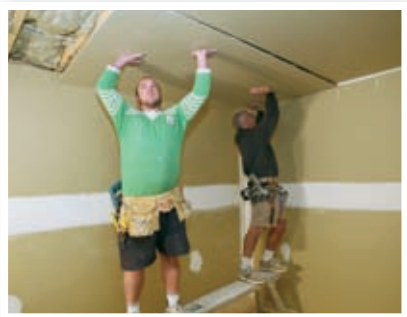




Everything else is just plasterboard



# DIY GUIDE

## FOR THE RESIDENTIAL HANDYMAN



HOMEOWNER  
SOLUTIONS

CSR

## Introduction

CSR Gyprock™ has developed compounds, tools and processes that are designed for the home handyman. This guide is part of a series of DIY information guides for small projects such as repairing, installing and finishing plasterboard walls and ceilings.

For those attempting more difficult projects like sound or fire rated rooms, garage ceilings or exterior work, a range of professional tools and specialist products are available. Detailed trade installation manuals can be downloaded at [www.gyprock.com.au](http://www.gyprock.com.au)

## What is Gyprock™ Plasterboard?

Gyprock™ continues to be the trusted brand of choice for gypsum-based products and systems such as plasterboard, plaster, cornices and associated finishing materials and accessories. Gyprock™ products are available across the country through a strong distribution network of specialist suppliers and retail outlets. Gyprock™ provides a comprehensive range of high performance wall and ceiling solutions to meet fire, acoustic and thermal requirements across all segments of the construction industry. For houses, the products are usually 10mm thick and available up to 1350mm wide and 6m long. The sheets long edges are recessed so you can create a smooth flush joint between sheets.

## Planning Your Work

For best results, it is important to plan each task and start it in its proper sequence. We recommend the following procedure. Please refer to details later in this guide.

1. Measure up and order materials,
2. If you are planning to install insulation batts, do it now.
3. Check the frame.
4. Install ceilings, measure and mark the plasterboard and cut to size as you go.
5. Install wall linings, measure and mark the plasterboard and cut to size as you go.
6. Install cornice if required.
7. Set joints after all sheets and cornices are in place and ceilings are back-blocked.
8. Painting or other finishing.

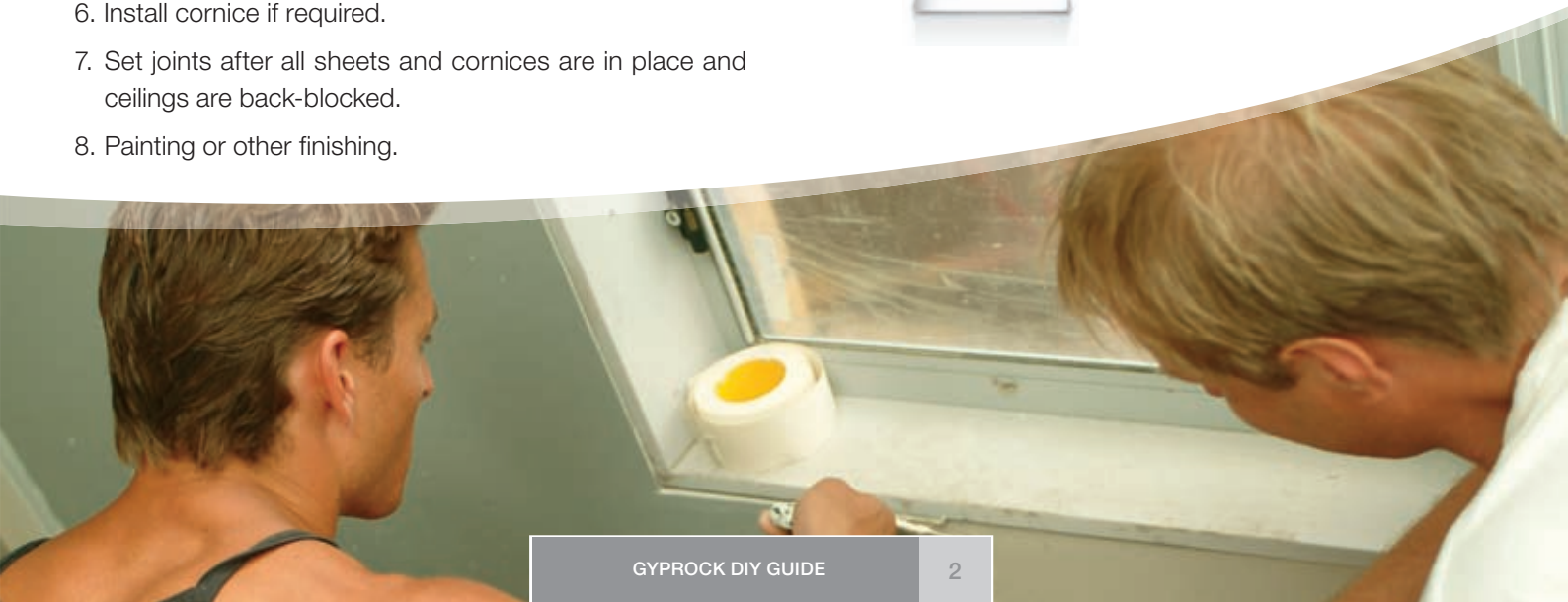
**IMPORTANT:** Ensure that all electrical outlets are checked and isolated by a qualified electrician before you start work.

### Materials You May Need

- Gyprock™ Plasterboard
- Gyprock™ Decorative Cornice
- Ring Shank Nails or Type W Screws for timber framing
- Type S Screws for steel framing
- Gyprock™ Paper Tape for jointing sheets
- Gyprock™ Easy Tape for repairs and minor works
- Rondo External Corner Bead and Arch Bead
- Gyprock™ Acrylic Stud Adhesive or Gyprock™ Masonry Adhesive
- Gyprock™ Pre-mixed Multi-Purpose Joint Compounds
- Gyprock™ Cornice Cement



**Keep an eye out for our  
NEW LOOK PACKAGING !**



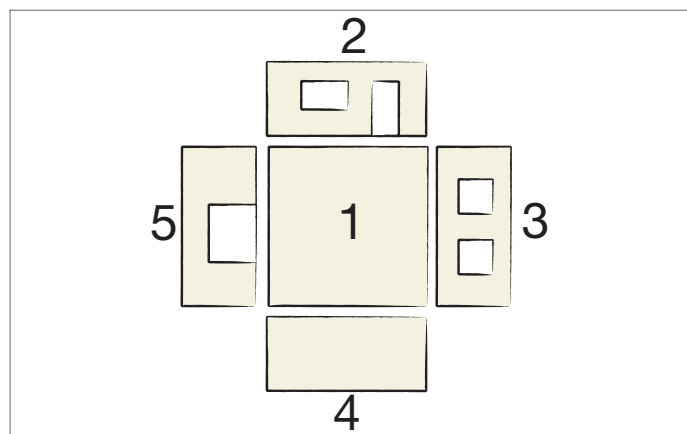
Most home handyman will already have some of these tools. Specialist and DIY tools are available from Gyprock™ stockists; visit [www.gyprock.com.au](http://www.gyprock.com.au). to find your nearest retailer.

