wobbly walls. Due to this each case will have to be assessed individually.

4.2 Preparation

- 4.2.1 Cut the Microplast gripper to lengths of 4cm shorter than the width of the pre-measured Flatweave. You will need a sufficient number to cover all treads and risers with exception of the first and final riser.

- 4.2.2 Attach gripper lengths centrally (using marked points) to tread and riser of straight steps (a). The angled edges of the gripper need to be pointing into the crutch of the step leaving approximately 3-4mm gap (b). This is only a guide as you may find that you have to place the gripper even closer together to avoid the flatweave becoming slack and walking away from the staircase.



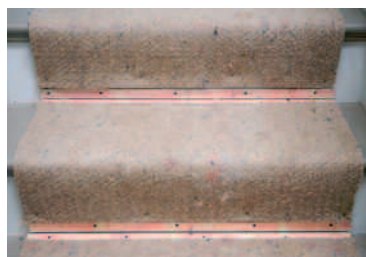
(a)



(b)

- 4.2.3 Cut the underlay 4cm narrower than the width of the runner to the same size as the gripper rods.

- 4.2.4 On straight stairs fit the underlay on the tread, over the nosing and down the riser, securing with staples. Ensure that the underlay is butted tightly up to the gripper (c). Where there is an open balustrade, cut back the edge of the underlay on the riser so it will not be visible from a side view (d).



(c)



(d)

4.3 Installation

Unlike a Wilton product you must begin fitting your flatweave runner from the bottom of the staircase. Start from the bottom riser and work upwards. The runner is fixed to the bottom of the first riser using a strip of Microplast gripper rod to act as a baton.



4.3.1 Line up Flatweave with centre point of first step. Starting from the crutch of the first tread, run the Flatweave down over nosing and down onto floor. Place a strip of Microplast gripper rod at the base of first riser where the runner meets the floor/landing. Push the gripper against the riser and down towards the floor, secure with staples (e). This will create the 'shift' – approximately 50cm of excess length hidden behind the riser of the first step.



4.3.2 Fold the excess back on itself twice; this should now fit on the bottom riser. Underlay may have to be removed on riser to accommodate folds of carpet. Secure lightly with staples so the excess fits neatly under the nose against the riser (f). If you wish to do so the corners of the shift can be folded inwards and secured so that the excess is not visible from the sides.

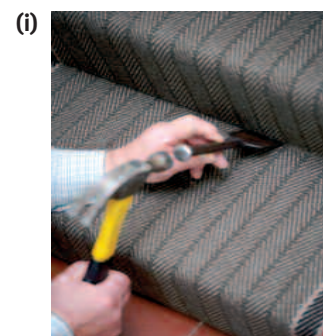


4.3.3 Fold the Flatweave upwards (g)– you are now ready to fit the first step.

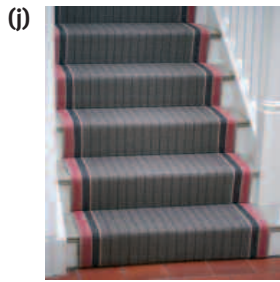


4.3.4 Fold the Flatweave over the first nosing and stretch with your hands across the width of the step onto the tread gripper (h). Starting from one side (left or right) push out the slack until the tension is taken up. To ensure a quality finish the Flatweave must be stretched very tightly and evenly, so the design sits square across the nosing.

To strengthen the hold on the gripper, spray glue the underlay at the back of the tread. At no time should glue be sprayed onto the actual gripper. Alternatively fire a staple into the very outside edge of the runner securing it tightly into the crutch. With this option you will need to then lift the runner with a hook to ensure the staple is invisible to the eye.

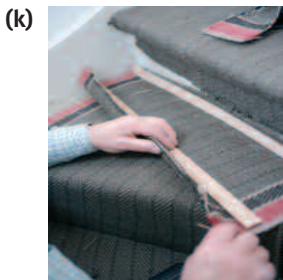


4.3.5 Using a bolster chisel, hammer the runner into the gap between the gripper rod so that it is held securely in place (i). Start from one side and work across the width. As each section is hammered into the gripper the Flatweave will pull tight. Overlapping the area previously hammered will ensure even tension. It is essential that sufficient tension is applied as otherwise you may find that the runner becomes slack over time.

