

CHAPTER 2

Bricklaying Tools



BRICKLAYING TOOLS

Four Basic Groups

Before beginning to build a house, it is necessary to learn something about the tools to be used. These are divided into four basic groups, namely:

Setting-out tools (Fig. 2.1)

- Tape (steel)
- One metre folding rule
- Steel square
- Line
- Wooden or steel pegs
- Straight-edge

Bricklaying tools (Fig. 2.2)

- Brick trowel
- Line pins and line
- Line blocks
- Level
- Tingle
- Gauge rod

Brick cutting tools (Fig. 2.3)

- Brick hammer
- Bolster
- Club hammer or 2kg hammer
- Cold chisels

Jointing tools (Fig. 2.4)

- Long jointer
- Short jointer
- Pointing trowel

SETTING OUT TOOLS

Tape

A good tape is needed for setting out a house

Folding rule

A folding rule of one metre in length is always needed on the job.

Steel Square

The large mason's square is used to layout guidelines and to check inside and outside corners during building. As it is made of steel, it will rust. Keep it lightly oiled.

Building line

Building line is sold in rolls and is obtainable from any hardware shop.

Steel or wooden pegs

These are short lengths of steel (wooden pegs can also be used) which are hammered into the ground to mark a point or to gauge the concrete when levelling a foundation.

Straight-edge

This is a length of aluminium or wood with straight square edges, which is used to level off concrete or to transfer a level from one point to another.

Bricklaying Tools

Brick Trowel

This is the most important tool as it is always in use when mortar is spread and bricks are laid. It is only by practice that one learns to use it well. The trowel should always be cleaned and oiled after use. Do not wet the handle of the trowel too much, as it will crack and become loose.

Line Pins and Line

The brick courses are laid to the height of the line, which is strung taut between outside corners using the pins or line blocks.

Line Blocks

Line blocks are used instead of line pins when the corners are built up. They are made of wood and normally cannot be purchased. Builders therefore usually make their own blocks.

Spirit Level

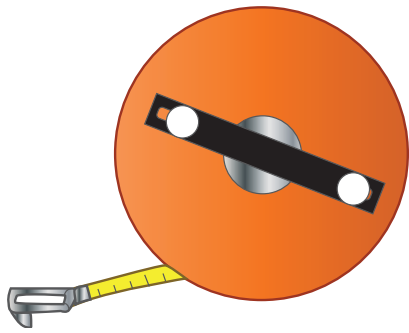
The plumbing and levelling spirit level is used to ensure that the vertical faces of the work are true and that the structure is level. This tool must be handled with care, as the bubble tube (vial) is made of glass and can very easily break. The spirit-level should not be dipped or cleaned in water, as water may penetrate and stain the outer glass cover. Clean the level by wiping it with a piece of sacking.

Tingle

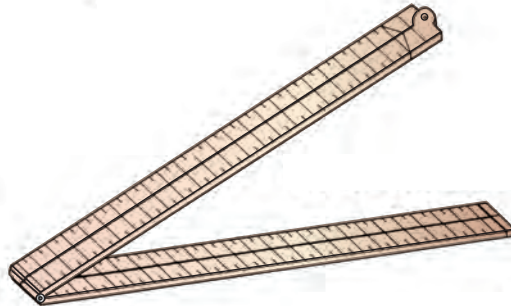
As the weight of the line between the line pins tends to make it sag, tingles are used to lift it and keep it straight. A tingle can be cut out of a piece of flat iron.

Gauge Rod

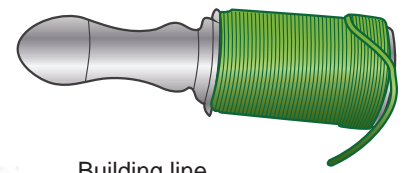
This is a long straight edge, marked at intervals equal to the thickness of one brick, plus the thickness of the mortar joint. The distances between the marks vary according to the type of brick used. The gauge rod is used for checking and keeping the brick courses at even multiples of bricks, plus mortar joint thicknesses, when working on different sections of the building. This ensures that all the corners of a particular structure will be of equal height upon completion.