### Tools You May Need

- Broadknife 38mm for adhesive application
- Gyprock™ curved trowels or broadknives for finishing 100, 150, 200 & 250mm
- Gyprock™ 100mm corner tool
- Gyprock™ sanding float and sandpaper or sanding mesh
- Gyprock™ Mitremasta or a mitre box
- Cornice small tool
- Measuring tape
- T-square and straight edge
- Trimming knife
- Fine-tooth plasterboard saw and keyhole saw
- Hammer and/or screw gun
- Tin snips
- Staple gun and staples
- Dust mask, Eye protection, Gloves

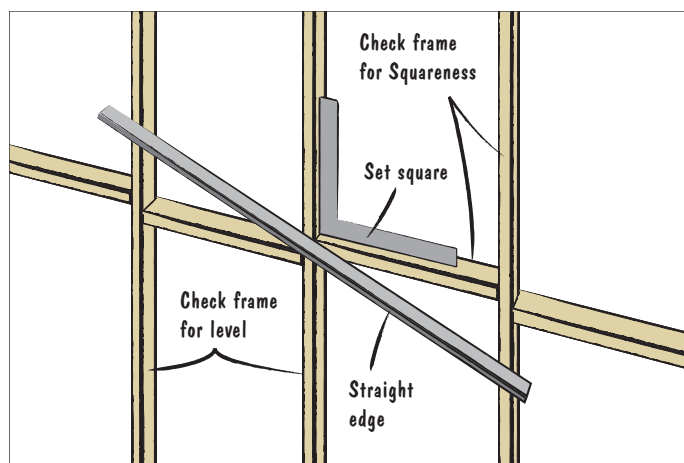
## How to Measure Up for Ordering

1. Draw a diagram of each room opened up like a shoebox. You don't have to draw it to scale. Just mark all the measurements on it, including windows and doors.
2. Take your diagram along to your Gyprock™ plasterboard supplier. They will help you work out how many sheets of plasterboard, lengths of cornice, and quantities of accessories you will need.



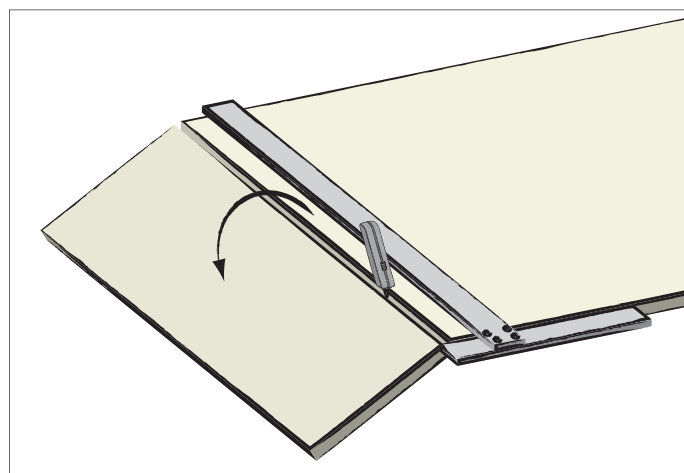
## Frame Inspection

1. Make sure studs are located at 600mm maximum centres, and ceiling framing is at 450mm maximum centres. Ceiling framing should not change direction within a room.
2. Check the studs, noggings and ceiling joists with a straight edge. Are they aligned without gaps or bulges? Plane back or pack out uneven members as necessary.
3. Remove or hammer down any protruding nails. To ensure a good adhesive bond, make sure surfaces are dry and free of dirt, paint, grease, etc.



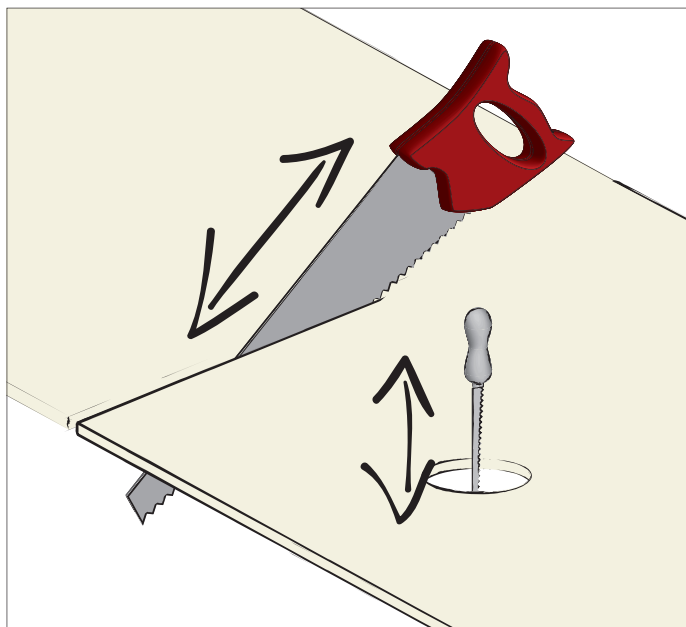
## Cutting Sheets

1. Mark the sheet to the length required. Check the measurement again so you will only have to cut once! Use a trimming knife to cut through the paper liner, using a straight edge or T-square. Always cut the face (non-printed) side first.





2. Push the off-cut side down and snap the sheet along the score line.
3. Cut along the fold line from the back of the sheet (printed side) and remove the off-cut.
4. Use a saw where intersecting cuts are needed, such as around openings.
5. Use a keyhole saw for openings such as arches and power points.

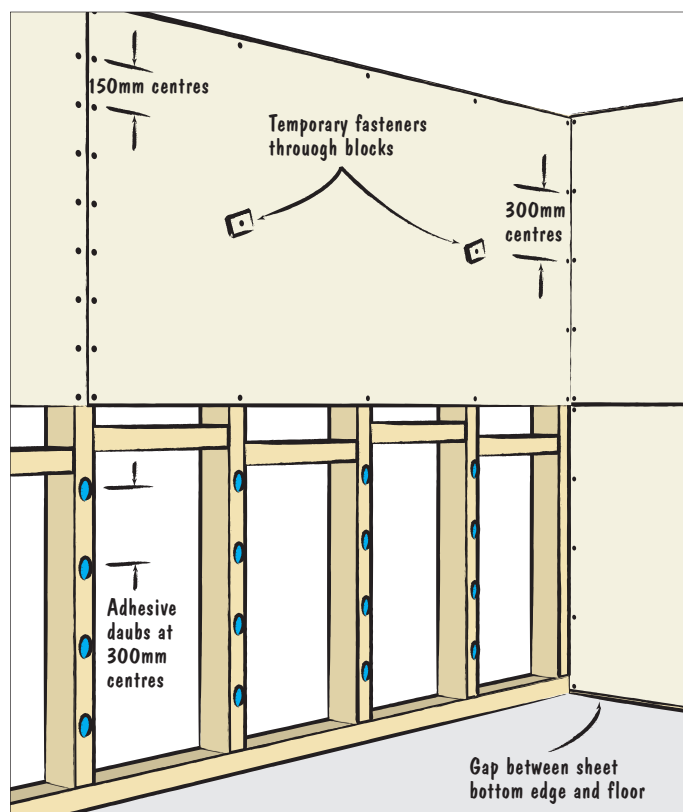


## Fixing to Stud Walls

Check framing for alignment. Refer to the previous details.

