

Hallway Batten Layout & Cut List

Calculate spacing, cuts, and materials for your custom half-wall paneling.

Plan your perfect board-and-batten layout before making a single cut. Use this worksheet to map obstacles, space battens symmetrically, and build your shopping list.

● Key Hallway Paneling Measurements

48-54 in

Top rail above highest switch

12 in

Gap width for a craftsman look

1/2 in

Thickness for pre-primed MDF boards

2 in

Brad nail length for drywall

1 in

Clearance above switches and below alarms

2 in

Side clearance for wall outlets

3 in

Clearance needed below wall thermostats

80 in

Standard height for door frames



Rail above the switch

Set your flat top rail directly above the highest switch plate. This avoids tedious jigsaw notching and keeps proportions beautifully balanced without compromising the design.

● Flawless Installation Sequence

- 1 Lay out from center** Measure total wall length and divide by two to find the exact midpoint.
- 2 Place the first batten** Align the dead center of your first vertical board directly over the center mark.
- 3 Spacer block, no tape** Use a custom MDF offcut block to guarantee identical gaps without tiny measuring errors.
- 4 Mud the MDF edges** Seal rough exposed ends at door casings with joint compound for a seamless transition.
- 5 Satin for sticky hands** Finish with a soft-sheen satin paint that easily wipes clean from inevitable sticky hands.

● Mapping Your Wall Obstacles

Find your row: **Obstacle in batten path**

Obstacle in batten path	Your pick	Why
HVAC vents	Notch bottom batten edge	Keeps the board flush to grille
Thermostats	Keep paneling below unit	Avoids interference with temperature sensors
Alarm keypads	Adjust top rail height	Prevents overlapping the security device
Wall outlets	Shift batten spacing	Bypasses the electrical junction box

● Pre-Installation Wall Checks

- Measure total wall length to calculate exact center and equal gaps.
- Level the top rail across the entire length of the hallway.
- Mark your structural wall studs clearly with blue painter's tape.
- Press batten centers to identify hollow spots for angled nailing.
- Inspect pre-primed MDF boards for crisp edges and flawless faces.

● Your Custom Shopping List

- ☐ Pre-primed MDF strips
- ☐ Heavy-duty construction adhesive
- ☐ Brad nails for drywall
- ☐ Wood filler for nail holes
- ☐ Paintable acrylic caulk for seams
- ☐ Joint compound for exposed edges
- ☐ Soft-sheen satin finish paint

● Layout Math & Cut List

Enjoy your beautifully upgraded hallway—you planned it perfectly, now go build it!