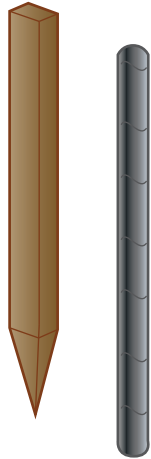
Measuring Tape (30m recommended)



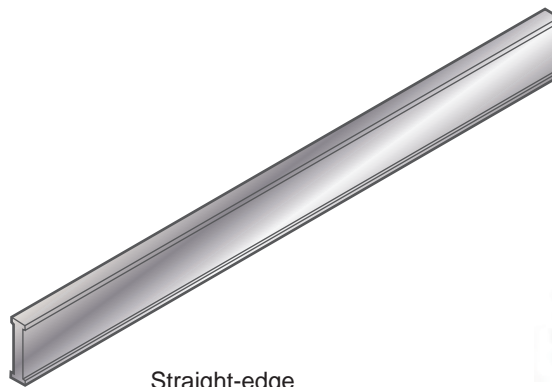
Folding rule



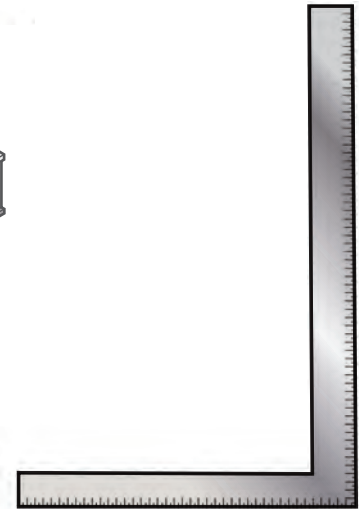
Building line



Steel or wooden pegs

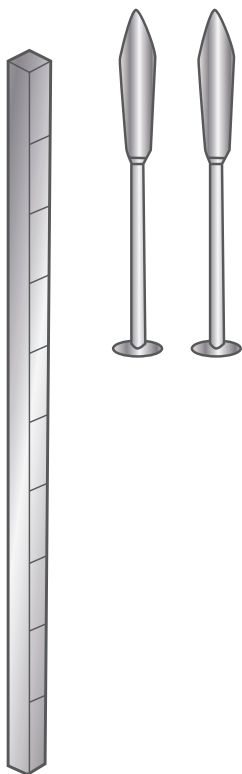


Straight-edge

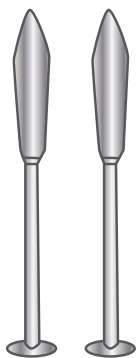


Steel Square

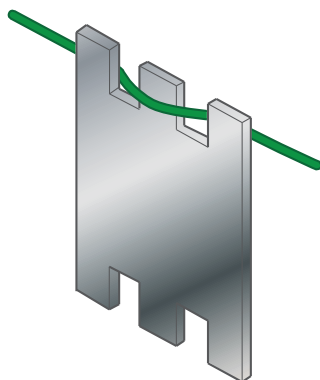
2.1 - Setting out tools



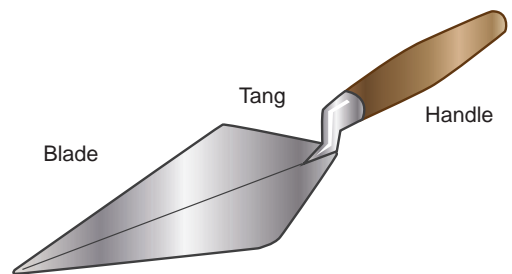
Gauge rod



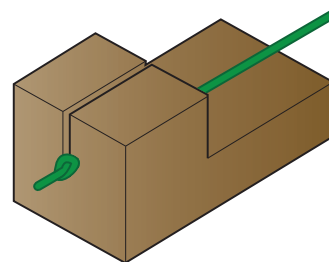
Line and pins



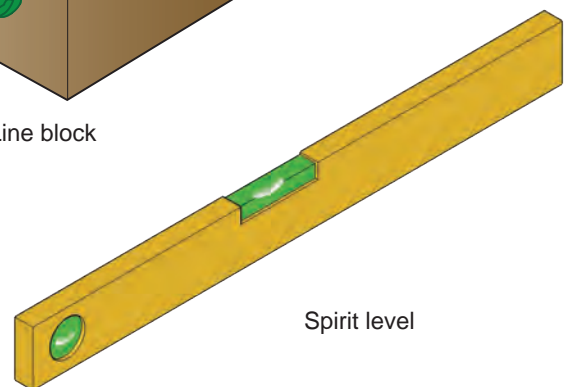
Tingle



Brick trowel



Line block



Spirit level

2.2 - Bricklaying tools

Brick Cutting Tools

Brick Hammer

This tool can be used for any hammering that needs to be done by the bricklayer, and the chisel side for cutting stock bricks.