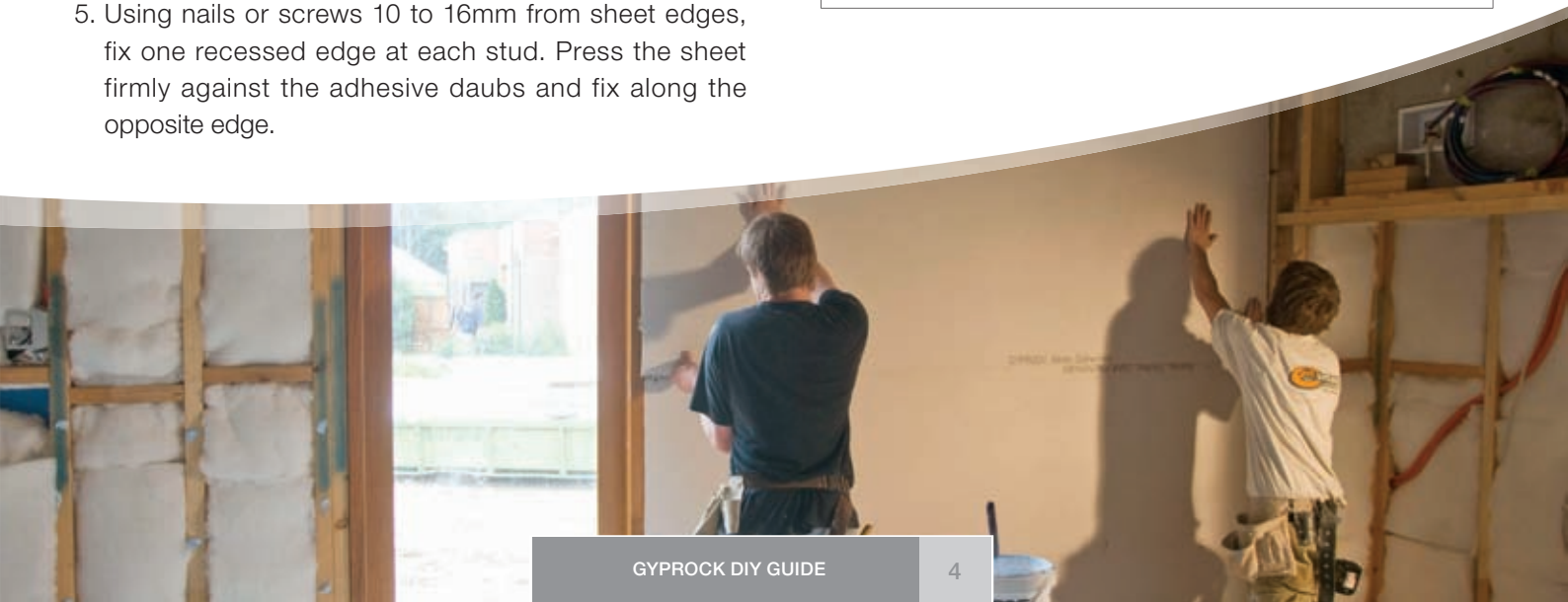
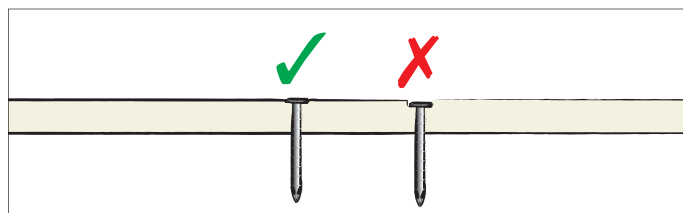
1. Apply daubs of Gyprock™ Stud Adhesive about 25mm diameter and 15mm thickness, about the size of a walnut, onto the studs at 300mm centres.
2. Start about 200mm from where the edge of the sheet will go. Don't put adhesive on studs at the ends of sheets, and keep adhesive at least 200mm from any nail or screw location.
3. Lift the sheet about 10mm from the floor, using off-cuts of plasterboard as packing.
4. Apply the Gyprock™ plasterboard horizontally. The recessed edges do not have to line up with wall noggings.
5. Using nails or screws 10 to 16mm from sheet edges, fix one recessed edge at each stud. Press the sheet firmly against the adhesive daubs and fix along the opposite edge.

6. Drive the fastener heads just below the board surface, taking care not to break the face paper. Nail or screw every 300mm, at sheet ends and around all doors, windows and other openings.



7. Drive temporary nails or screws through a small plasterboard off-cut into every second stud in the middle of the sheet to hold it tight while the adhesive dries. Remove after 24 hours.

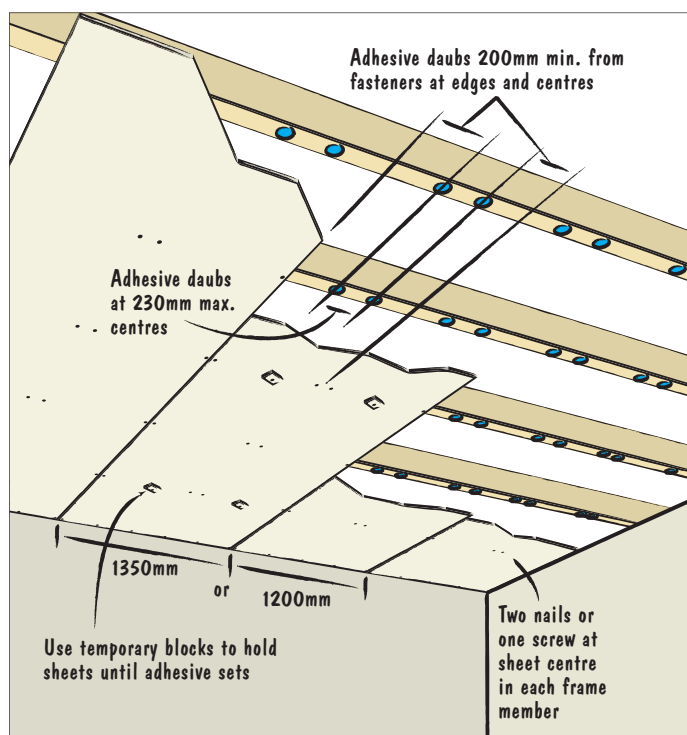
**NOTE:** If sheets must be joined in length, butt joints may be used. For simplicity, fix each sheet end to a stud with nails or screws at 150mm centres. Jointing should extend 500mm each side of the joint to reduce joint visibility.



## Fixing to Ceilings

Check framing for straightness.

1. Apply 'daubs' of Gyprock Stud Adhesive about 25mm diameter and 15mm thickness, about the size of a walnut, at 230mm maximum spacings.
2. Start about 200mm from where the end of the sheet will go and leave 200mm from the centre nails or screw location.
3. Install sheets at right angles to the joists, using a single length across the room if possible. Nail or screw at 10 to 16mm from sheet edges, fixing one recessed edge to each joist. Press the sheet firmly against the adhesive daubs and fix along the opposite edge.
4. Drive the fastener heads just below the board surface, taking care not to break the face paper.
5. At the centreline of sheets, fasten to each joist with two nails 75mm apart or with a single screw. Nail or screw every 200mm at sheet ends and around any openings.
6. Drive temporary nails or screws through a small plasterboard off-cut, mid way between the sheet centreline and edges, to hold sheets tight against joists while the adhesive dries (up to 48 hours).

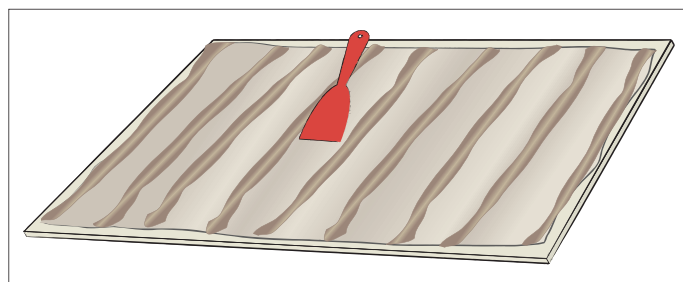
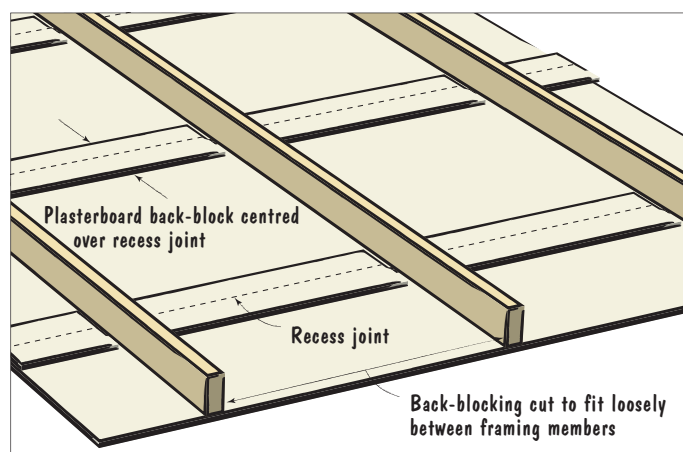


**NOTE:** To place ceiling sheets in position against joists requires a lift by at least two people. A good idea is to hire a mechanical plasterboard lifter.