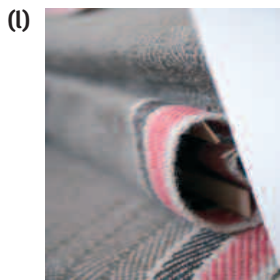


(j) 4.3.6 Repeat this process for the relevant number of straight steps (j). The aim is to align all of the stripes. If the placement of the runner becomes distorted or out of line at any point the Flatweave can be easily pulled out from between the gripper and re-fitted. Small adjustments can be made by using a hooked tool or bradawl to lift areas off the gripper therefore loosening the tension.

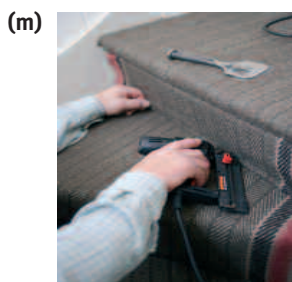
- If you are fitting a simple straight flight of stairs please proceed to step 3.3.7. If the staircase has winding steps please proceed to Chapter 4 **Runners Installation on Winding Steps**.
- On the final step there are two ways in which the runner can be finished. It can either be finished into the crutch of the final step or alternatively finished up the final riser. For either way the next step should be followed.



(k) 4.3.7 Hold gripper under final nosing or into the final crutch, and pull up Flatweave to meet it. Allow both gripper and Flatweave to fall away from riser (k). They should be attached to one another at this point, and the gripper is now acting as a marker for the amount of Flatweave required to cover the final riser.



(l) 4.3.8 Trim excess Flatweave leaving approximately 10cm and glue ends to avoid fraying. Fold around gripper (i) and glue all of area to ensure Flatweave is secure.



(m) 4.3.9 Lift Flatweave and gripper to under final nosing or into crutch and secure with headless nails so that they are invisible to the eye (m). Bolster downwards into gripper to tension final riser.

5 Runner Installation on Winding Steps

Note: Before proceeding to this section please read Chapter 3 **Runner Installation on Straight Steps** in full.

With Flatweave the object is to bring the runner around the winding stairs without cutting the product whilst maintaining the alignment of the stripes (a). In the majority of cases this can be achieved as Roger Oates Design Flatweave runners are a flexible woven product without any stiff backing.

On winding steps one thing to make the client aware of is that the runner is not placed centrally on this section; the angles and number of winding steps govern the positioning.

It will be impossible to align the stripes in the event that there are only two winders making a 90-degree turn without introducing mitres onto the treads. If there are three or more winding stairs, in the majority of the cases the pattern will align without introducing mitres.



(a)

5.1 Positioning

- Assuming there is a straight staircase leading on to and running off a section of winders, the position of the runner on the first and last winder is dictated by these. The way in which these straight flights are marked out will influence the marked points on all of the winding steps.

5.4.1 To calculate the position of the runner on the winding steps: see Diagram 1

- Take measurement A** – On the preceding straight step to the winder, measure the distance between the edge of the runner and the inside edge of the step.

At this stage you will already have marked out the position of the runner on the straight steps following the winders.

- Take measurement B** – On the straight step following on from the winders, measure the distance between the proposed edge of the runner and the inside edge of the step (picture b).

5.1.2 If there is no difference between the measurements the runner should be situated the same distance from the inside wall/balustrade on each winder. If a difference does exist between the measurements, the runner needs to be gradually moved over on each winding step so that it will eventually meet the runner on the following straight section.

5.1.3 The path of the runner on the winding steps will need to be marked out so that the preparation can be done adequately.

