



Historical Moulding Styles

A curated guide to ten architectural eras with profiles drawn from our knife library.

Every period of Western architecture left its signature in moulding profiles. From the bold simplicity of Greek Revival through the refined elegance of Federal, the exuberance of Victorian, the honesty of Craftsman, and the geometry of Art Deco, this guide pairs each historical style with profiles from the Mason's Mill catalog that translate the look into your project.

All profiles shown are produced from our library of over 8,900 knives. Custom grinding is available for any profile not pictured.

CONTENTS

Ten Historical Styles

01	Greek Revival 1825 – 1860	page 3
02	Federal & Adam 1780 – 1820	page 4
03	Georgian 1714 – 1830	page 5
04	Victorian & Eastlake 1860 – 1900	page 6
05	Italianate 1840 – 1885	page 7
06	Craftsman & Arts & Crafts 1890 – 1930	page 8
07	Colonial Revival 1880 – 1955	page 9
08	Art Deco & Modern 1920 – present	page 10
09	Beadboard & Wainscoting Victorian – Craftsman era	page 11
10	Classical Details Timeless · all periods	page 12

01 Greek Revival

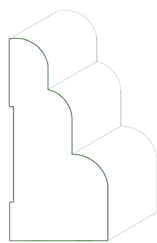
1825 – 1860 BOLD · SIMPLE · ARCHITECTURAL

America's first truly national architectural style, Greek Revival drew direct inspiration from Greek temples and the classical orders. Mouldings are bold, broad, and unornamented — the goal was to read at scale rather than reward close inspection. Wide flat casings, prominent entablatures, and massed stepped profiles defined the look in plantation homes, courthouses, and townhouses across the antebellum South and Midwest.

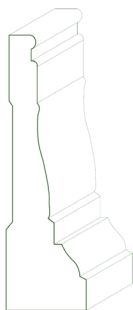
Design Traits

- Bold, broad profiles with strong shadow lines
- Wide, flat casings — minimal ornamental carving
- Heavy stepped baseboards and stacked entablatures
- Large, simple cyma and ovolo curves
- Often paired with fluted pilasters and plinth blocks

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



MC - 808
1 1/2 X 3 1/16



MC - 979
1 1/4 X 4 1/8



MC 752
3/4 X 3 7/16



MC - 2051
3/4 X 7 1/4



MC - 2232
7 1/2 X 1/2



MC - 2165
1 X 6

Stepped and stacked profiles — MC-808, MC-979, MC-752

Tall tapered casings — MC-2051, MC-2232, MC-2165

02 Federal & Adam

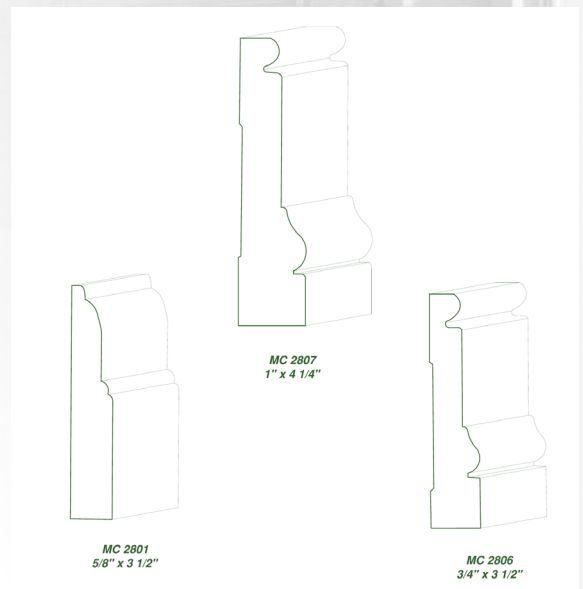
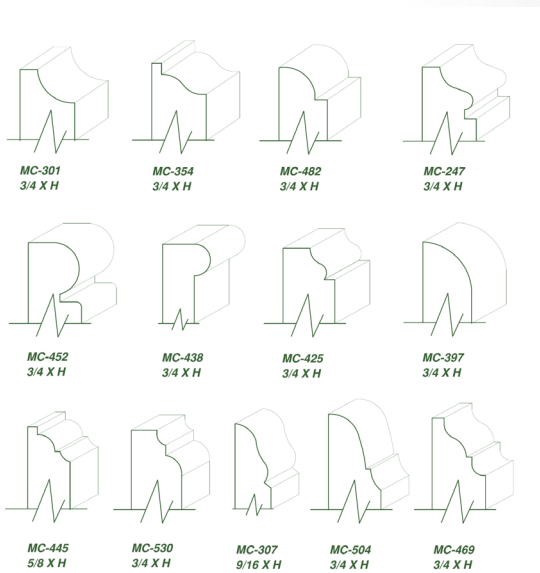
1780 – 1820 DELICATE · REFINED · NEOCLASSICAL