## Back-Blocking Recessed Joints

Back-blocking is a way of reinforcing joints by gluing plasterboard to the back of the sheets. It is recommended for all ceiling joints but could be omitted in small rooms. It is easier working from above the ceiling but can also be done from below.

1. Cut plasterboard back-blocks of at least 200mm width and long enough to fit loosely between the joists.
2. Apply Gyprock™ Cornice Cement to one face of the backblock with a trowel. Form beads about 5mm thick, 20mm wide and spaced at about 40mm centres by scraping with a broadknife.
3. Place back-blocks into position along the sheet joint and wriggle lightly to spread the adhesive.
4. Back-blocks should be installed before the joints are finished.



**NOTE:** For best results, it is preferable to use full length sheets which extend from wall to wall, to eliminate the need for butt joints. Where butt joints are necessary, please consult your Gyprock™ plasterboard supplier for back-block installation advice.

## Jointing

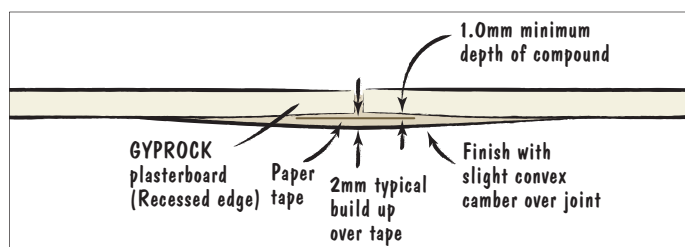
Jointing is the process of covering and reinforcing the join between sheets to give a flush, seamless appearance. Paper Tape is embedded into compound, then covered with two more layers of compound spread wide to each side of the joint. For external corners, a steel or PVC reinforcing bead also set with compound is used for protection. Easy Tape is a self adhesive mesh that is stuck directly to the board and can be used where strength is not critical.

## Recessed Joints

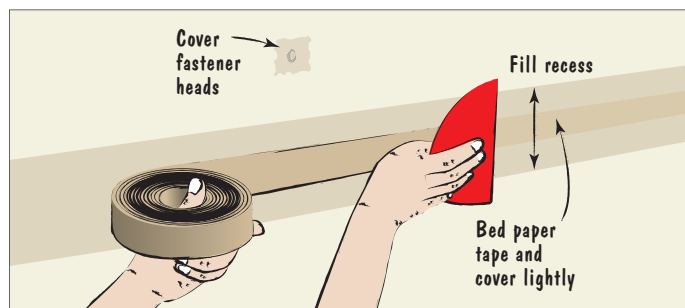
For recessed joints use a three coat system as follows.

### Tape Coat

1. Fill recess in plasterboard evenly and fully with Gyprock™ Total Joint Cement or Multi-Purpose Joint Compound using a 150mm broadknife.



2. Bed in Gyprock™ Paper Tape centrally over the joint and cover lightly with compound.

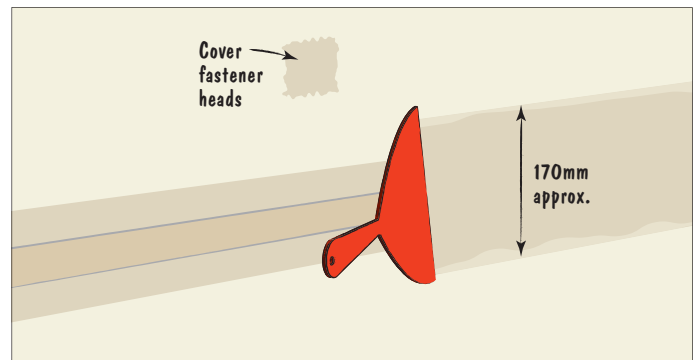


3. Cover all fastener heads.
4. Allow to dry and harden for at least 24 hours, until the compound appears dry.

### Second Coat

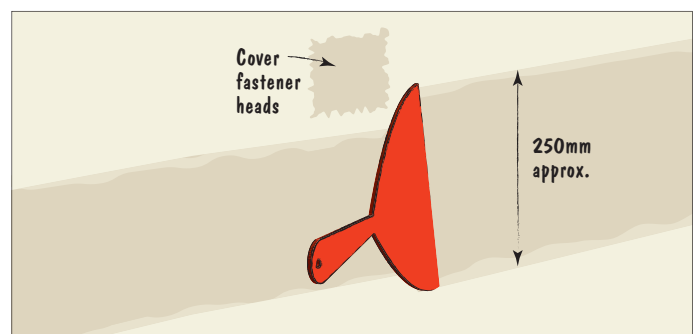
1. When the tape coat is dry, sand off any lumps and apply a second coat, about 170mm wide, finishing slightly above the board surface. Cover all fastener heads.

2. Smooth the joint edges with a trowel to remove any lip to reduce sanding.



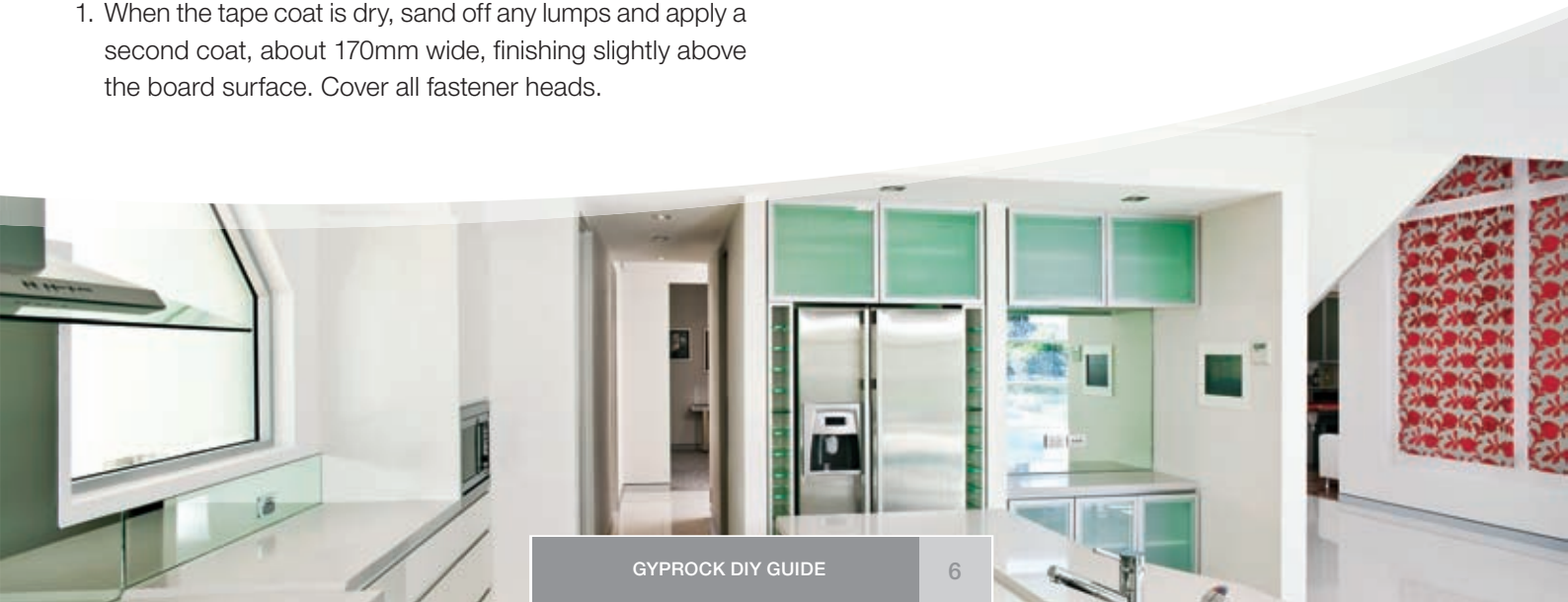
### Finishing Coat

1. When the second coat is dry, apply a thin finish coat over the previous coat, about 250mm wide.
2. Smooth the joint edges with a trowel to remove any lip to reduce sanding.
3. Cover previously coated fastener heads with a third coat of compound, laid in a different direction, extending beyond the previous coat by about 25mm.
4. Allow to dry and harden for at least 24 hours.

