

# Laying instructions

Last updated: October 2021/Check validity if necessary

## Tensioning INFLOOR – GIRLOON carpets

Tensioning is without doubt the most elegant method for laying an INFLOOR – GIRLOON carpet. It makes the carpet more comfortable to walk on, protects the carpet from damage, and thus increases the service life of the flooring.

### General notes on laying INFLOOR – GIRLOON carpets:

**Only qualities with “TR” backing are suitable for tensioning, as they have a woven backing.**

The INFLOOR – GIRLOON “CR” backing variant is not suitable for tensioning, as it has a nonwoven backing.

Part C of the DIN 18365 German Construction Tendering and Contract Regulations (VOB) and the generally applicable rules of the trade apply.

These must be observed at all times during the laying process, particularly with regard to the inspection and preparation of the underlay and the climatic conditions.

A suitable underlay must be laid under the carpet for all INFLOOR – GIRLOON carpets that are going to be tensioned.

For **all** INFLOOR – GIRLOON carpets without exception, the installer must cut the edges of the strips along a rail, either between the yarn edges or along the back, depending on the quality of the product. Please contact INFLOOR – GIRLOON’s Application Technology department if you are unsure how to proceed.

Factory edges must **not** be placed next to one another, as it is not generally possible to produce the optimal seam joints required for the product type in question in such configurations.

### Product inspection:

Before cutting, the product must be checked for noticeable defects or faults. The bills of delivery are particularly helpful when doing this. Once the color and quality have been checked, the most important factors to inspect are the color consistency (checked by placing several strips next to one another) and whether there are any noticeable flaws in the material.

**We accept no liability for any noticeable (obvious) defects reported after the product has been cut.**

### Arranging the strips:

Start by working out the nap direction of the carpet. Once this is done, cut the carpet into “rough” lengths and lay the strips out in the room with the nap on all the strips facing the same direction. Due to the visibility of the seam, the seam should face toward the main light source.

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As a general rule (in accordance with the German Construction Tendering and Contract Regulations [VOB]), the contractor has the right to decide the direction in which the carpet is laid. However, we recommend always discussing with the client/owner to decide on both the laying direction (relevant for cutting) and the pile direction.

**In order to prevent differences in color, always observe the following directions right from the start of every project:**

When laying multiple strips in one room, all the strips for a single room unit must be laid next to one another in the order in which they are cut off the roll before work on seaming the first strip begins. Whenever you cut a strip lengthways, **always** lay the outer edges of the strips as produced in the factory next to each other.

When laying multiple rolls/pieces in one commercial property or room, always lay the individual pieces in their order of production.

For example:

Carpet rolls with the piece numbers 999/001A – 999/011A are due to be laid throughout a large commercial property. In this situation, the first strip of Roll 999/002A must be laid next to the last strip of Roll 999/001A, the first strip of Roll 999/003A next to the last strip of Roll 999/002A, and so on.

|                        |                        |                        |      |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------|
| <u>Piece 999/001AO</u> | <u>Piece 999/002AO</u> | <u>Piece 999/003AO</u> |      |
| 1 – 2 – 3 – 4          | -----1 – 2 – 3 – 4     | -----1 – 2 – 3 – 4     | etc. |

For example, strips from Piece 999/001AO must not be laid next to strips from Piece 999/008AO.

Before further laying work can begin, the product must always be adapted to the ambient conditions (temp. & humidity) of the installation site (air conditioning!). This is especially important when laying multiple rolls within a single room unit. Due to the differences in pressure conditions between the outer and inner windings of the roll, it is impossible to reliably check the color consistency at the edges of the strips when changing rolls (Roll 1/Strip 4 to Roll 2/Strip 1). Please contact us if you are unsure how to proceed.

Fixing the carpet grippers in place:

The best method for fixing the carpet grippers in place (gluing, pegging or screwing) depends on what underlay you are working with. Please observe the processing instructions provided by the manufacturers of the carpet grippers and the adhesives in question.

If you wish, you can level out the screed before installing the carpet grippers. However, if you choose to do this, you will need to ensure that the bond between the screed and the filler you are using has sufficient tensile strength in all areas, including at the edges.