Named for the early American Republic and influenced by Scottish architect Robert Adam, Federal style refined Georgian classicism into something lighter and more graceful. Mouldings became slender and tightly drawn — narrow casings, delicate ogees and reverse-ogees, and small-scale ornament replacing heavier Georgian profiles. It defined the brick row houses of Boston, Philadelphia, and Charleston.

Design Traits

- Slender, narrow profiles with refined proportions
- Delicate ogee and reverse-ogee curves
- Reeded (rather than fluted) casing details
- Small-scale carving — urns, swags, oval motifs
- Often elliptical curves rather than full circles

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



Refined small-scale base & casing — MC-301, MC-354, MC-482, MC-247

Slender backband caps — MC-2801, MC-2807, MC-2806

03 Georgian

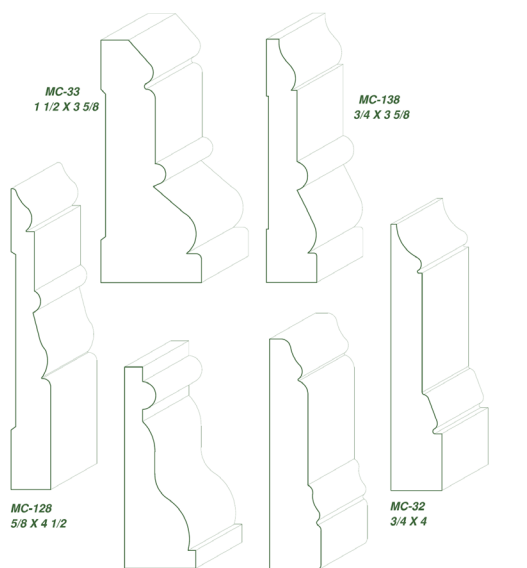
1714 – 1830 BALANCED · CLASSICAL · STATELY

The dominant style of the 18th-century English-speaking world, Georgian architecture imposed classical order on every detail. Mouldings followed the Five Orders strictly — robust ogees, full crowns, dentil courses, and balanced proportions sized to the room. Pediments above doors, paneled wainscoting, and substantial entablatures were standard.

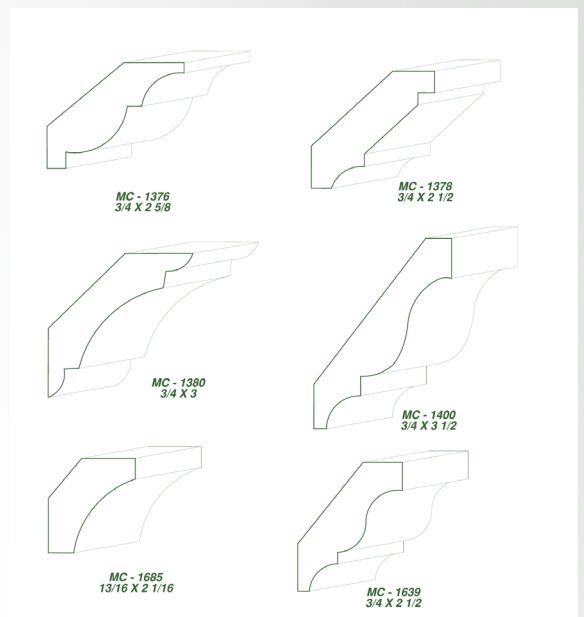
Design Traits

- Classical proportions — head, shaft, and base
- Robust crown mouldings with dentils
- Raised paneled doors with bold mullions
- Full ogee and ovolo profiles
- Symmetry and order in every elevation