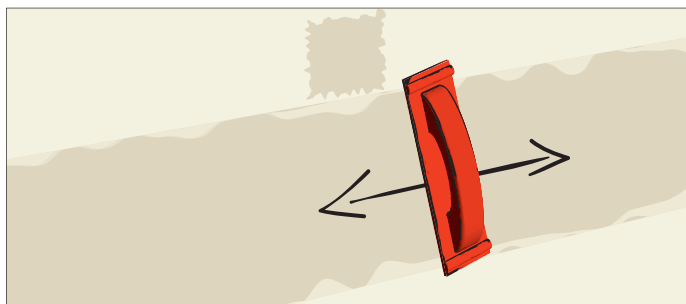


### Sanding

1. Using the sandpaper and sanding float, carefully sand the joint to a smooth, even finish.
2. You will get best results by using a sanding float diagonally across the joint.
3. Avoid scuffing the paper face of the plasterboard where it meets the jointing cement.

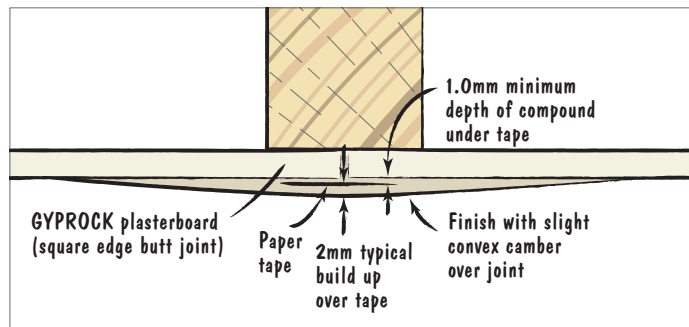


4. Wear a dust mask, gloves and eye protection when sanding.



## Butt Joints on Framing

1. At butt joints, use a three coat system as for recessed joints but extend the jointing to 250mm each side of the joint.



## Using Gyprock™ Easy Tape

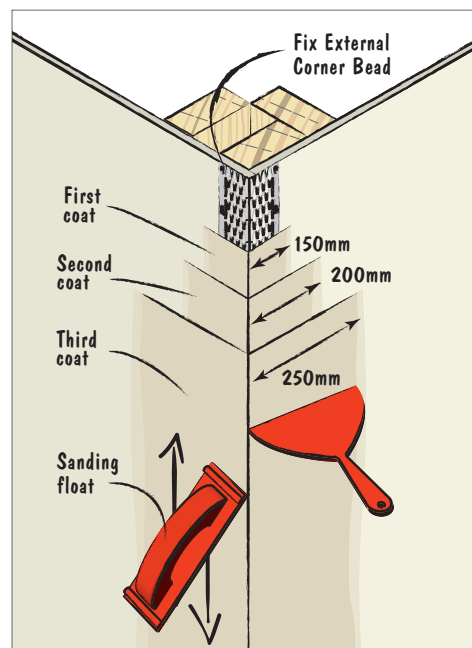
1. Remove any loose paint. Lightly sand and clean down painted surfaces where tape is to be applied.
2. Apply Easy Tape, sticky side down, directly to the surface.
3. Apply 3 coat system as described for paper tape.

## External Corners

External Corner Bead is used to strengthen the corners of plasterboard walls to protect them from impact damage.

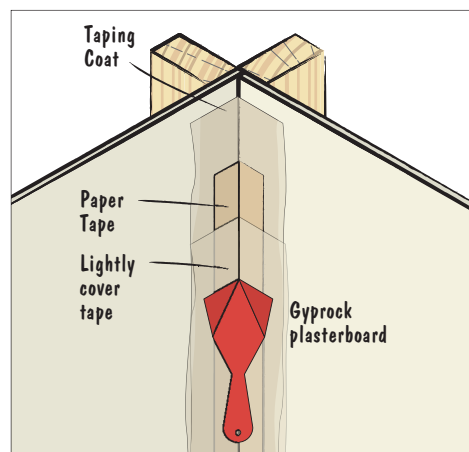
1. Cut External Corner Beads to length and fit to the corner. Staple through both legs of the corner bead at the ends and at 500mm centres between. Alternatively, apply a thin layer of Gyprock™ Multi-Purpose Joint Compound on both sides of the corner and press the bead into the moist compound. Smooth the cement and leave for 24 hours to dry.
2. Using a Gyprock™ 150mm broad knife, apply a coat of Gyprock™ Multi-Purpose Joint Compound about 150mm wide on both sides of the corner. Fill all perforations and cover the bead completely. Allow at least 24 hours to dry. Remove any lumps or ridges by lightly sanding.
3. Using a 200mm broad knife, apply a second coat of Multi-Purpose Joint Compound about 200mm wide on both sides of the corner. Blend the outer edges of the compound to the plasterboard. Allow 24 hours to dry.

4. Using a 250mm broad knife apply a third coat of Compound about 250mm wide on both sides of the corner. Ensure the compound is smooth and completely fills the surface to the outer face of the protruding metal nib. Smooth the outer edges of the compound with a broad knife to remove any ridge and to reduce sanding.
5. Allow at least 24 hours to completely dry. Sand smooth with 150 grit paper or 220 grit sanding mesh. Take care not to scuff the paper face of the Gyprock™ plasterboard where it meets the jointing compound.



## Finishing Internal Corners

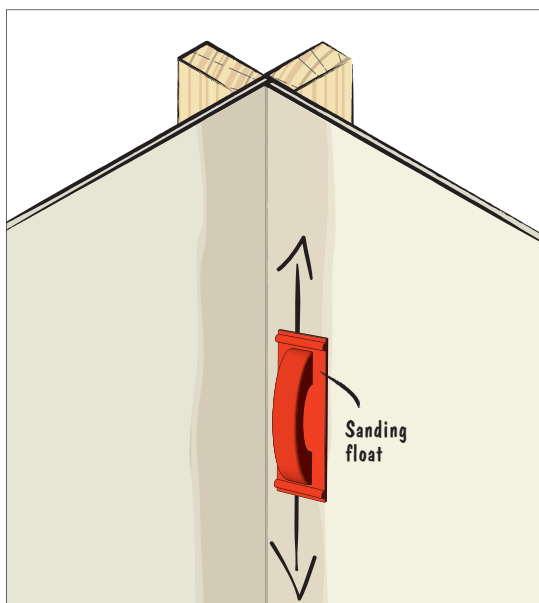
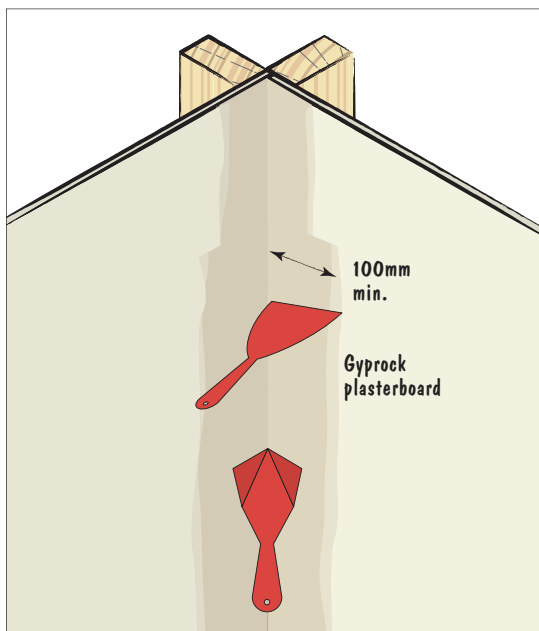
1. Apply a bed of compound at least 1mm thick to both sides of the corner.
2. Fold Gyprock™ Paper Tape along its centreline and bed into the corner. Cover the tape lightly with joint compound. Smooth the cement and leave for 24 hours to dry.
3. Using an internal corner trowel and broadknife, apply a second coat of compound extending at least 100mm each side of the joint.