In order to achieve this, the primer and the filler must always be applied thoroughly across the whole area of the floor, including where you intend to install the carpet grippers, so that the full surface of the carpet grippers is in contact with the filler once they have been installed.

There must be a gap equivalent to the width of approx. one carpet gripper (approx. 6 mm) between the carpet grippers and the wall or any protrusions, pillars, etc., as the edge of the carpet will be clamped into this gap once the work is complete.

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Please note:

The length of the nails in the carpet grippers must be decided based on the total thickness, backing and pile depth of the carpet you are installing. As a general rule, carpet grippers with a nail length of four millimeters (Luis Vogl “Tri-tack” or “Herkules”) can be used for INFLOOR – GIRLOON carpets. For floorings with a low pile depth (e.g. INFLOOR – GIRLOON Club/Cronesse), an aluminum carpet gripper with a nail length of three millimeters (Luis Vogl article no. 143) can be used in doorways and other areas that experience a lot of foot traffic.

#### Laying the tensioning underlay:

The underlay strips are laid flush next to one another, cut to fit the carpet grippers, then glued or stapled into place around the edges. This prevents the underlay from being stretched or slipping while the carpet is being tensioned. The underlay can be laid in any direction, so arrange it however best suits the way it has been cut. However, you must always ensure that the joints between the underlay strips are offset from the seams of the carpet strips. The underlay must always be replaced when the flooring is changed. Seaming carpet on an old underlay will impair its appearance at the edges of the carpet strips.

#### Cutting edges **between the pile rows**

The vast majority of INFLOOR - GIRLOON qualities can and must be cut between the pile rows. While this technique requires a greater level of professional skill from the installer, it is without doubt the best and most elegant method for laying an INFLOOR – GIRLOON carpet. Cutting between pile rows is the edge cutting method that produces the best results in terms of seam visibility.

**The pattern and potential changes in color/yarn type must always be taken into account when choosing which pile rows to make the edge cut between.**

Please contact us if you are unsure how to proceed.

Before cutting the strip edge, open up the gap between the pile rows using a suitable awl (point and thickness must be chosen based on the pile density) to create a fine line in which the threads of the pile are slightly parted.

Next, cut the strip/web edge along this line using a suitable retractable knife.

**Always cut in such a way that the strip/web edge that has been cut off the carpet falls away to the right of the knife.**

In our experience, the best tools for cutting the strip edges are the **Type 10.153 commercial seam cutter by Luis Vogl of Munich** (Tel. +49 (0)89/46200655) and the **Type #65659 carpet cutter by Wolff of Vahingen/Enz** (Tel. +49(0)7042/95110).

**Note: If you are not familiar with how to use the tools listed above (adjusting the blade, placing felt underlay beneath your cutting line), please contact us before starting work.**

Cutting uni velour qualities from the back along a rail

This process is exclusively intended for cutting uni or all-over patterned qualities. Cutting strip edges along lines between pile rows is very challenging, especially with very fine uni velour qualities (1/20" tufted velours). These qualities and deep-pile velours can also be cut from the back along a suitable rail.

When using this technique, **always** make sure that the blade does not sink too deep into the product; it must only cut the backing and the carrier fleece. If the blade cuts too deep, it will cut entire threads of pile or pile tips, thus making it impossible to produce a clean, flush seam joint ("V seams").

In order to prevent this from happening, always take care not to apply pressure to the rail when cutting. When pressure is exerted on the rail, the pile threads are pushed to the side, which makes it easier for a blade to cut them off if it cuts too deep. For this reason, you should use a rail with an anti-slip coating.

We recommend using a Luis Vogl steel combi-edge (Art. no. 10.926) or a Wolff flexible steel straight edge (Art. no. 13873) as your rail. Use the Luis Vogl Wonder Knife (Art. no. 10.060/blade Art. no. 10.164) as your knife. The design of this knife allows you to hold the body of the knife against the rule/rail, and the moving slotted blade allows you to adjust the cutting depth.

Cutting uni qualities using a double cut

Although this method is still in common use today, especially when working in commercial properties with large quantities of carpet, all installers should be aware that it can make it impossible to produce perfect seam joints that suit the product type in question. As such, we no longer recommend using a double cut. Please contact us if you are unsure how to proceed.