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



Classical balanced ogees — base & casing assemblies



Crown mouldings with dentil and bed combinations

04 Victorian & Eastlake

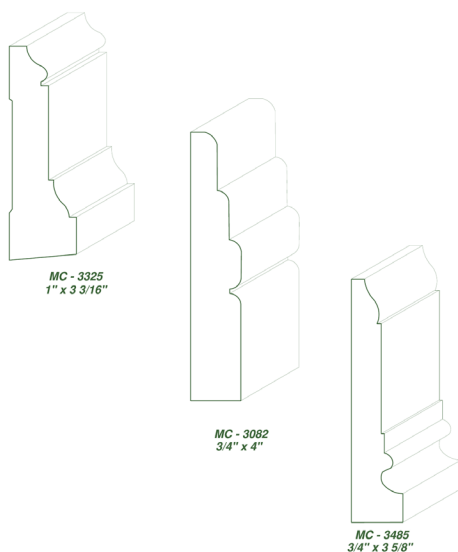
1860 – 1900 ELABORATE · DECORATIVE · ECLECTIC

The Victorian era introduced unprecedented decorative complexity — machine production made elaborate profiles affordable for middle-class homes. Eastlake details added geometric incised carving and turned spindles. Multi-piece built-up mouldings, plinth blocks at every junction, and decorative rosettes at corners became signatures of the period.

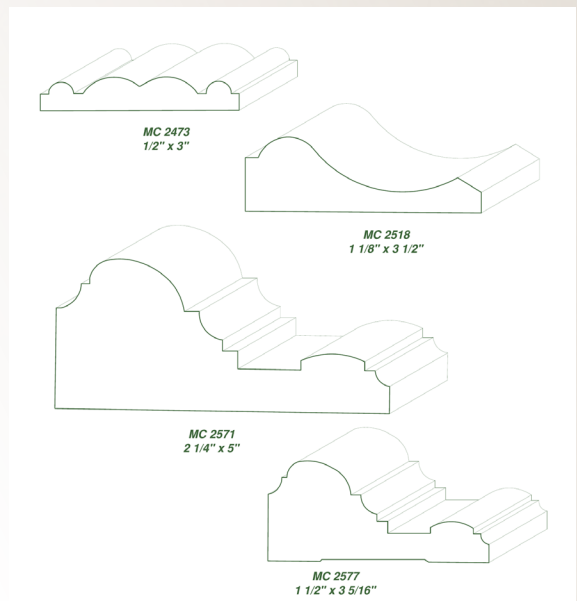
Design Traits

- Multi-piece built-up profiles
- Plinth blocks and corner rosettes at junctions
- Reeded, fluted, and incised geometric carving
- Tall baseboards (often 8"–10")
- Picture rails near the ceiling

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



Elaborate multi-piece base assemblies



Decorative chair rails with bead and reed details

05 Italianate

1840 – 1885 DEEP · BRACKETED · ROMANTIC

Inspired by Italian Renaissance villas, Italianate architecture is defined by deep projecting eaves supported by elaborate paired brackets. Crown mouldings are deep and substantial, often combined with bed mouldings to build out the classical entablature. Tall narrow windows with curved tops were paired with heavy hooded surrounds.

Design Traits

- Deep crown profiles for tall ceilings
- Heavy bracketed cornices
- Hooded window and door surrounds
- Paired brackets with curved profiles
- Substantial projection from the wall

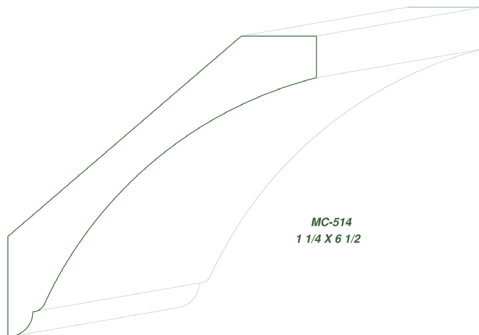
FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



