Nail Gun Gauge Chart: 15ga vs 16ga vs 18ga vs 23ga

Lower gauge means thicker nail: 15ga and 16ga finish nails hold trim that takes abuse, 18ga brads suit delicate moldings, and 23ga pins nearly vanish. Match the gauge to the trim, not to the nailer you happen to own.

Gauge	Diameter	Nailer	Best for
15ga	0.072 in	Angled finish nailer	Heavy casing, thick baseboard, exterior trim
16ga	0.063 in	Straight finish nailer	Baseboards, door and window casing, crown
18ga	0.048 in	Brad nailer	Light trim, face frames, delicate moldings
23ga	0.025 in	Pin nailer	Veneer, beading, tacking miters while glue cures

Note: Holding power drops fast with gauge - 23

Reference values only — verify against the governing standard or manufacturer before use.