*continued*



- When completely dry, sand lightly. Take care not to scuff the paper face of the Gyprock™ plasterboard where it meets the jointing compound.

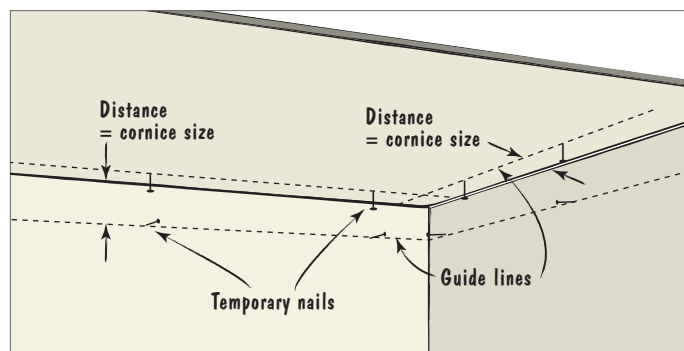


## Gyprock™ Cornice

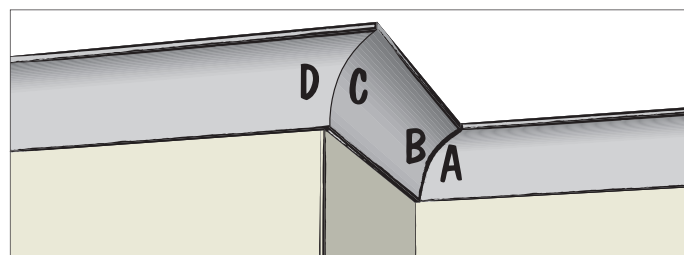
Gyprock™ Cornices are designed to provide an attractive finish at the junction of the wall and ceiling. Gyprock™ Cornice Cement is formulated for adhesion of cornice to plasterboard surfaces. If the room is already decorated, you will need to treat the adhesion zone by removing any wallpaper, and sand painted surfaces or coat with a PVA adhesive such as Bondcrete.

## Measuring and Cutting Cornice

- For accurate alignment of the cornice, mark a line on both ceiling and wall at a distance from wall/ceiling junction equal to the size of the cornice e.g. 55mm for a 55mm cove cornice.

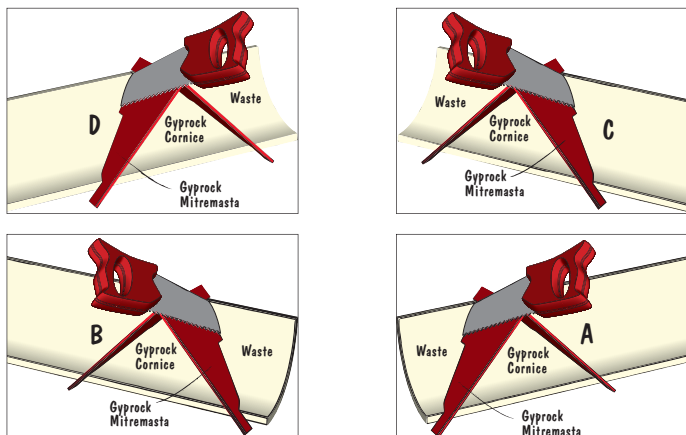


- Install temporary nails to the wall and ceiling close to corners and at 1.8m centres along the lines. These will support the cornice until the adhesive sets.
- Measure from corner to corner of the room on the wall and mark the cornice section to be cut. Use a single length for each wall if possible.



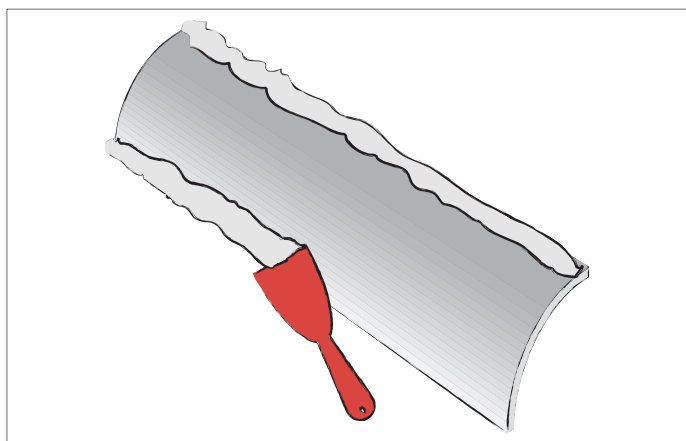


4. Corner joins are to be mitred. Cut each cornice to length with a hand saw using a Gyprock Mitremasta™ for cove cornice or a mitre box. If using a mitre box, make sure the cornice is standing upright in the box in the same orientation as it will be on the wall.

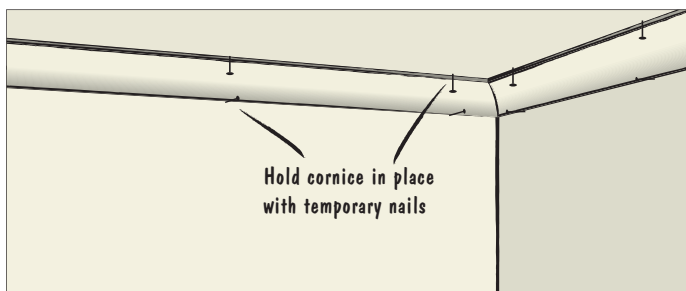


## Fixing Cornice

1. Mix Gyprock™ Cornice Cement with water as per the instructions on the pack.
2. Apply generous beads of Cornice Cement continuously to the back of the cornice along the top and bottom edges and to mitres.

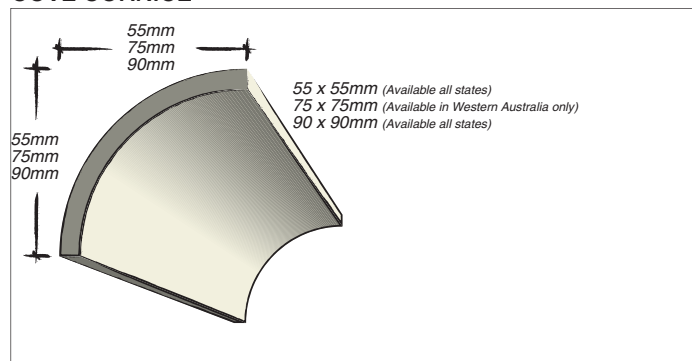


3. Each section should be buttered and fixed separately, starting with shorter lengths.
4. Remove surplus cement with a cornice tool and clean down with a brush or sponge.
5. Smooth off mitres and fill any gaps with Cornice Cement.
6. Allow to set for at least two hours before removing nails and sanding joints.