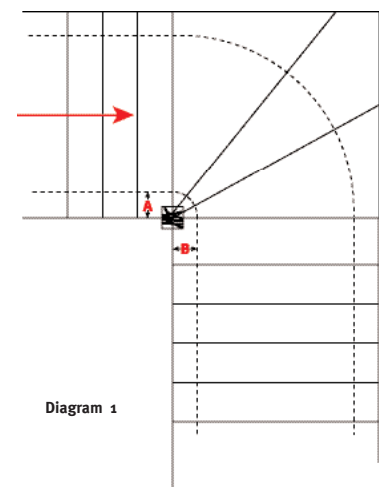
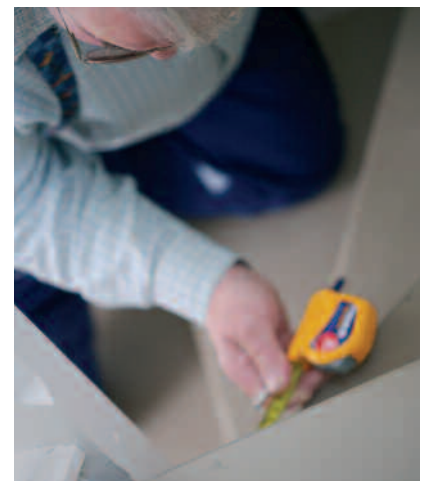


Diagram 1



(b)

5.2 Preparation

5.2.1 Cut the Microplast gripper to lengths of 4cm shorter than width of Flatweave. Please see next step for quantities required.

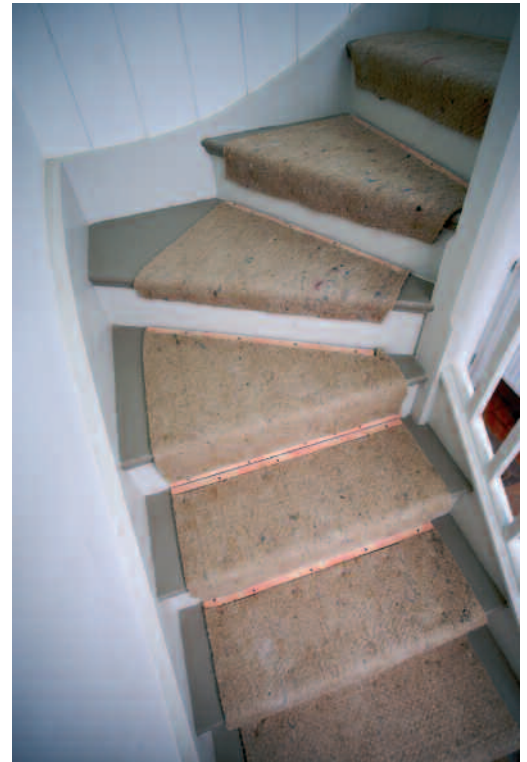
5.2.2 Attach gripper lengths using marked points to:

- Tread and riser of first winder
- **Tread only** on all other winders

5.2.3 As with straight steps, the angled edges of the gripper need to be pointing into the crutch of the step leaving approximately 3-4mm gap. For tread only winders the gripper should face the same way as on straight steps - towards the crutch of the step approximately 5mm from the riser.

5.2.4 For winding stairs underlay is not required on the risers, it is placed on the treads only secured under the nosing - this allows the excess runner to be folded into the riser. (You must ensure that the underlay comes right over the nosing of the stairs to ensure adequate protection (c)).

5.2.5 The treads of all winders will need to be covered using Sigaway adhesive (or spray adhesive). The adhesive is stuck to the upper side of the underlay, and must cover exactly the same area as the underlay. If you are using Sigaway, Do NOT remove the protective film at this point.



(c)

5.3 Installation

The first winding step is treated in a similar way to a straight step. Following on from the last straight step:

5.3.1 Lift the runner up onto the tread (do not yet remove the protective film from the Sigaway adhesive). Due to the angles of winders, the runner will naturally run into the riser of the second winder at an angle and will not correspond with your marked points. The runner must be coaxed round to hit the desired position.

5.3.2 Align the runner to correspond with marked points, pushing onto the gripper so it holds the runner in place. As before, starting from one side (left or right) push out the slack along the depth of the tread until the tension is taken up, and the design is square across the nosing.