Bolster

This is a broad chisel used together with a hammer for cutting bricks or cutting chases in brickwork.

Club Hammer

This is used with most brick-cutting tools, such as the bolster and cold chisels.

Cold Chisel

The cold chisel is used for chasing the walls for pipes or for cutting holes in brickwork where needed.

Comb/Scutch Hammer

Used like a brick hammer. In place of the chisel end, a slot is cut to hold a comb, which can be replaced when worn. The comb is used for chasing and trimming brick where necessary.

Jointing Tools

Long Jointer

The long jointer as shown is used to make the horizontal hollow key joint on face brickwork. A tool similar to the round jointer is the square jointer. Before the joint is finished off with the square jointer it is raked out with a scraper. (See page 37).

Short Jointer

The short jointer is used to finish off the short, perpendicular or vertical joints on facebrick.

Pointing Trowel

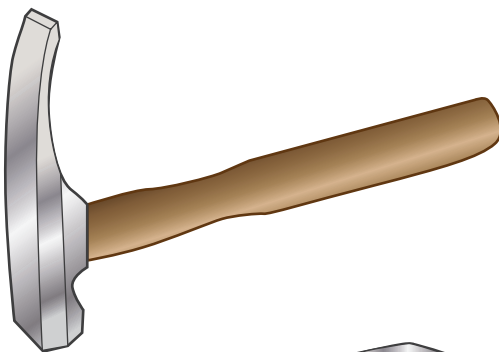
This is a small trowel that looks like the bricklaying trowel. It is used for filling in small holes with mortar.

Mastic Trowel

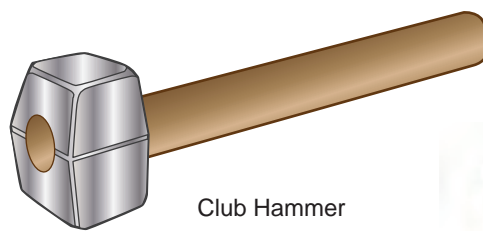
The Mastic Trowel has a long narrow blade and is used when pointing brickwork.

Scraper

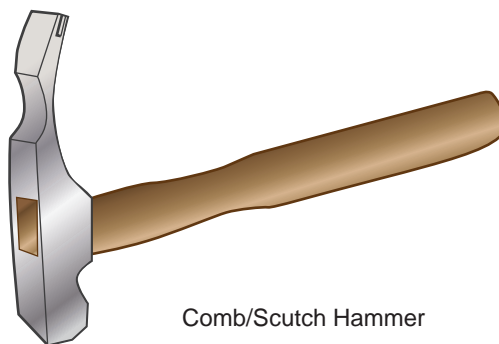
A scraper can be made of steel or made on site with a block wood and a nail. It used to scrape excess mortar from the joints before jointing takes place.