MC-171
3/4 X 3/4



MC-471
3/4 X 7/8

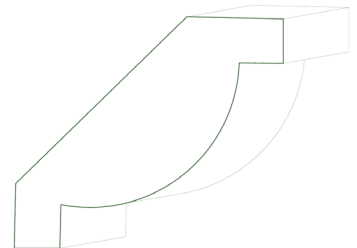


MC-514
1 1/4 X 6 1/2

Deep crown profiles for grand rooms



MC 2661
1 3/16" x 5 9/16"



MC 2634
1 5/8" x 5 1/4"

Bracketed cornice and bed moulding combinations

06 Craftsman & Arts & Crafts

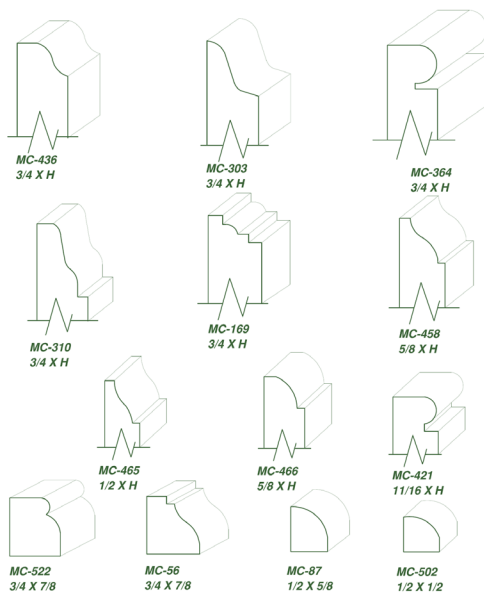
1890 – 1930 HONEST · SIMPLE · HANDCRAFTED

A reaction against Victorian excess, the Arts & Crafts movement (and its American Craftsman cousin) celebrated honest materials and visible joinery. Mouldings became flat — square-edged stock, simple stepped profiles, and broad casings with no curves. Quartersawn oak was the species of choice; tongue-and-groove wainscoting and exposed beams completed the look.

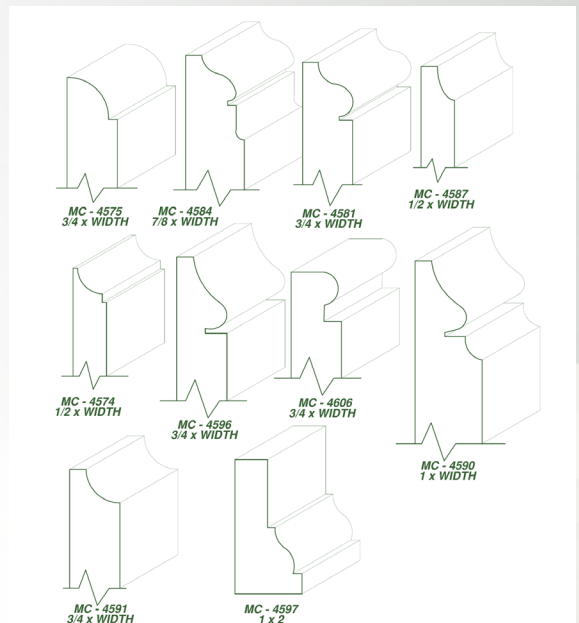
Design Traits

- Flat, square-edged stock — no ornamental curves
- Wide, simple casings with butted (not mitered) corners
- Stepped baseboards with thin shoe
- Exposed beams and visible joinery
- Beadboard or board-and-batten wainscoting

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



Flat square-edge profiles for Craftsman casings



Simple chair rails and panel mouldings

07 Colonial Revival

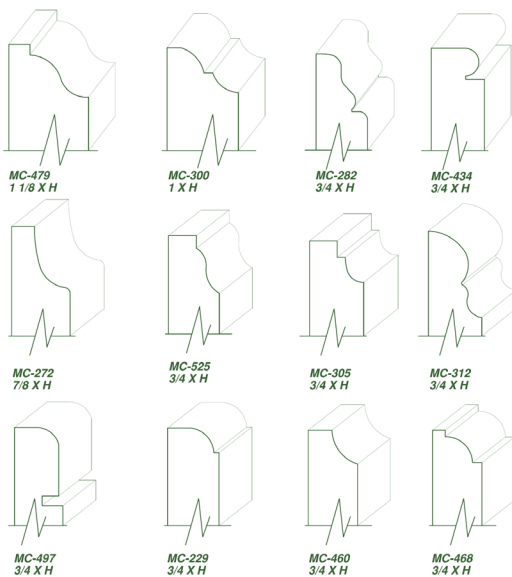
1880 – 1955 REFINED · TRADITIONAL · ENDURING