(d)

5.3.3 By aligning your outside point and pushing out the tension, on the inside edge you will be left with excess Flatweave which you need to "lose". DO NOT CUT THE RUNNER. This excess is folded into the riser and back tacked at the crutch of the stairs using a length of gripper rod to act as a baton (d).



(e)

5.3.4 Once you are happy that the runner is aligned with the marked points of the next step lift the flatweave back off the tread of the winder. Do not remove the baton. Peel back the protective film of the adhesive, spray the adhesive with water; (e) this will allow for adjustment of the runner after it comes into contact with the adhesive.



(f)

5.3.5 Re-align the runner, push back onto the gripper pushing out the slack. As the runner is put under tension it's outside edge will pull in. Stretch the runner outwards towards the widest edge of the tread, especially along the nosing. This may cause a very slight curve to the stripe on the tread (f).

5.3.6 The position of the Flatweave can be adjusted as the Sigaway adhesive dries. Coax the Flatweave in order to align the pattern making sure it flows naturally from the tread to the riser.



(g)

5.3.7 Once you are happy with the positioning leave the Sigaway to "go off". This process can be expedited using a domestic hairdryer if required (g).

5.3.8 Ensure the runner is tightly stretched across the whole breadth of the tread; all the stripes on the riser are as vertical as possible and there are no ripples in the Flatweave (especially on the inside edge where the turn is very tight)

5.3.9 Repeat the above steps until winders are complete, The Flatweave on the final winder should meet up with the centralised marked points on the following straight section. See Diagram 1 on page 7.

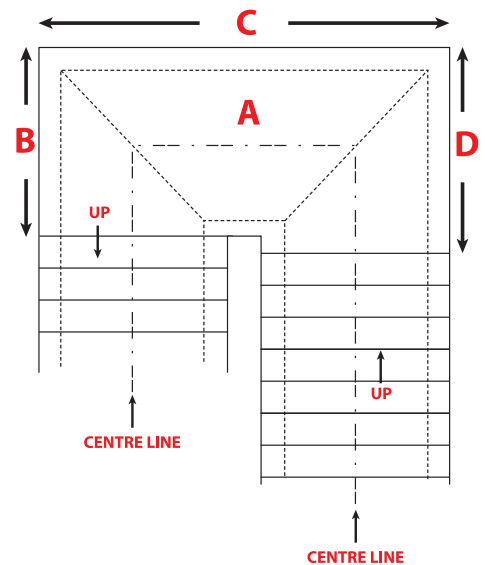
5.3.10 An alternative method to using Sigaway on winders is to use spray adhesive. This should be sprayed to the upper side of the underlay on all the winding steps. Fitting then needs to be carried out as per the above instructions.

6 Mitred Quarter and Half Landings

Roger Oates Design can sew and finish mitres in their workshop. In order to take advantage of this service detailed and accurate measurements together with an area plan will be required.

6.1 Positioning

6.1.1 On quarter or half landings the Flatweave must be centralised so that it meets the stair runners that are leading to and from it. On half landings the most crucial measurement is the length across the landing between the two centre lines. This measurement has to be accurate. Mark the centre line of both staircases where they join the landing see Diagram 2. Extend these lines out, using a large set square and measure the distance between these two points (A). By providing this measurement, along with B, C and D, we are able to ascertain the size of the mitred section required.



6.2 Preparation



(a)

6.2.1 Attach gripper to the back of the landing area leading on to the next set of stairs.

6.2.2 As with previous preparation, the underlay should be cut down so that it is 4cm narrower than the width of the pre-fabricated mitre section.



(b)

6.2.3 Fit the underlay up to the gripper and under the nose of the platform so that it follows the path that the runner will take.



(c)

6.2.4 Cut a channel out of the underlay across the diagonal where the mitred seam will sit (c).



(d)

6.2.5 Place a thin strip of felt along the channel so that the seam of the mitre is still protected and not sitting directly on to the sub-floor. The seam of the mitre will sit into this channel (d-f).



(e)



(f)

6.3 Installation



(g)

6.3.1 Fit from the bottom of the riser leading to the landing as you would start a simple straight flight but without creating the shift (g).



