

Dear customer,

Thank you for choosing the high-grade bamboo parquet flooring bambeau® 3SF-Qlic click-fit prefinished parquet. As no glue is required to join the floorboards, the floor is ready for use immediately after laying.

This product is available in oiled and lacquered forms.

That is why the instructions for care include tips for oiled and lacquered parquet.

Please note that laying parquet should always be the last work done in a building project. That way, there is less risk of the surface getting damaged.

To retain the value and the high-grade finish of your parquet flooring, we ask you to read the following instructions carefully and follow them exactly.

We do not recommend laying the flooring on heated screed floors!

VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE PACK CONTENTS AND THE FLOOR BOARDS BEFORE INSTALLATION

Please check the floor boards for defects and visible damage. We can only accept complaints made after installation if the defects were not visible (hidden). If you have any problems laying the flooring, you should contact your specialist retailer immediately.

SOME GENERAL POINTS TO NOTE BEFORE INSTALLATION

bambeau® 3SF-Qlic prefinished parquet is not suitable for wet rooms, such as bathrooms, toilets, saunas or laundry rooms. The room where the parquet is to be laid must be dry. The relative humidity should always be between 50 and 65%. If necessary, check the humidity using a hygrometer. Lay the flooring at a room temperature of at least 15°C and at most 22°C. The ambient conditions should be kept constant after installation as well. Temperatures between 18°C and 22°C and a room humidity of between 50% and 65% are ideal. Constant ambient conditions prevent gaps from forming.

The parquet should be kept in the room where it will be laid in its original, unopened packaging for at least 48 hours before installation, to give it time to acclimatise. That way, the parquet material can adapt to the ambient conditions in the room. The packaging contents should be stored horizontally and flat side-by-side, and should not be opened until just before installation.

SUBFLOORS

bambeau® 3SF-Qlic prefinished bamboo parquet is suitable for almost all subfloors except heated screeds. The surfaces must be level, free of cracks, permanently dry and clean.

The evenness of the floor must be checked with a level spirit. The permissible planarity tolerances are described in DIN 18 202. The values for stringent requirements must be adhered to.

The prefinished parquet element cannot be laid as a self-supporting floor on balconies!

The surface temperature of the subfloor should not be less than 15°C at the time of installation; the optimal room humidity is 60%. Do not ventilate during installation. Opened packs must be used up immediately.

Screeds

The moisture content of a screed depends on the type and its age!

If the screed is a permanently dry type which meets the test criteria of DIN 18356 Part 3.1, prepare the surface for parquet installation in line with the state-of-the-art (e.g. grind, brush, vacuum, prime, smooth). If levelling compounds or fillers are used, always make sure they are suitable for parquet. The equilibrium moisture content (EMC) of the different subfloors should not exceed the percentages given in the table below. Moisture should be measured using a **CM tester**, and logged. The percentages given are for a screed thickness of up to 45 mm.

Table of max. permissible EMCs of different subfloors:

Type of subfloor	Max. permissible EMC
Cement screed (3.4 – 3.8% by weight)	1.8 – 2.0% by CM
Calcium sulphate screed (0.7 – 1.2% by weight)	0.3 – 0.5% by CM
Calcium sulphate flowing screed	less than 0.5% by CM
Gypsum screed (0.7 – 1.2% by weight)	less than 0.5% by CM
Chipboard	9.0 +/- 3.0% by weight
Other subfloors	See comment on VOB/DIN 18 356 or consult your specialist retailer

FORMS OF INSTALLATION

We recommend floating floor installation for bambeau® 3SF-Qlic prefinished parquet. However, full-surface gluing is also possible.

1 | Full-surface gluing using parquet adhesive

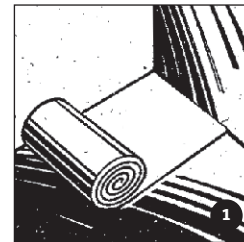
If you prefer this form of installation, be sure to consult Becker & Grossgarten GmbH to clarify details of procedure and materials.

2 | Floating floor installation

To float bambeau® 3SF-Qlic prefinished bamboo parquet, you need an all-over even underlay.

You must lay a suitable underlay on the subfloor, combined with a polyethylene vapour barrier, which must be run up the walls above the height of the skirting board. Lay out the individual sheets so they overlap; stick the entire length of the joins with adhesive tape. On top of that, lay the footstep sound insulation, such as cork, polyethylene foam, felt.

→ Figure 1



Products that combine a PE film at least 0.2 mm thick, on which 2 mm PE foam by way of sound insulation is laminated, have proved highly effective. The excess film is cut off above the skirting board after the latter is mounted.

Wooden subfloors

The strength of old plank or chipboard floors must be tested, and upgraded if necessary.