The Colonial Revival style cherry-picked details from Federal, Georgian, and early American architecture, scaling them for 20th-century homes. Profiles are refined but not delicate — proper ogees, modest crowns, and balanced casings sized for 8'-9" ceilings. It remains the default 'traditional' look for American residential trim today.

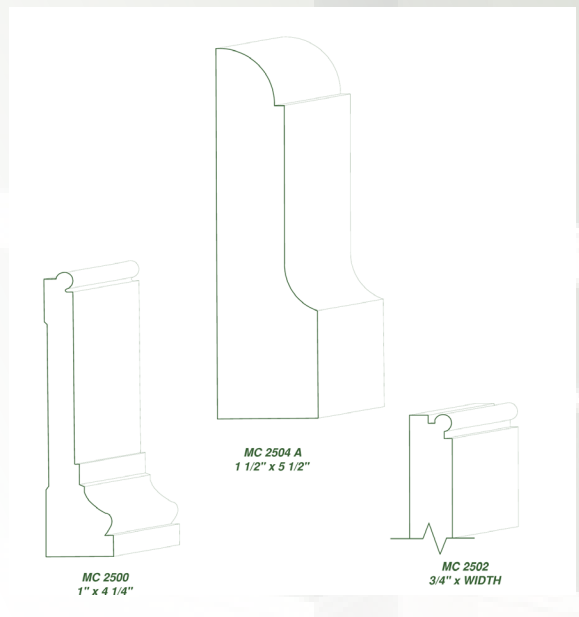
Design Traits

- Refined ogees scaled for modern ceiling heights
- Pilastered casings with classical caps
- Modest crown mouldings (3"–5")
- Three-piece built-up baseboards
- Symmetry and proportion above all

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



Refined traditional base & casing assemblies



Pilastered door surrounds with classical caps

08 Art Deco & Modern

1920 – Present GEOMETRIC · STEPPED · LINEAR

Art Deco rejected historical ornament in favor of pure geometry — stepped profiles, parallel reeds, and machined precision. Mid-century modern carried this further with flat unornamented casings and minimal trim. Both movements share a preference for crisp, mechanical lines over hand-carved curves, making them the natural choice for contemporary interiors.

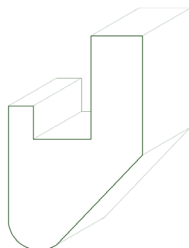
Design Traits

- Stepped, geometric profiles
- Parallel reeded and fluted details
- Crisp 90° machined edges
- Flat-stock minimalism (mid-century)
- No classical curves — straight lines and right angles

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



MC - 938
1 1/2 X 2 1/4



MC - 945
2 1/16 X 3 1/4



MC - 842
1 X 3 3/4



MC - 2051
3/4 X 7 1/4



MC - 2232
7 1/2 X 1 1/2



MC - 2165
1 X 6

Stepped geometric profiles for Deco interiors

Reeded and fluted parallel-line details

09 Beadboard & Wainscoting

Victorian – Craftsman era paneled · tongue-and-groove · traditional

Tongue-and-groove beadboard defined the lower-wall treatments of Victorian, Folk Victorian, and Craftsman interiors — kitchens, baths, porches, mudrooms, and breakfast rooms. The slim bead at each joint creates a soft shadow line that reads as a continuous paneled surface. Today it remains the workhorse of farmhouse, cottage, and traditional millwork.