(h)

6.3.2 Spray the surface of the underlay with adhesive before laying the mitred section. An alternative is to use Sigaway adhesive cut to size with Toptac tape around the perimeter. Either of these methods will prevent movement of the mitre (h).



(i)

6.3.3 Push the leading edge of the mitred section on to the gripper at the base of the next flight of stairs so it is held securely. Ensure that the mitre is taut however not pulling away. Fire a staple into the outside corner of the mitre for extra hold. You will then need to lift the runner slightly with a hook to ensure the staple is invisible to the eye.



(j)

6.3.4 Begin fitting next flight of stairs as per a straight flight, back-batoned on the first riser without the shift (k). Secure in place using staples or headless nails.



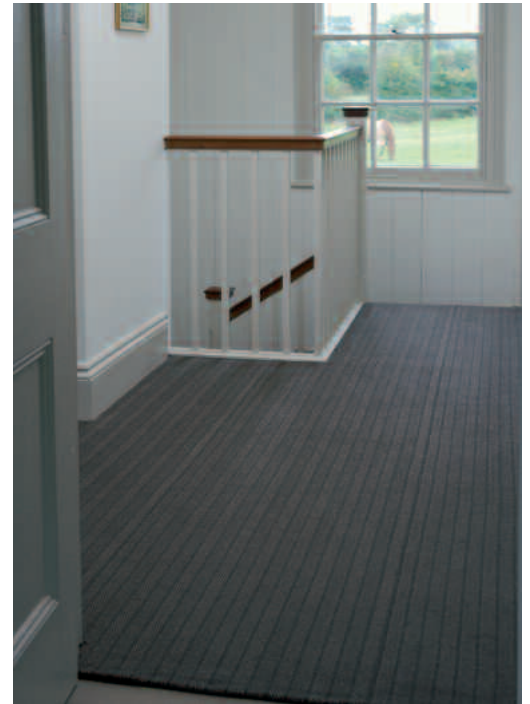
(k)



(l)

7 Wall-To-Wall Installation

For larger areas such as rooms and hallways, Roger Oates Design Flatweave runners can be seamed together by our workshop to form larger pieces that are fitted as wall-to-wall installations.



7.1 Preparation

When installing Flatweave, all wall-to-wall areas must be edged with TWO rows of Microplast gripper rods (also referred to as double-banking). The inner row is used to stretch the carpet and the outer row is used to secure the edges. One row will NOT be sufficient to hold the Flatweave under tension.

7.1.1 The first line of gripper must be secured around the perimeter of the wall-to-wall area, leaving a gap of 3-4mm between the wall and gripper edge. (The angled edge of the gripper should face outwards towards the wall (a)). This line must follow around all coving and irregular edges, you can cut up and mitre the gripper rod to fit closely around these obstacles. The gap between the gripper rod and wall must never exceed 5mm or the Flatweave will not hold.

7.1.2 Lay a second line of gripper inside the first making sure that it is butted up to the first line (the gripper must be facing the same direction)



7.1.3 Guidelines for preparing other wall-to-wall areas

Top of Flight of Stairs - No gripper is needed across the nosing of the top step. The underlay must run over the nosing and be secured on the riser.

Bottom of Flight of Stairs - Lay two lines of gripper as normal, the first must be 3-4mm from the baton that starts the flight.

Doorways - Lay two lines of gripper as normal, the first must be 3-4mm from the edge of the doorplate.

Open Balustrades- At this stage only one line of gripper is required along an open area. This must be the inside line of gripper. There must be sufficient gap left for the outer line of gripper – this will be nailed down later when the Flatweave is stretched around it.



7.1.4 Position the underlay across the whole area butting it right up to the edge of the gripper rods, secure with staples at regular intervals. Ensure there are no gaps where the underlay meets the gripper.

(b)

7.1.5 On the top step of a flight leading on to a landing area the underlay should run over the nosing and be secured with staples at the top of the riser.

7.2 Installation

7.2.1 Line up a single width of the runner from the seamed section with the runner on the flight of stairs. The stripes need to align flowing from the runner on to the landing. Once in place the “Bag” can be cut so it can be roughly laid out over the whole area. (If the Flatweave has not been Bag-seamed*, skip this step.)

