BRICK BONDING

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BRICK BONDING

The Rules of Bonding and 100 + Advanced Craft Questions with Answers

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First published 1990

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke,
Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Hancock, David W.

Brick bonding.

1. Brickwork. Bonding — Questions and answers

I. Title

693'.21

ISBN 978-0-333-52167-0 ISBN 978-1-349-11431-3 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-11431-3

CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i>	vi	English Bond	8
		The Use of Squint Bricks	19
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii	Flemish Bond	20
		Single Flemish Bond	27
<i>How to Use This Book</i>	viii	Brickwork Curved on Plan	28
		Other Bonds	29
1 Rules of Bonding	1		
Brick Bonding	1	2 Questions	33
Reasons for Bonding	2		
Stretcher Bond	4	3 Answers	131
Brickwork at Door and Window Frames	5		

FOREWORD

Perhaps the weakest subject in the syllabus among apprentice bricklayers is that of brick bonding. If the basics are not firmly grasped in the first two years – and they very rarely are – the final year can prove very difficult for many students.

“I can’t understand bonding” is a regular complaint every year from bright young lads who are able to assimilate most other subjects. And when faced in the final exam with two plan courses to complete in English or Flemish bond – as they invariably are – many students suffer a complete mental blockage and go straight on to the next question. If this ever-present question in the advanced paper were better answered, many more candidates would pass. Every year numerous papers are sent in for marking without any attempt having been made at this question, and perhaps 50 per cent of those who have at least tried,

achieve less than half marks.

In writing this text the author sets out to prove that brick bonding is not some kind of remote foreign language to be avoided at all costs, but a set of straightforward rules that can, with practice, be mastered. While most of the problems contained are intended for final year students, first and second year apprentices must surely benefit from the information contained in the first part of the book. In their final year, students should tackle the problems at the rate of say three a week, not necessarily in the order given, but to coincide with the work they are doing at their respective colleges.

I realise this means giving up a little over an hour per week, but your chances of obtaining an Advanced Craft Certificate will be much brighter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author and publisher thank the City and Guilds of London for permission to reproduce extracts from the Guild's past question papers for Subject 588 (Brickwork and Masonry). The source of such material is quoted on the relevant pages.

No responsibility for accuracy or acceptability should be attributed to the City and Guilds of London for any worked examples of their material published in this text.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The examples contained in this book are all drawn to a scale of 1:10 and marked out in quarter-brick spacings, exactly the same as the questions in exam papers. The problems are fairly simple to begin with, getting progressively harder, but as each one is completed the principles should be assimilated since these will need to be recalled again and again.

The student is well advised to read and understand the information provided at the front of the book before setting about the problems, which should then be answered in the following way:

1. Do not attempt to bond the first complete course before starting on the second. This is the hard way

to answer this type of question.

2. Chase the bond through the face to check if the wall works to brick length in the bond stated.
3. Bond the easy parts of course 1, then the easy parts of course 2. The rest of the bonding often falls into place.
4. Check for units of bond, straight joints etc.
5. Compare your answer with the given answer (scale 1:20) in the back of the book.

Note: It should be understood that there is often more than one correct answer to a bonding problem.