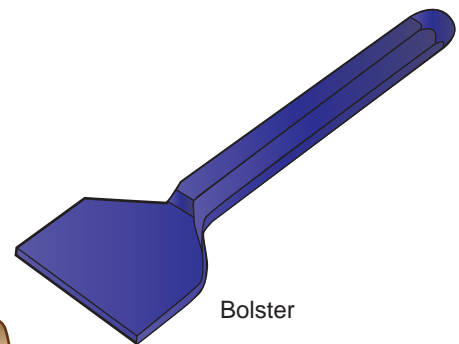
Brick Hammer



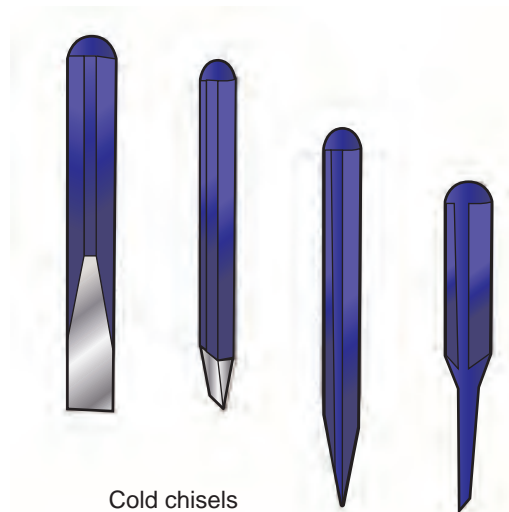
Club Hammer



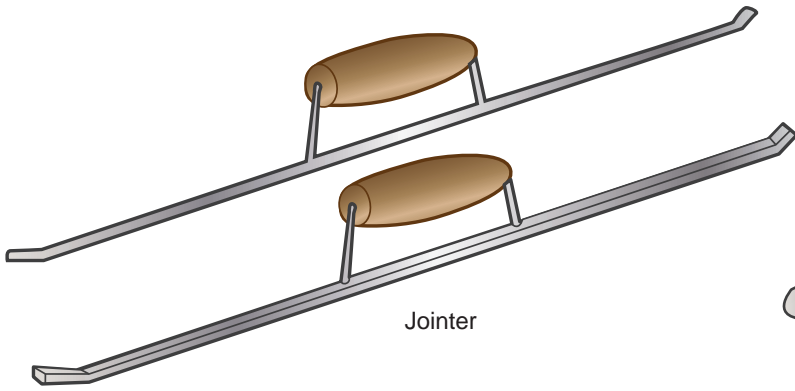
Comb/Scutch Hammer



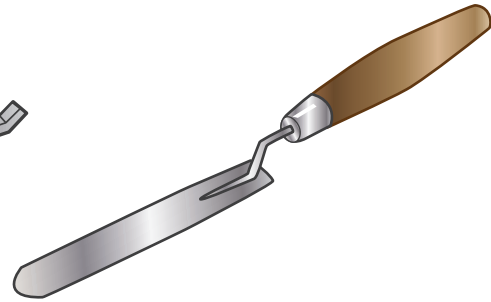
Bolster



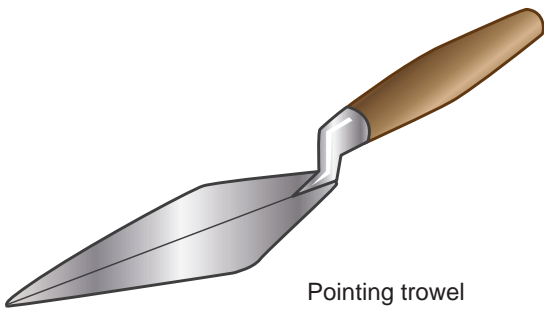
Cold chisels



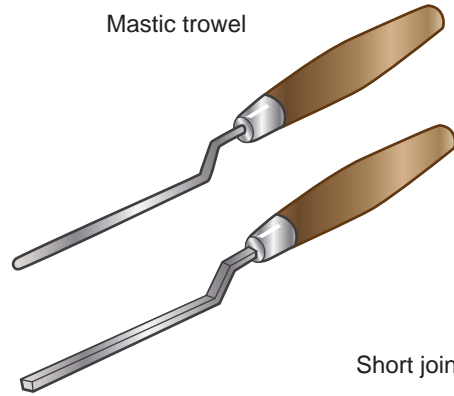
Jointer



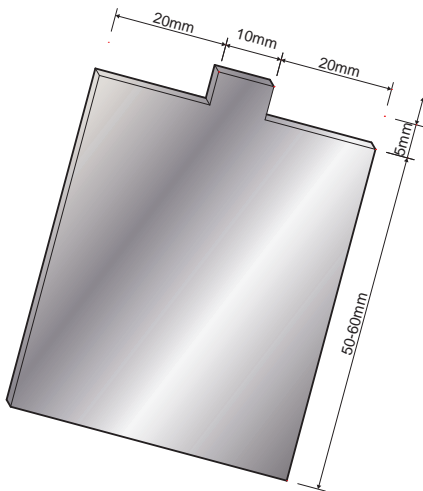
Mastic trowel



Pointing trowel



Short jointer



Scraper



DID YOU KNOW?

A notable person who used to enjoy bricklaying as a hobby was Sir Winston Churchill.

CHAPTER 3

Terms used in Brickwork