*Bag-Seaming - Joining lengths of Flatweave into a tube so that when fitting the design can be matched up with a runner leading from or onto the area.

7.2.2 Please note that if you have two flights of stairs leading off a landing, it is only possible to align the pattern with one of the staircases.

7.2.3 Line up the length of the Flatweave with as many straight edges as possible.

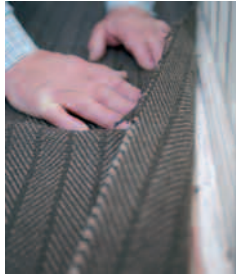
7.2.4 If a room area is not exactly square, one or more sides of the carpet will not run straight with the walls. With a bold stripe design this may cause the pattern to disappear into the wall half way along one side.

7.2.5 The best way to deal with this is to align the stripes with a straight edge in the focal point, for example the first area you see when walking up the stairs. This can be done using a plumb line along the stripes.

7.2.6 Once the Flatweave is roughly laid out it must be stretched out. Working along the length of one section, evenly push out the Flatweave to tension on the gripper across the whole area until it is taut.



(c)



(d)

7.2.6 Once the Flatweave is in its approximate place begin to use latex adhesive on the reverse and cut away the excess from the edges (c). Keep pushing slack out of the Flatweave by stretching (by hand only) over the gripper, first along the length and then across the width, evenly building up tension across the area (d).



(e)

7.2.7 Cut the edges leaving approx 1.5cm of Flatweave over the edge of the outer gripper. Ensure all these edges are secured with latex adhesive (e).



(f)

7.2.8 Using a carpet tuck hammer the edges down into the 3-4mm gap between the gripper and the skirting (f).

7.2.9 Guidelines for other areas

Top of Flight of Stairs – Flatweave should be fitted over the nosing and secured under the nosing of the top step. The runner on this flight should also finish under the nosing of the top step.

Bottom of Flight of Stairs - Using a carpet tuck hammer the edges down into the 3-4mm gap between the gripper and the skirting.

Doorways - Using a carpet tuck push the edges down into the doorplate.

Open Balustrades- once under reasonable tension, and approximately in place, the edge of the Flatweave must be folded around a length of gripper rod (this becomes the outer layer – and provides a clean edge) and nailed into place. Minor adjustments can be made by moving the Flatweave around.

7.3 Wall-To-Wall Information

Radiators...etc

It is recommended to coat the back of the Flatweave with Copydex where it is due to be cut and allowed to dry before making the cut. This will ensure a clean cut with minimal fraying.

If possible, to ensure best installation of Flatweave - radiator pipes should be temporarily removed prior to fitting. Once the Flatweave has been installed, holes can be carefully cut through to refit the pipes – using latex adhesive on the reverse of the Flatweave will again ensure minimal fraying.

If radiators cannot be moved - Take special care when cutting into the body of the carpet. Always use a thick layer of latex adhesive on the reverse before making any cuts.

8 Wilton

Stair turns

Wiltons are not suitable for staircases with turns if you require the stripes to line up on the riser and tread. Lining up can only be achieved on the outside edge.

Wilton runners will need to be cut for each turning riser and tread section individually. When cutting Wiltons all edges must be sealed with a latex adhesive.

Mitres

It is advisable that mitres for Wiltons are sewn and finished by Roger Oates Design.

9 Appendices

9.1 Guide to Hardboarding

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that you use 3mm hardboard – 4' x 2'
- 9.1.2 All boards should be tightly butted together and pinned with ring nails using 6" centres
- 9.1.3 Ideally the hardboard should be butting to the perimeter of the landing. If not a maximum of a 1/4" gap is acceptable. This gap should not be any greater.
- 9.1.4 Around balustrades the hardboard can still be flush, but do not pin nearer than 1 1/4" from the edge of the hardboard. This allows the fitter to cut back if necessary.
- 9.1.5 At the nosing of the top step, take the hardboard right up to where the nosing starts to bevel. Do not pin nearer than 1 1/2" from the edge.