Any uneven spots must be extensively sanded. As a rule, lay the parquet elements lengthwise towards the light source. However, if you are laying them directly on an old plank floor, you must lay the elements perpendicular to the planks. Wooden subfloors may also be levelled with chipboard.

The thickness of the chipboard depends on the unevenness to be levelled out. The screws should be positioned at least 10 cm from the edge. The screws should not be more than 30 cm apart. Make sure you use countersunk head screws, which are countersunk flush with the surface after fixing.

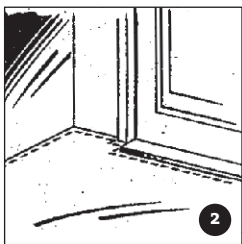
When laying chipboard, leave a clearance of 10 mm from permanent fixtures.

FITTING AT DOORS

The door frames can be shortened by the thickness of the parquet blocks! First lay a section of the parquet board on the prepared substrate. Use this parquet section as a height reference. Cut into the door frame at the correct height using an all-purpose saw. During installation, the cut-to-size prefinished parquet element can be shoved under the door frame. Do not shorten door panels until the parquet floor has been installed.

They must be shortened to allow the floor to move minutely with slight fluctuations in temperature and humidity. This is why the parquet must have a clearance of 10 mm from all permanent fixtures like: walls, pillars and radiator pipes.

→ Figure 2



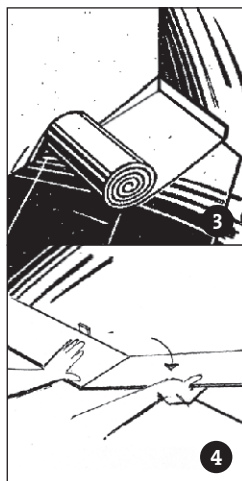
Allow for expansion joints in the surface for parquet spaces greater than 7 m in length and 7 m in width. In such cases, have a clearance of 13 mm from walls and all permanent fixtures. The parquet should be

kept in the room where it will be laid in its original, unopened packaging for at least 48 hours before installation, to give it time to acclimatise. The packaging must be stored horizontally and completely flat. The room where the parquet flooring is to be laid must be dry; the dryness of the subfloors must be checked if necessary. The parquet boards must be laid at a room temperature of at least 15°C and at most 22°C. The relative humidity in the room should be between 50% and 65% (use a hygrometer to check). These ambient conditions should be maintained after installation as well.

Constant ambient conditions prevent gaps from forming. If conditions differ greatly from the above, low humidity can cause gaps and high humidity can cause expansion.

[1] After the substrate has been properly prepared, the parquet underlay must be laid as described in the "Screeds" section.

→ Figure 3



[2] Start by laying the first floorboard against a straight wall in the left corner of the room, with the click-in tongue facing towards the wall. Use elements from several packs at the same time to achieve the most uniform overall scheme in the parquet floor. At an angle of about 20° (→ Figure 4) and applying a little pressure, push the click-in tongue at the end of the second floorboard fully into the click-in groove

at the end of the floorboard already laid and place the floorboard horizontally onto the floor until the joint is heard to snap into position. Use a block of wood and hammer to help the floorboard click into position.

Never hit the tongue and groove joint directly with the hammer!

Continue in this way to complete the first row of floorboards. If the wall is even, now remove the click-in tongue on the side of the first floorboard to achieve a clearance of 10-13 mm, measured from the front edge of the top of the floorboard. Make sure that the first row you lay is aligned absolutely straight; this is the only way to ensure that the rest of the parquet elements are laid without gaps. This is easy to check by spanning a plumb line along the installed elements. We recommend you lay the floorboards lengthwise towards the light source.

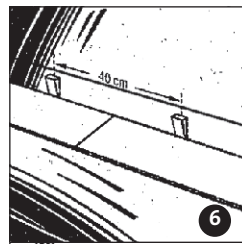
→ Figure 5



[3] Allow for a clearance of 10 mm from all permanent fixtures (including heating pipes) for rooms no bigger than 7 m x 7 m. With larger rooms, a clearance of 13 mm and expansion joints must be left, which reduce the continuous parquet area. Insert

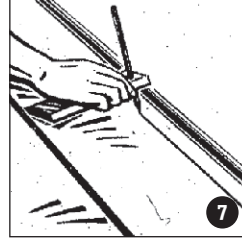
wedges into the parquet elements every 40 cm to prevent the individual elements from slipping when tongue-and-grooving.

→ Figure 6



[4] If the walls are uneven, work the unevenness into the parquet element. Fix a pencil to a spacer and trace the uneven lines onto the parquet element.

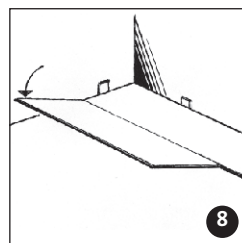
→ Figure 7



Saw out along the line and wedge the shaped element back into its place. Remember the clearance! Use saws designed for sawing wood.