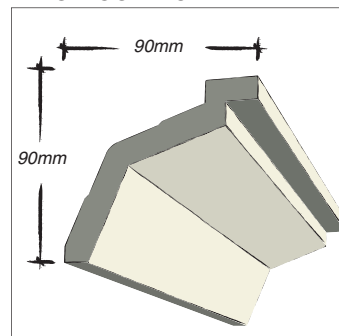


## Available Gyprock™ Cornice Types

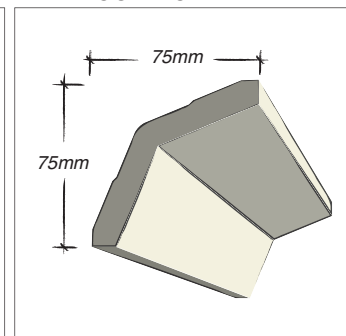
### COVE CORNICE



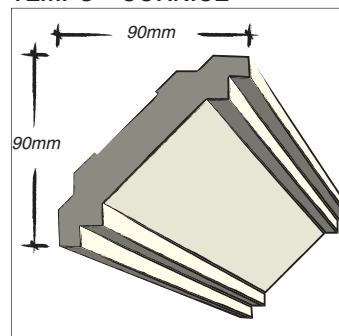
### ALTO™ CORNICE



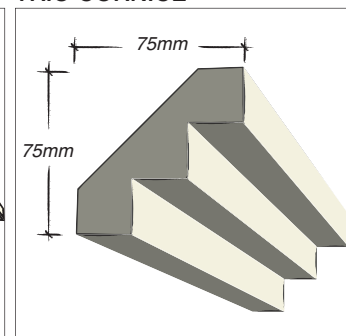
### ARIA™ CORNICE



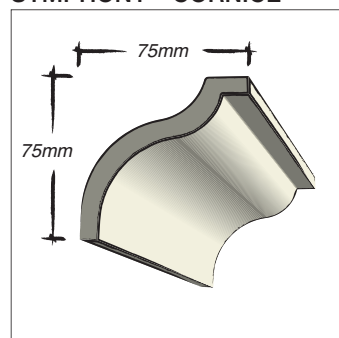
### TEMPO™ CORNICE



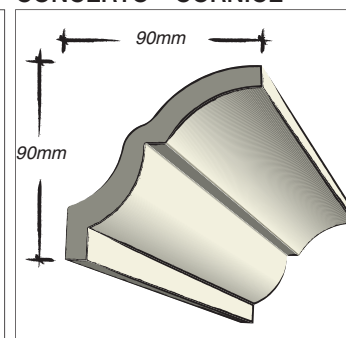
### TRIO CORNICE



### SYMPHONY™ CORNICE

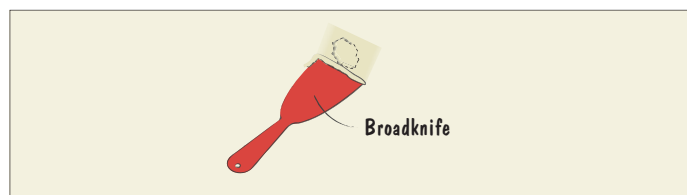


### CONCERTO™ CORNICE



## Repairing Holes up to 50mm

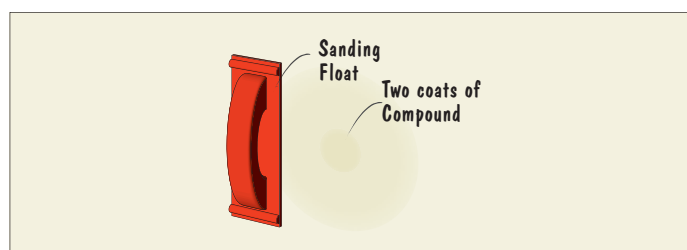
1. Fill the hole with compound using a 100mm broadknife. Allow to dry.



2. Apply 1 or 2 strips of Easy Tape to cover the hole.



3. Apply two coats of compound over the tape, allowing them to dry between coats (approx. 20 minutes).



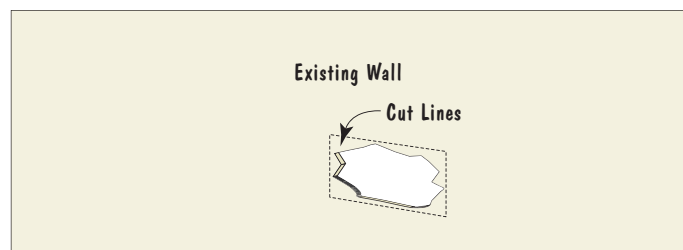
4. Lightly sand ready for painting.

### NOTES:

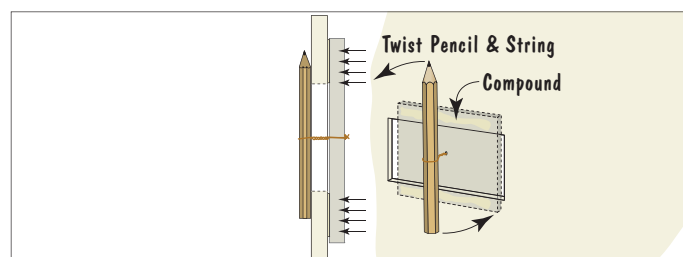


## Repairing Holes 50mm to 100mm

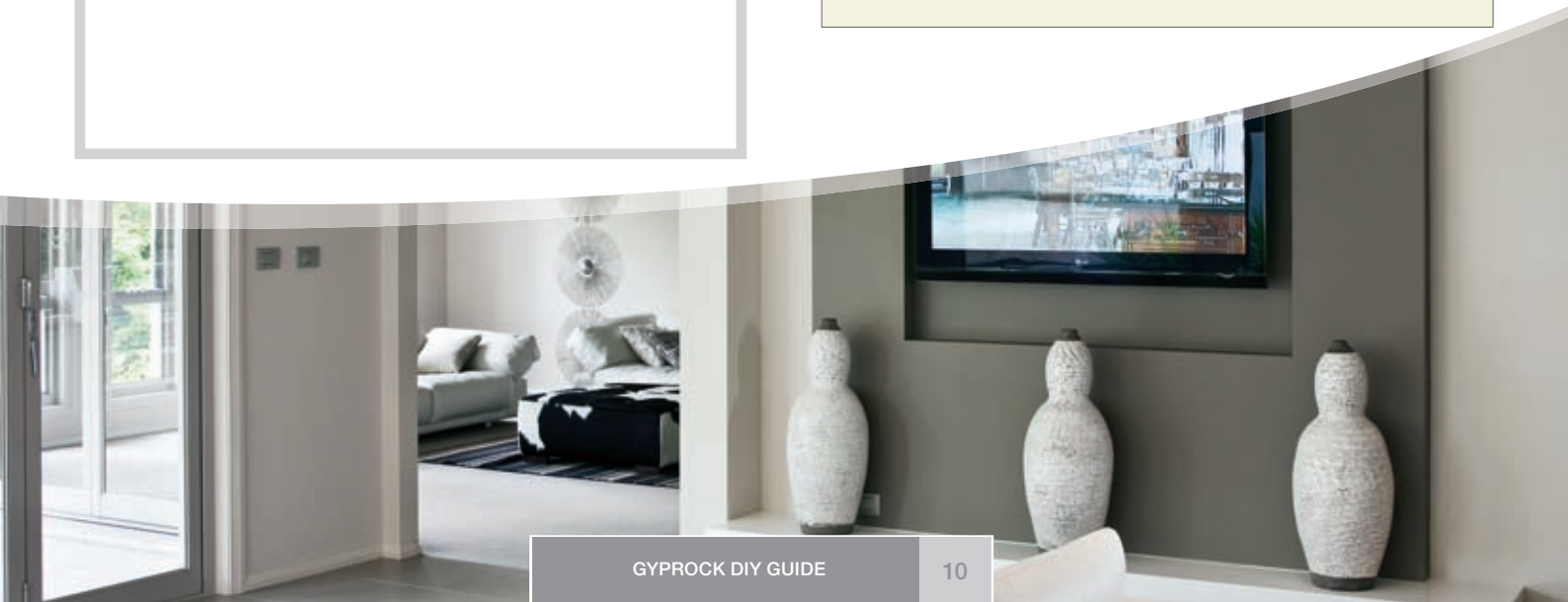
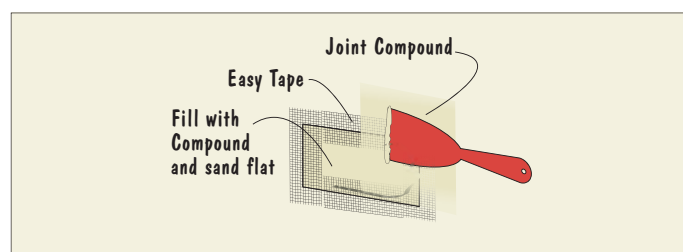
1. Trim loose pieces of liner paper from the damaged area and make the hole roughly rectangular. Take care not to puncture plumbing or cut electrical wiring.



