

Workmanship

A reference panel should always be constructed on site before any facing work commences. The aim of the reference panel is to determine design features or to establish levels of workmanship or the visual acceptability of the bricks, or all three. The standard of brickwork achieved on the reference panel should then be a guide for the rest of the project.

Key Points

The fact that decorative brickwork is eye-catching, means that particular attention is paid to the following:

- Bricks with close dimensional tolerances are advisable for most decorative brickwork. If specified, ensure that only such bricks are used.
- General accuracy of plumb line and gauge.
- Plumb of soldier bricks.
- Accuracy of projections and overhangs - they cast shadows.
- Consistency of mortar to allow 'shuffling down' of diagonal brickwork.
- Accurate control of bricks at 45 degree angles.
- Neat and consistent jointing and pointing.
- Cut dog tooth bricks accurately so as not to protrude into the cavity.
- Protect finished work, especially projections, as work proceeds.

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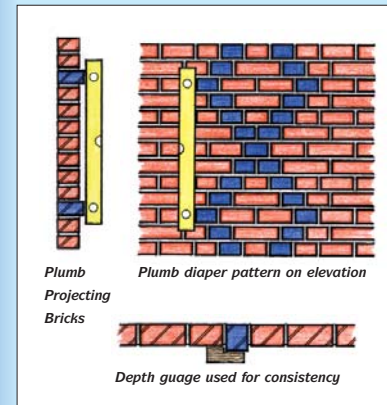
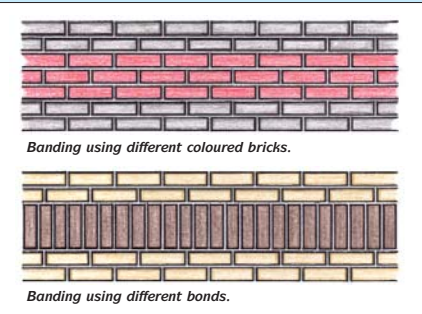
Creative Brickwork

This 'Get it Right' illustrates some typical examples of decorative brickwork, achieved without the use of special shaped bricks. Patterns in brickwork, using bricks that contrasted with the rest of the brickwork, are thought to have been introduced from France in the 15th Century. This kind of decorative brickwork is still used today to add interest to areas of plain brickwork. Surface articulation is now also a popular method of decoration on both commercial and domestic buildings.

Polychromatic brickwork is bricks of different colours in decorative features ranging from simple band courses of contrasting colour to complex patterns or murals.

Band Courses

These are a simple but effective way of giving horizontal emphasis to a wall. They may consist of a band of one or more courses contrasting boldly or subtly with the main wall in colour, texture or bond. They may be flush, project or be slightly recessed.



Diaper Work

Diaper work is an all-over surface decoration of a small repeated pattern such as diamonds or squares. Many different diaper patterns can be created using coloured, projecting or recessed bricks. The patterns can range from simple diamonds to complex shapes and geometry.

Remember - when building in a pattern of bricks, particular care is required with line level and plumb. Any projecting bricks should be 'F' quality (frost resistant).

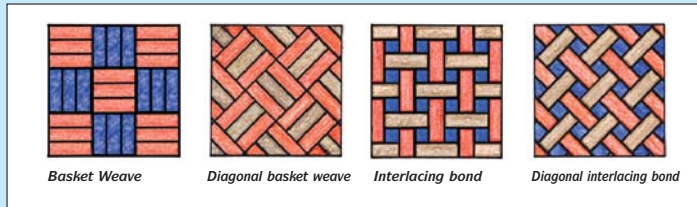
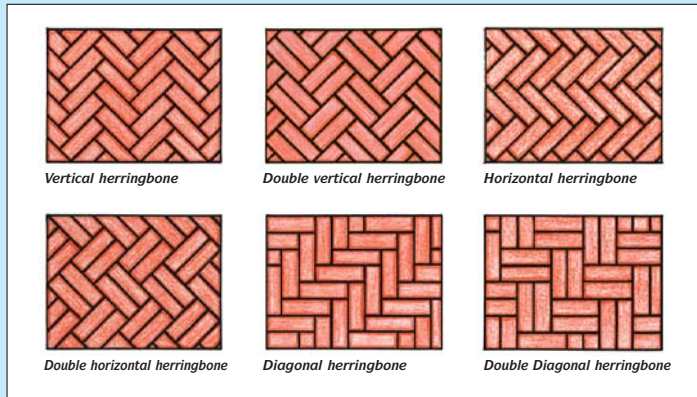


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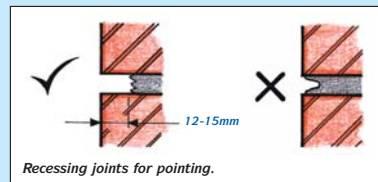
Brickwork Bonds

The basic brickwork bonds are covered more thoroughly in 'Get it Right' No 4. The diagrams below illustrate some of the more decorative but less commonly used forms of bonding.



Coloured Mortars

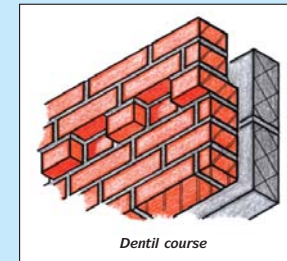
Patterns may also be formed by the use of coloured mortars matching or contrasting with bricks. It is seldom practicable to use more than one bedding mortar so that, in practice, the normal bedding mortar is raked out to a depth of 12 to 15mm as jointing proceeds and subsequently pointed with coloured mortars. The apparent change in the colour of the brickwork can be quite remarkable.



Surface Modelling

Brickwork surfaces can be modelled by projecting or recessing bricks beyond the face of a wall. Projecting and recessed bricks may not be acceptable if they expose surfaces that are not faced, and in extreme cases frogs or perforations may be visible.

Remember - rain penetration of the brickwork may be increased, especially in exposed locations. Frost resistant bricks should always be used.



Dentil Courses

A dentil course consists of a regular pattern of projecting headers cut to project 28mm. The feature is finished with a course of stretchers laid centrally over the headers either flush or projecting a further 28mm. The projecting headers should be placed to avoid a straight joint with the course below.

Dog Tothing

This is an alternative to dentil coursing having two basic forms, one projecting and the other recessed.

Projecting Dog Tothing

- Lay the first brick 'dry' on the wall, mark and cut it accurately for use as a template (fig. a).
 - Position a line at the top of the arris to control the projection (fig. b).
 - Place a spirit level along the underside of the string course to ensure that the 'line of sight' is maintained (fig. c).
 - Set out the corner details first and then set out the bond over the whole length. Open or tighten the vertical joints as necessary.
- Line the cut surface of each dog tooth brick with the inside edge of the external leaf to maintain the 45 degree angle, but check it with a bevel.

Recessed Dog Tothing

Proceed in a similar manner but position the line on the face of the wall. Check the level of the dog tothing every three or four bricks.