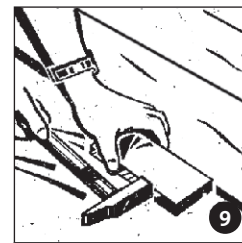
[5] Use the section of the last row to start the next row. The end joint should be offset by at least 30 cm. At an angle of about 20° (→ Figure 8) and applying a little pressure, the side click-in tongue of the first floorboard of the second row is attached to the click-in groove of the floorboard you have already laid.

Then place the floorboard horizontally onto the floor until the joint is heard to snap into position. Use a block of wood and hammer to help the floorboard click into position. **Never** hit the tongue and groove joint directly with the hammer!



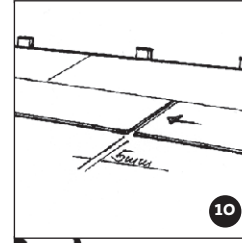
At an angle of about 20° and applying a little pressure, the side click-in tongue of the next floorboard of the second row is attached to the click-in groove of the floorboard you have already laid.

Continue in this way with the entire row of floorboards. Lay the flooring row for row following this procedure.



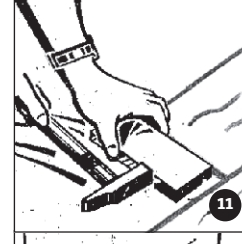
Then place the floorboard horizontally onto the floor until the joint is heard to snap into position. Use a block of wood and hammer to help the floorboard click into position. **Never** hit the tongue and groove joint directly with the hammer!

→ Figure 9



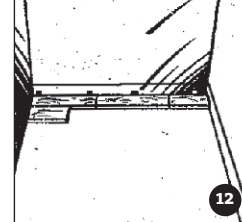
Make sure you have a clearance at the end of approx. 5 mm between the last floorboard and the floorboard to be laid.

→ Figure 10



Now use a block of wood and hammer, use a pull bar in areas difficult to access (wall, door, heating radiator), to push together the joint of the floorboards horizontally until it snaps into position.

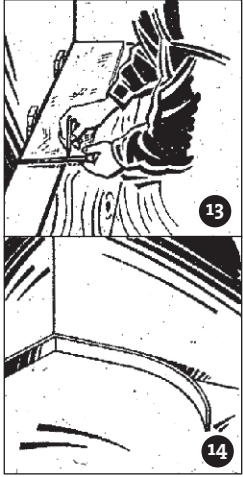
→ Figure 11



Continue in this way with the entire row of floorboards. Lay the flooring row for row following this procedure.

→ Figure 12

[6] When installing the last row, lay the element with the tongue to the wall. Measure the distance to the last element you have laid (penultimate row). Take into account any unevenness in the wall, and



the requisite clearance. Saw out the contour and reinsert the fitted element in position.

→ Figure 13

The clearance must be maintained around heating pipes as well.

[7] Skirting boards must be mounted on the wall but must not be fixed to the parquet flooring, so the parquet can move under the skirting board.

→ Figure 14

Once the skirting board is fastened,

the excess film can be cut off with a knife.

AFTER INSTALLATION

Cover visible expansion gaps with transition strips.

Important! Please follow the relevant care instructions for lacquered or oiled finishes

Caution! Never wet-wipe the parquet surface; water can get in at the joints and cause damage. Before using the parquet floor for the first time, you must treat it. This protects the finish and the joints from infiltration of moisture.

Heavy-duty cleaning and the level of care required depends on how high-traffic the parquet surface is. Living, dining and bedrooms: every 4 – 8 weeks, more heavily used parquet areas such as offices, hallways or kitchens must be thoroughly cleaned every 2 – 3 weeks.

Factory-UV-lacquering is not suitable for use in high-traffic buildings!!!

→ Please follow the “**Care instructions**” chapter overleaf!

State of the art at: January 2008. Subject to change.

These technical instructions do not form the basis either for a legal contract or an additional obligation under the contract of sale.

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BASIC INFORMATION ON PARQUET FLOORING CARE

Like all structural elements made of wood, wooden floors react to moisture. To prevent the wood from swelling or shrinking, please make sure that the ambient conditions are healthy and as constant as possible. The optimal conditions are: a temperature between 18°C and 22°C and a room humidity between 55 and 65%. Experience shows that these values are not nearly met during the heating period. To avoid this, we recommend you use a humidifier (evaporator) as of the beginning of the heating period. Constant ambient conditions prevent gaps from forming!

However, the durability of your floor also depends on regular and correct care.

You can use a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner for regular cleaning. Damp-wipe the floor; never wet-wipe it.