Cutting patterned qualities:

For all **patterned** qualities (except those with all-over patterns), the edges of the strips must be cut individually. This applies to both loop pile and velour products alike.

Generally speaking, the cuts should be made between pile rows, as they are for uni qualities. Depending on the quality of the product, the cut is made freehand (i.e. without a straight edge or a rail) using either the Luis Vogl commercial seam cutter (see above) or a suitable seam cutter designed for top cutting (e.g. the Pajarito Type 668 or Mittag cutter).

**Always cut in such a way that the strip edge that has been cut off the carpet falls away to the right of the knife.**

In some cases, it may not be possible to cut **print pattern** qualities along a line between pile rows because the print does not line up with the line between the pile rows. Laying this type of product is always more time-consuming and technically challenging for the installer. As such, suitable tensioning tools must always be kept to hand for such jobs.

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The best way to cut such qualities depends on a number of factors, including whether you are working with a loop pile or a velour product, and must be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please always contact Infloor's Application Technology department before proceeding.

### Cutting loop pile qualities:

Here too, the strips must always be cut individually and between the pile rows. This applies to all qualities that have pile rows with gaps between them (please contact us if you are uncertain whether this applies to your product). Double cuts are only permitted for these qualities in exceptional cases, and **only with express written approval** from the INFLOOR – GIRLOON Application Technology department. In addition to this, a liquid seam edge reinforcer must always be used on the cut edge in such cases in order to permanently block off the rows of studs that have been cut into. Naturally, this also applies to top seams, crosscuts (e.g. marker cuts made against rails or hard flooring) and damage caused to the row of studs when cutting between the pile rows.

Generally speaking, the cuts should be made between pile rows, as they are for uni and patterned qualities. Please contact us if you are unsure how to proceed.

Qualities whose design does not involve pile rows with a gap between them (those produced using the "jute mover" technique) cannot be cut using the above method.

Such qualities must be cut along a rail from the top (i.e. the pile side) using a single or double cut and a large, hooked blade.

Alternatively, if you are using an underlay beneath your cutting line, you can perform the same technique using a straight blade (trapezoidal blade or Wonder Knife).

Please contact INFLOOR's Application Technology department if you are unsure how to proceed.

### Seaming:

Since the width of the carpet you want to tension will not usually match the room in which it needs to be installed, you will need to cut the edges of the individual strips to size. Please follow the processing instructions provided by the seaming equipment manufacturer for this purpose.

Once the edges have been cut for all the strips for a room unit, lay the strips flush against one another.

**Check the color consistency of all the strips for the room unit again.**

Once you have done this, pull up the seam sections of the strips you want to seam, and place hot melt seaming tape underneath them. It is useful to attach the seaming tape to the carpet gripper at one side.

Please take care to use seaming tape designed for the thickness of the carpet you are working with, and ensure that the seaming tape you have chosen to seam your carpet with is approved for your application (private or commercial property). As mentioned above, the carpet grippers must also be designed for use with your carpet.

Generally speaking, Luis Vogl's Multiline Standard seaming tape (Art. No. 50.313 or 50.550) can be used for INFLOOR – GIRLOON carpets; please contact us if you are unsure how to proceed.

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Seaming should always be treated as a two-person job. You must work in the direction of the pile and **in front of** the seaming iron (as seen from the working direction) in order to ensure that no strain is placed on the freshly sealed seam. One person must move the seaming iron along the center of the seaming tape slowly and evenly, ensuring that the seaming tape remains under the center of the seam. We recommend using the Luis Vogl Type 10.098 tape guide for this purpose. The second installer must close the seam so it is clean and flush, and pull the seam weight forward behind the seaming iron as it moves along the seam area. Always use a Roberts Type 10.612 or 10.613 seam weight.

Once seaming is complete, make sure that the seam area is not subjected to any kind of strain until it has fully cooled.