Design Traits

- Tongue-and-groove edges with a small bead at each joint
- Single-bead, double-bead, and V-groove variants
- Installed vertically below chair rail (wainscoting)
- Also used horizontally on porch ceilings
- Often capped with a chair rail and shoe baseboard

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



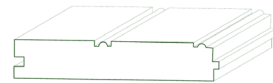
MC 2507
3/4" x WIDTH



MC-489 3/4 X 5 3/8



MC-76 3/4 X 5 1/2



MC 2614
9/16" x 3 1/16"



MC 2730
23/32" x 4 1/4"



MC 2624
1/2" x WIDTH

Classic tongue-and-groove beadboard — MC-2507, MC-489, MC-76

Variants with V-groove and double-bead detail

10 Classical Details

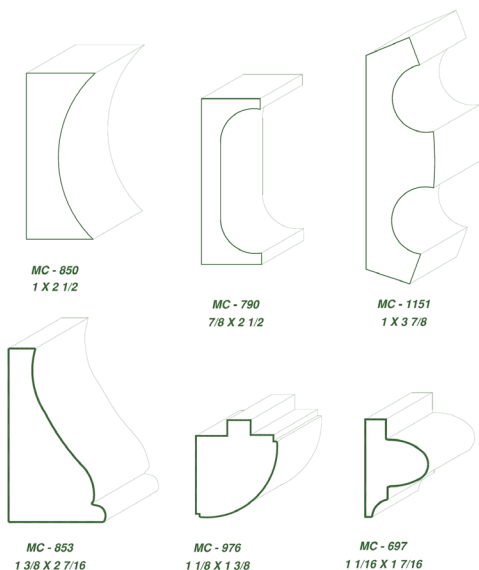
Timeless · all periods OVOLO · ASTRAGAL · SCOTIA · BULLNOSE

Beneath every historical style sits the same vocabulary of classical curves — the elementary profiles codified by the Greeks and Romans and used continuously ever since. Astragal, ovolo, scotia, cavetto, cyma recta, cyma reversa, and bullnose. These small-scale shapes are the building blocks combined into the complex assemblies of every period style above.

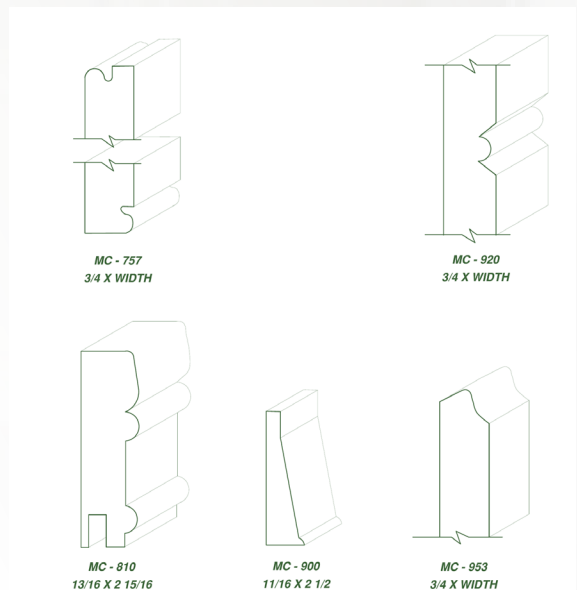
Design traits

- Astragal — small half-round, often used between doors
- Ovolo — quarter-round convex curve
- Scotia — concave curve, opposite of ovolo
- Bullnose — fully rounded edge
- Cyma recta / reversa — S-curves, the heart of crown profiles

FROM THE MASON'S MILL CATALOG



Classical curve profiles — MC-850, MC-790, MC-1151, MC-853, MC-976, MC-697



Continuous-bead running profiles for trim and panel details

CLOSING NOTES

On Mixing & Matching

Profiles are tools, not rules.

Most beautiful interiors mix profiles deliberately. A Federal-style baseboard can sit happily under a Craftsman door casing if proportions are coordinated.

Match scale to the room.

A grand Italianate crown overwhelms an 8-foot ceiling; a slender Federal cove disappears in a 12-foot one. Profile height should track ceiling height.

Specify by MC number.

Every profile in this guide carries an MC number from our knife library. Reference the number when ordering and we'll mill in any species we stock.

Custom is welcome.

If you don't see exactly what you need, send a drawing or sample. We grind custom knives regularly and can match any historical profile.



Mason's Mill & Lumber Co.

9885 Tanner Road · P.O. Box 430036 · Houston, TX 77243-0036

Phone (713) 462-6975 · Fax (713) 462-6970 · masonsmillandlumber.com

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