Stagnant moisture (puddles of water) must be removed immediately!

To protect the parquet floor, place a mat at the entrance. To prevent scratches, fit felt glides on chairs and other furniture. For swivel chairs, you need soft casters as per DIN EN 12529 and a protective mat (polycarbonate mat) placed underneath the castor surfaces.

IMPORTANT NOTE

For the cleaning and care of our parquets bambeau® 3SF-Qlic lacquered and bambeau® 3SF-Qlic oiled, we recommend, as described opposite, you use LOBACARE® products from LOBA, which you can also purchase from us.

Always follow the separate instructions on the pack labels as well!

You can get further information on LOBACARE® products from LOBA GmbH & Co. KG, Leonbergerstr. 56 – 62, 71254 Ditzingen, Germany Tel. +49 (0)7156-357 220, Fax +49 (0)7156-357 211, E-mail: service@loba.de, www.loba.de

NOTE

bambeau® bamboo parquet is a natural product. Colour variation in the parquet elements is typical and is caused by location-specific lignification of the raw material. Use elements from several packs at the same time to achieve the most uniform overall scheme in the parquet floor.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAMBEAU® 3SF-QLIC LACQUERED

The prefinished parquet bambeau® 3SF-Qlic lacquered comes sealed with a high-grade UV-hardened acrylic lacquer and is thus protected from the infiltration of dirt and water.

Cleaning after installation: After completion of installation, clean the parquet floor with a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner, and dry. Dust and dirt have the effect of sandpaper and must therefore be removed immediately. Then clean the covering with LOBACARE® wax remover diluted 1:4 and a green pad. This provides adhesion for the care product.

Initial treatment: Before using the parquet floor for the first time, we recommend you use LOBACARE® MattPolish. This protects the finish and the joints from the infiltration of moisture. Evenly apply the polish undiluted to the clean floor using the LOBATOOL mop. You can walk on the floor after giving it 20 – 30 minutes to dry.

CAUTION: Never repolish the floor while it is drying!

Only use undiluted LOBACARE® MattPolish!

Regular cleaning: You can use a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner for regular cleaning. You can add LOBACARE® neutral cleaner to the mop water for damp cleaning. Damp-wipe the floor; never wet-wipe it. Stagnant moisture (puddles of water) must be removed immediately.

Heavy-duty cleaning: If the floor gets extremely dirty or if paths appear, old layers of polish can be removed with LOBACARE® wax remover diluted 1:4 and a green pad, and then retreated with LOBACARE® MattPolish.

Product quantities:

LOBACARE® wax remover	approx. 1 – 2 l/100 m ²
LOBACARE® MattPolish	approx. 3 – 4 l/100 m ²
LOBACARE® neutral cleaner	approx. 0.05 – 0.1 l/100 m ²
LOBATOOL mop	

CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAMBEAU® 3SF-QLIC OILED

The prefinished parquet bambeau® 3SF-Qlic oiled comes treated with a high-grade oxidative hardening wood floor oil, ready for laying in the home.

Before you use the floor for the first time, we strongly recommend you use an oil care product.

You will be able to take pleasure in wooden floors with an oil-finished surface for longer if you correctly treat the floor at the very start. For that reason, we recommend additionally treating the floor with LOBACARE® Oil-Balsam directly after installation.

Cleaning after installation: After completion of installation, clean the parquet floor with a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner, and dry. Dust and dirt have the effect of sandpaper and must therefore be removed immediately.

Initial treatment: After damp cleaning the covering with LOBACARE® neutral cleaner, apply a very thin layer of LOBACARE® oil balsam to the dry floor. Dampen a cloth with the oil care product and skim over the floor. Remove excess product. The floor can be used after leaving it to dry overnight.

Regular cleaning: You can use a mop, soft brush or vacuum cleaner for regular cleaning. You can add LOBACARE® neutral cleaner to the mop water for damp cleaning. Damp-wipe the floor; never wet-wipe it. Stagnant moisture (puddles of water) must be removed immediately.

Regular care: Use LOBACARE® oil balsam for regular care. Dampen a cloth with the oil care product and skim over the floor.

Heavy-duty cleaning: It is only necessary to thoroughly clean the floor by hand or machine if heavy dirt has adhered to it which regular cleaning does not remove. Spread LOBACARE® Lobalin over parts of the floor, give it a short time to work in, and scrub it or use a cleaning machine with the green pad placed underneath it. Remove the dissolved film of wax along with the dirt while it is still wet using the cloth. The dry floor should then be retreated.

Product quantities:

LOBACARE® OilBalsam	approx. 1 l/100 m ²
LOBACARE® neutral cleaner	approx. 0.05 – 0.1 l/100 m ²
LOBACARE® Lobalin	approx. 2 – 4 l/100 m ²