### **I M P O R T A N T !!!**

**INFLOOR – GIRLOON must always and without exception be seamed using the “ironing” system, i.e. with a seaming iron. The “electrode system” (e.g. Speedseam) offered by some manufacturers (i.e. Roberts) has not been approved by us and must not be used when installing INFLOOR – GIRLOON flooring.**

**Using an electrode system (Speedseam) can cause ribbing across the seaming tape; this significantly impairs the appearance of the seam area.**

Furthermore, it is important to note that it is normal and unavoidable for the seaming tape to show through the carpet slightly, especially in carpets with a shallow pile depth. If necessary, you should inform your customers of this characteristic beforehand.

Once you have completed the seaming on all the seams in a room unit as described above, you will need to wait until all the seams have cooled before proceeding further. Never place a sustained load or over on the seams from above, as the heat and moisture generated during the seaming process must be allowed to escape. The carpet area must not be tensioned until this process is finished.

### Tensioning technique:

For small areas that do not contain a lot of angles to work around (tensioning distance max. 3 meters in both directions, no seam), a knee kicker is the only tool you will need. For all other areas, you will need a lever-operated stretcher to stretch out the seamed area.

The tensioning process always begins at the most difficult point (e.g. under a radiator). Hook the carpet onto the carpet grippers using the knee kicker and stretch it away from the difficult point. However, this rule can be broken if you need to seam carpet in a hallway and adjacent rooms on both sides of it, for example. In such cases, you would need to finish the door seams first, then stretch the carpet out into the rooms from the hallway.

Unfortunately, we do not have space to include a detailed tensioning plan for every conceivable situation in these instructions. A sample tensioning plan is included at the end of these instructions. However, please contact INFLOOR’s Application technology department or Vogl Verspanntechnik on +49 (0)89/46 200 655 if you are unsure how to proceed.

Irrespective of whether you are using a knee kicker or a lever-operated stretcher to tension your carpet, always use a suitable needle pad for the fineness of your pile material. Coarse needle pads such as the unscrewable ones found on normal knee kickers may cause lasting damage to the surface (in the form of holes) if used with fine velour products (e.g. INFLOOR – GIRLOON Club/Cronesse).

Caution:

When covering the product after laying to protect it from dirt (during subsequent work), make sure the seaming tape has fully hardened and cooled before doing so. Never use self-adhesive cover materials (e.g. adhesive film) for this purpose, as such materials may leave adhesive residue on the pile of the flooring.

Note:

The specifications contained in these laying instructions are based on practical experience gained using the INFLOOR – GIRLOON application technique. Since we are not familiar with the conditions at your specific installation site, test laying should be carried out if you are in any doubt as to the suitability of this method.

