

## HINTS AND TIPS ON THE USE OF BRICKS & SPECIALS

When they arrive, your bricks will be dry. If you try to use them in this state you will quickly find that they are extremely difficult to lay, so before use they should be soaked in cold water and then left to drain slightly on kitchen towel or similar for a short period of time.

### BRICKLAYING

When are you ready to begin, mix up some Cement Based Adhesive as per the instructions on the packet. You can lay the bricks just as a full size brick, buttering the bed and end of the brick with the cement mix. Press firmly into position and remove any surplus mix from the face of your brickwork as you go. Do not try to lay too many courses of bricks in one session, give the lower courses time to dry before adding more. Use a square to check that your wall is upright and it helps to make a gauging rod. This is just a small piece of straight timber marked off in 7mm (1:12 scale) increments. This rod can then be placed against your wall at any point to check that the courses are level. Always begin your work from the corners as for full brickwork. Do not be concerned if there are gaps in the joints between bricks, these can be easily grouted in when the wall is completed.

### CUTTING AND SHAPING

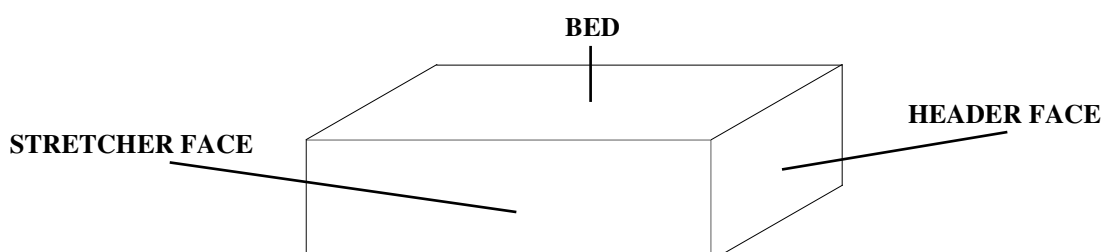
To cut your bricks place a craft knife across the brick and press down firmly, or use a junior hacksaw, tile pliers or a mini drill with diamond disc attachments. The softer bricks can be shaped by rubbing on a medium grade abrasive paper.

### GROUTING

Upon completion of your wall (unless you have carefully pointed all the joints as you have progressed) you will need to grout it. Allow it to dry for at least 24 hrs and then coat the whole surface with a 50/50 mix of pva adhesive and water to seal the face of the bricks and leave to dry. Grout with the same mix you have been using to build your wall. Apply this mixture with a cloth, working it well into the joints. Immediately, using cold water, wipe off the excess grout from the face of the bricks with a damp sponge, rinsing your sponge regularly until all surplus cement has been removed. Do not allow the grout to dry on the face of the bricks. Once completely clean leave to dry.

Special bricks can be laid in exactly the same way as the plain bricks but are slightly harder to grout in, so care should be taken when doing this.

As you see from the catalogue special bricks can be provided ready shaped. However, it is not difficult to shape plain bricks (especially 1001G - Georgian Reds) to your own requirements. All that is required is abrasive paper. For flat edged specials e.g. Squints, it is easier to rub the brick on the abrasive paper, but for convex edge specials e.g. Bullnose, it is easier to rub the paper on the brick.



**SPECIAL SHAPED BRICK USES**

**BULLNOSE ON EDGE:-** Used for corners in places where a sharp edge is undesirable or liable to damage e.g. Quoins, door jambs, window reveals, steps etc.



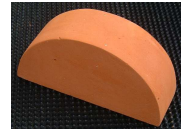
**BULLNOSE ON FLAT:-** Used mainly on the treads of steps also occasionally to cap walls.



**SADDLEBACK & HALF ROUND COPINGS:-** Used to cap walls. Designed to provide an attractive finish and to shed water quickly from the top of the wall. Thereby protecting the main brickwork below.



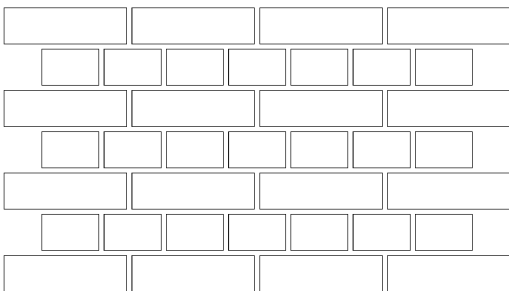
**SQUINTS:-** Used wherever an angle is needed in a wall e.g. Bay windows. The two most commonly found angles are 45 and 60 deg. Extensively used at Hampton Court Palace for the Octagonal bases to the beautiful ornamental chimney stacks.



If there is anything else you require that does not appear in our catalogue please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to assist you. Tel. 01243 681240. Email - [miniaturebricks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:miniaturebricks@hotmail.co.uk).

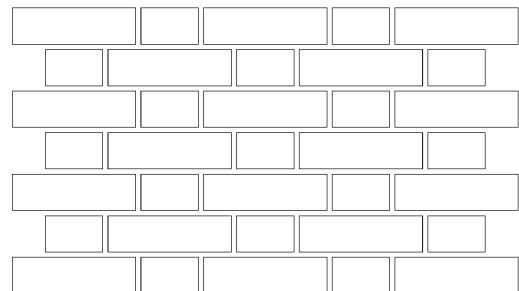


**COMMON BONDS FOR BRICKS AND BRICKSLIPS**



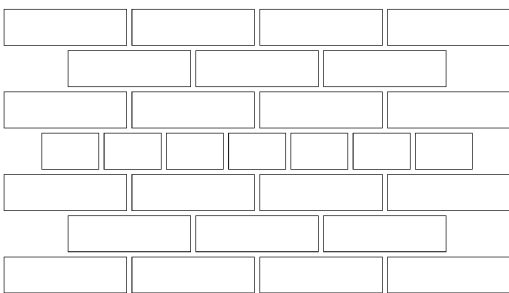
**OLD ENGLISH BOND**

Alternate one course stretchers, one course headers.



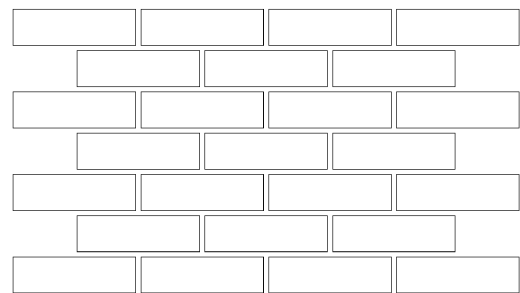
**FLEMISH BOND**

Alternate one stretcher, one header.



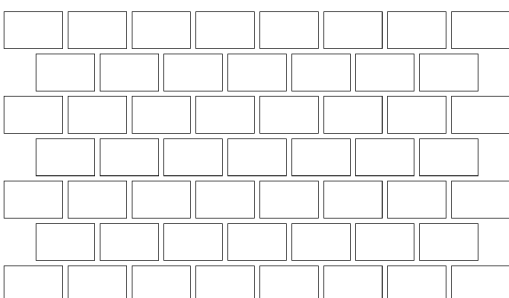
**ENGLISH GARDEN WALL BOND**

Three courses stretchers, one course headers.



**STRETCHER OR COMMON BOND**

All courses stretchers.



**HEADER BOND**

All courses headers.



**SOLDIER COURSE**



**BRICK ON EDGE COURSE**