## What Size Ceiling Medallion to use with my Light Fixture?



Ceiling medallions are decorative ornaments most commonly used in conjunction with light fixtures. However, ceiling medallions, sometimes referred to as rosettes, can also be used in very creative ways without light fixtures to add ornament to walls and ceilings. This write up will focus on the utilization of ceiling medallions in conjunction with light fixtures.

We often get calls from our interior design clients and homeowners asking what size ceiling medallion they should order with their light fixture. There are a number of factors that you should consider when determining what size ceiling medallion you should order. In researching this question, we have identified six (6) main factors to consider:

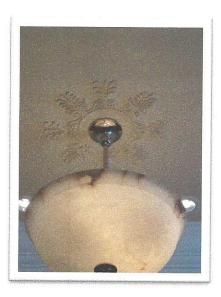
- Size of light fixture
- 2. Ceiling height
- 3. Room size and configuration
- 4. Projection (thickness) of the medallion
- 5. Type of room
- 6. Formula to help you gauge the size you need

### 1. Size of Light Fixture

First and foremost, the diameter of your ceiling medallion should **not** be the same size as the outside diameter of your light fixture. If your fixture is the same size as the medallion, it visually creates a funnel effect that makes your room appear smaller than it really is. Make your medallion smaller or larger than your light fixture to visually "open up" your room.

# Size of Light Fixture and Medallion Size Should Not Be the Same





### 2. Ceiling Height

Consider your ceiling height when selecting your ceiling medallion. Generally, the higher the ceiling the larger the medallion can be. A room, for example, with a 10ft ceiling can accommodate a larger medallion than a room with a 9ft ceiling, and of course large atrium spaces can accommodate even larger medallions.

# Ceiling Height: High Ceilings & Foyers Can Accommodate Large Medallions





#### 3. Room Size

The size of your space, as with the ceiling height, also dictates how large a ceiling medallion you should use. A larger room can handle visually a larger medallion than a smaller room. A hallway, even if it's long, needs a medallion proportional with the width, not the length.

## 4. Projection of Medallion off the Ceiling

One factor often overlooked is the projection of the medallion off of the ceiling surface. On our website we refer to this dimension as the *Relief*. Decorators Supply manufactures a wide range of periods and styles of ceiling medallions. Some are relatively thin and delicate (1" thick or less) while others are very bold and can project from the ceiling as much as 6". Bigger rooms with higher ceilings can generally accept bolder designs with large projections.

### Projection of Medallion off The Ceiling Is Important





Our Louis XVI Medallion #745 on the left has a relief of 1 7/8" while our Roman Medallion #4596 on the right has a relief of 6"

#### 5. Room Size and Proportion

The size of a ceiling medallion also depends on what type of room it's being consider for. Large, well-proportioned room such as dining rooms, larger bedrooms or even large entry ways, can effectively accommodate medallions that are larger in diameter than the light fixture. But if you are putting a medallion in a bathroom or a small hallway, use a medallion that's smaller than the diameter of the light fixture.

#### 6. Formula

To assist you with the process of selecting your ceiling medallion, there seems to be a generally accepted formula that will help you get started. This formula is to multiply the width and length of the room and then divide the result by seven. The resulting number would be the approximate diameter in inches of a ceiling medallion for a room with a ceiling that is nine feet high. Use this figure as a **starting point** and then modify your selection based upon the factors discussed above. Generally, this calculation gives you the smallest size medallion you should consider.

Example: 12' x 10' Room = 120. 120 Divided by 7 = 17" Diameter Medallion

#### Note: Canopy Plate

When considering a plaster ceiling medallions, don't worry about the hole size in the medallion. Plaster medallions can be easily cut to accommodate larger hole/canopy requirements. Even medallions without a hole can have a hole cut. We do this at no charge for you but your installer can also easily do it with standard tools. Our plaster medallions are made of all **natural ingredients** and can be safely cut to your requirements.



**Decorators Supply Corp:** Decorators Supply Corp traces its history back to the early 1880's. Originally founded as a carving and gilding company in 1883, the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 provided the catalyst of our early growth and prosperity. Over the next two to three decades Decorators Supply employed dozens of European artisans who hand carved or hand modeled the beautiful designs we still offer today. We are a third generation family business committed to preserving these classic architectural ornaments for present and future generations.