**DIN 18365 and the generally applicable rules of the trade apply in addition to these laying instructions!**

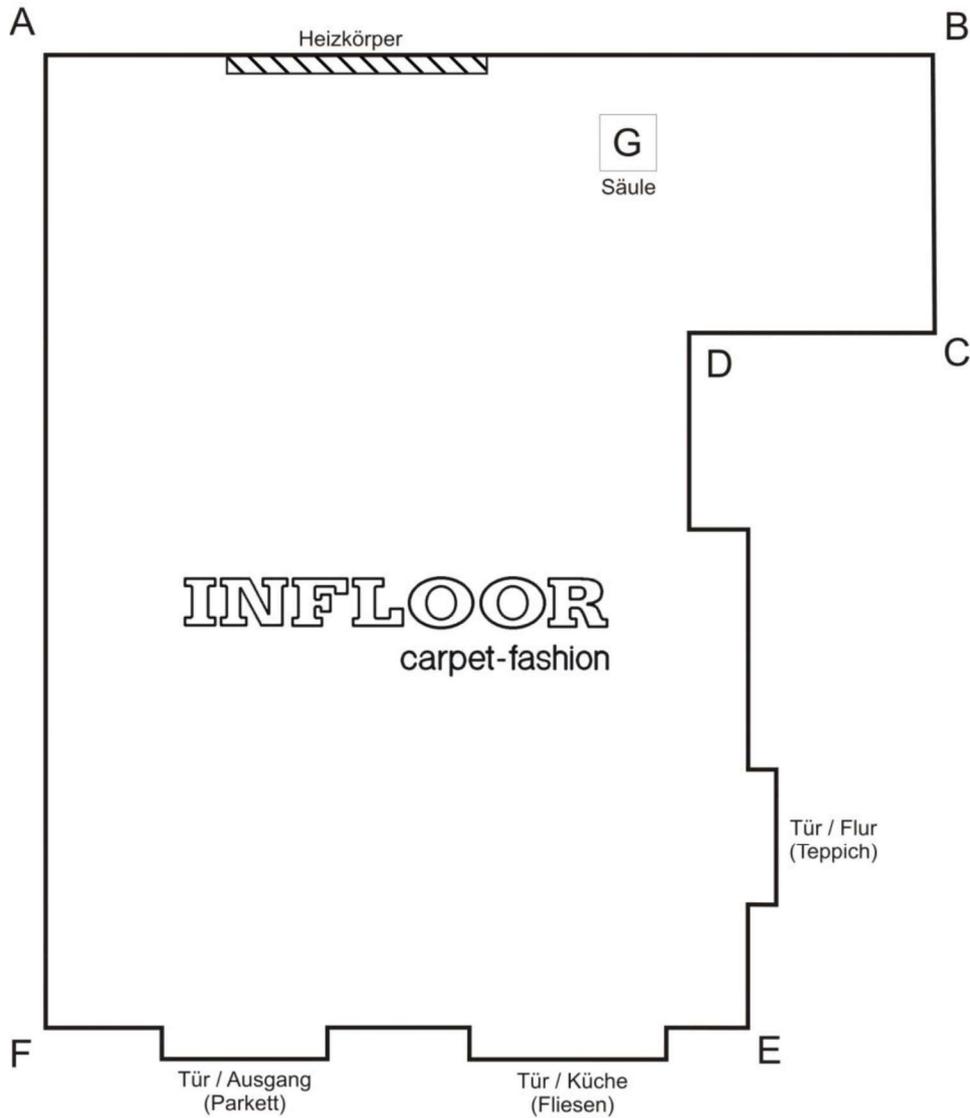
**If you have any further questions:**

**Contact the INFLOOR – GIRLOON Application Technology department on:**

**+49 (0)5245/92 19 44 56**

Appendix: Tensioning plan, sample

## Verspannplan / Fallbeispiel



- 1.) um G herum einhängen /KS
- 2.) von A nach B vorspannen / HS
- 3.) Strecke AB einhängen / KS
- 4.) von G nach D spannen / HS
- 5.) von G nach E spannen / HS
- 6.) von D nach C spannen / HS
- 7.) von B nach C spannen / HS  
und Linie BC einhängen / KS
- 8.) Linie D nach E einhängen / KS

- 9.) Türnaht zum Flur konfektionieren
- 10.) von E nach F vorspannen / HS
- 11.) von AB nach FE ausspannen / HS
- 12.) von A nach F vorspannen (Ecke F aushängen)
- 13.) von BC + DE nach AF ausspannen / HS

KS = Kniespanner  
HS = Hebelspanner

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1.) Hook into place around G/KK                               | 9.) Finish seam into hallway                   |
| 2.) Pre-stretch from A to B/LOS                               | 10.) Pre-stretch from E to F/LOS               |
| 3.) Hook section AB into place/KK                             | 11.) Stretch out from AB to FE/LOS             |
| 4.) Tension from G to D/LOS                                   | 12.) Pre-stretch from A to F (unhook corner F) |
| 5.) Tension from G to E/LOS                                   | 13.) Stretch out from BC + DE to AF/LOS        |
| 6.) Tension from D to C/LOS                                   |  |
| 7.) Tension from B to C/LOS<br>and hook line BC into place/KK |  |
| 8.) Hook line D to E in place/KK                              |  |

| <b>German</b>         | <b>English</b>                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Heizkörper            | Radiator                       |
| Säule                 | Pillar                         |
| Tür/Flur (Teppich)    | Door/hallway (carpet)          |
| Tür/Ausgang (Parkett) | Door/exit (parquet)            |
| Tür/Ausgang (Fliesen) | Door/exit (tiles)              |
| KS = Kniespanner      | KK = Knee kicker               |
| HS = Hebelspanner     | LOS = Lever-operated stretcher |