

Bricklaying - Week 2
Audio transcript

Andy: My name is Andy Palfrymen and I'm the Brick tutor at Harrogate College, doing Level 1 and Level 2 Brick[laying]. I also teach apprentice bricklayers as well on a Monday. And this is our workshop here; couple of students in at the minute today. The rest of the students will be in this afternoon for their session between 2pm and 4pm. They tend to do three days a week: full day, couple of half days, and then they do work experience - one-on-one tuition... stuff like that. Little bits and bats we always do with them.

<Creaking noise in the background>

Andy: Sometimes cut and roll where you can do... like, cut the thing as well. Cut it off first. But you've just [got to] get used to rolling it first. Like that. You work into the lines there. So if you put your bed on like that, do it down, get your first brick, put it to your corner, tap it down. Your bottom bed there is called your 'gauge', [you] have a 10 mil gauge which is usually a small finger. And it's the same with your perps. If you look at brickwork and you look up and see the joints, they're called 'perps' and they should all be in line about 10 millimetres. Alright!

Nick: We've gone past the point of what I can remember.

<Laughter>

Nick: That was over there to me...

Pete: You see I'm feeling the pressure, Andy, because I've not told you this yet: my dad was a builder for over 40 years.

Andy: Right.

Pete: So if I lose this one, I'm not going to be able to go to their house for a bit.

Andy: No, I think you should send your dad down here and we can talk about it...<muffled sound>

<Laughter>

<Bell dings three times>

Andy: That's a first...the rough bits are first. Flat bit there, that's the back.

Nick: Right...

Andy: We'll always do it with a frog up as well.

Nick: Okay...

Andy: That's what I meant to mention - the reason you do it with a frog up is it fills the joint better. If you went with the frog down, it doesn't fill up properly.

Pete: Oh yeah. That makes sense.

Andy: Yeah, and plus you get different faces on bricks and they always frog up.

Pete: How are your 'perps' coming on, Nick?

Nick: I can't talk now. Concentrating.

Pete: I'm starting to see why I didn't follow in the footsteps of my dad Andy...

Nick: It's fine over here. No probs.

Andy: Tap this side down slightly.

<Tapping sound>

Andy: Yep, that'll do!

Pete: I think I'm more cut out to paint nails, Nick. I don't know about you. How long did you say it takes for people to normally pick this up Andy?

Andy: Errr, couple of hours.

<Laughter>

Nick: More than 10 minutes.

Pete: Yeahhh.

Nick: Probably not going to get this house finished.

<Bell dings three times signalling the end of the task>

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