2. Cut a piece of the plasterboard approximately 60mm longer and 10mm narrower than the hole size.
3. Make a small hole and thread a string loop through the block.

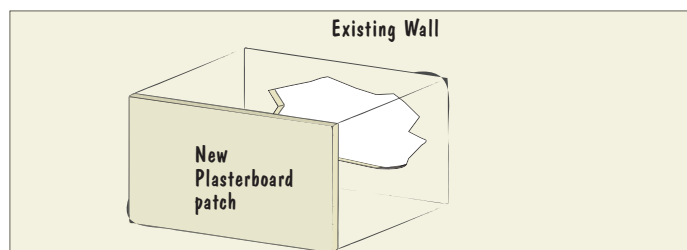


4. Apply compound to the face of backing block. Position the block as shown and gently pull the block into place.
5. Twist the pencil to tighten the string until the block is firm enough to hold itself in place. Allow to dry for at least 1 hour.
6. Remove string and fill hole with 3 layers of compound. Do not try and fill the hole in 1 coat. Allow 20 minutes between coats.
7. Apply easy tape around the edge, apply 2 coats of compound over the joints and sand smooth ready for painting.

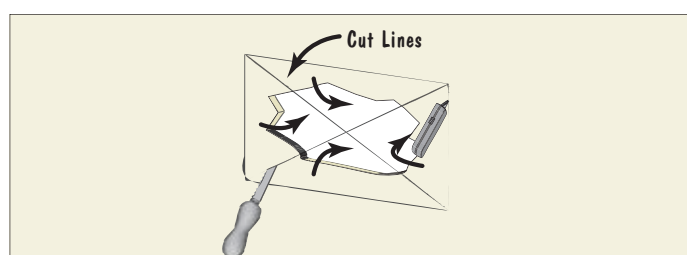


## Repairing Larger Holes

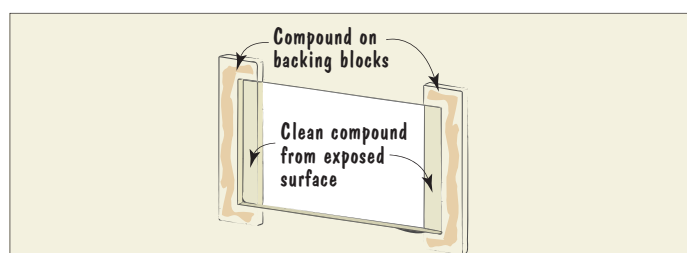
1. Cut a new piece of Gyprock plasterboard, slightly larger than the hole. Place the new plasterboard over the hole and draw around. Mark the diagonal lines on the wall.



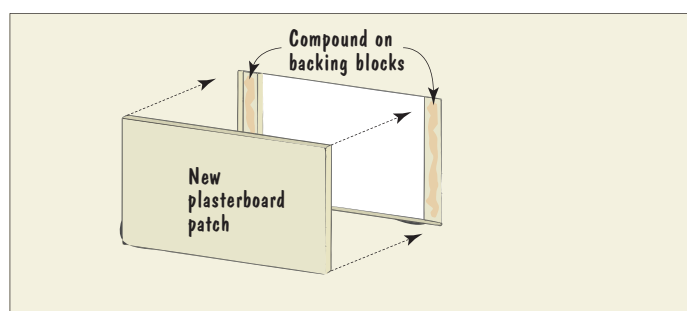
2. Taking care not to puncture plumbing or cut electrical wiring, cut along the diagonal marks first with a plasterboard saw, then score and snap along the edge marks using a trimming knife.



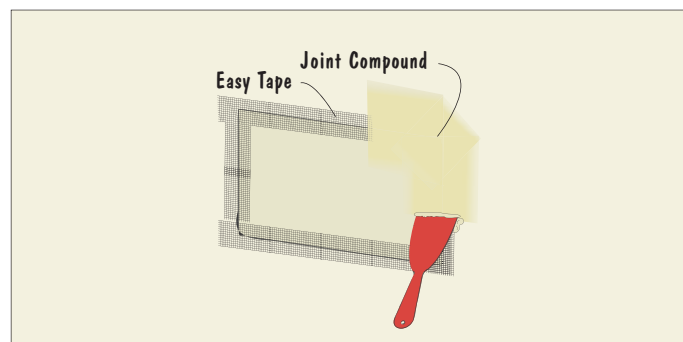
3. Using a small amount of compound, stick two blocks of plasterboard to the inside of the wall. Backing blocks should be about 100mm wide and the height of the hole plus an additional 100mm to allow for adhesive. Ensure that the cut edges and all adhesive surfaces are clean. Leave to dry for at least 1 hour.



4. Apply compound to the front face of the backing blocks and gently push the new plasterboard into place, ensuring the face is level with the existing wall. Leave to dry for at least 1 hour.



5. Sand any painted surfaces and apply Easy Tape along the full length of the joints. Apply 2 coats of compound and sand ready for painting.



## Painting

1. When the joints and nail head depressions are properly filled and sanded, the plasterboard may be decorated in a variety of finishes. For a first class job, a quality plasterboard sealer (instead of an undercoat or sealer/undercoat) is recommended, then two coats of finish paint. Before applying the sealer, remove all loose dust and dirt with a soft brush or dry cloth. Make sure the joint treatment is thoroughly dry.
2. When choosing your paint, remember that semi-gloss or full gloss paints tend to highlight any surface imperfections. If you do choose such paints, you will need to take special care in finishing joints and nail stopping. You will also need to take special care if strong light shines along the wall.
3. Always follow paint manufacturer's instructions and apply in accordance with their recommendations.

If Gyprock™ plasterboard is to be wallpapered, the finished surface should be sealed with a pigmented oil based sealer. This will enable the wallpaper to be more easily removed at a later stage.

### NOTES:



## Health & Safety

Information on any known health risks of our products and how to handle them safely is on their package and/or the documentation accompanying them.

Additional information is listed in the Material Safety Data sheet. To obtain a copy, telephone 1800 807 668.

## Warranty

Gyprock™ products are manufactured for life, with all CSR products designed to achieve optimal performance when part of a CSR integrated system.

Gyprock™ continues to lead the market with premium quality products which are the preferred choice of plastering professionals.

Gyprock™ plasterboard products are manufactured to the Australian Standard AS2588 providing confidence in quality of product and support. For details on our product warranty, please log onto [www.gyprock.com.au](http://www.gyprock.com.au), or contact us on 1300 306 556.

**For more information about Gyprock™ products,  
call **1300 306 556** or visit **[www.gyprock.com.au](http://www.gyprock.com.au)****

# GYPROCK™

Everything else is just plasterboard

Triniti 3, 39 Delhi Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113, Australia

CSR Building Products ABN 55 008 631 356



You Tube

