

Brick Impress Moulds

Instructions for use



The brick impress moulds are used with DAS (or equivalent) air drying clay to quickly produce brick walls or floors. Either white or terracotta DAS can be used.

Start by kneading the DAS to make sure it is soft (add a little water if necessary), then roll a thin (1mm thick) sheet of DAS (like pastry), using a piece of dowel or pipe, large enough to cover the wall or floor. Spread a thin layer of PVA glue over the wall and lay the sheet of DAS over the glue. Press down gently to give a smooth surface with no trapped air or glue bubbles. Trim off excess material from the edges. For window and door openings make an X cut across the opening and fold the DAS into the opening, then trim from the inside to leave DAS over the edges of the opening.

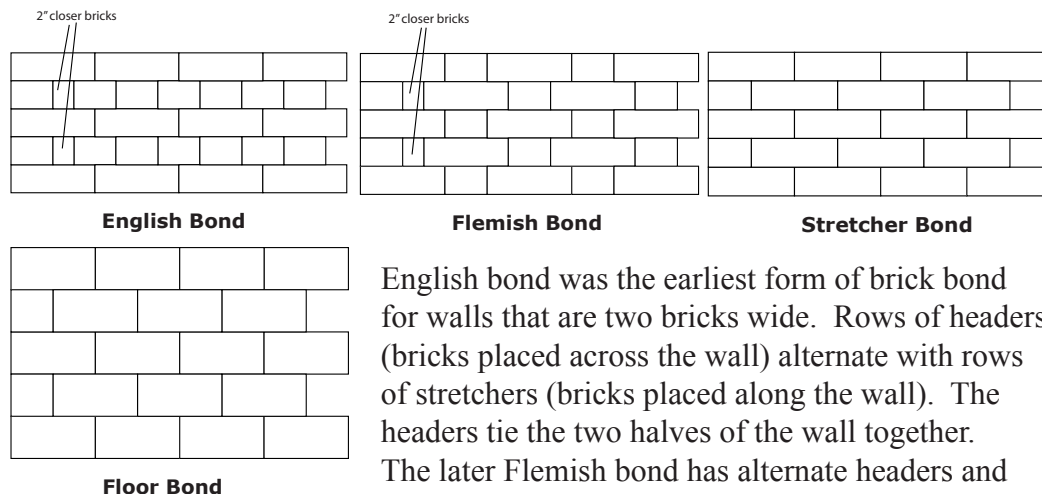
Start from a corner and press the impress mould firmly into the DAS. Lift out and check that the bricks have been moulded cleanly. Reposition the mould alongside the previous position and repeat. Note that the moulds are designed so that the correct repeating pattern will be obtained when the mould is placed exactly alongside the previous position with no overlap. If you are working into an internal corner and cannot fit the complete mould into the space left, make sure that when you overlap with the previous position the bricks are aligned correctly.

Some of the moulds may have slight imperfections caused by problems with the casting process. The small embossing tool, included with the mould, can be used to correct blemishes in the brickwork or mistakes by pressing the end into the DAS. This tool can also be used to create the 2" bricks (known as closers) used to adjust the bond, in English and Flemish bonds, at door and window openings and corners.

When the whole wall or floor has been covered, use an old toothbrush or paint brush to stipple the surface of the bricks. This flattens the surface (which may have been lifted slightly when removing the mould) and adds a little texture to the surface. Clean any DAS adhering to the mould.

When the DAS has dried (allow at least 8 hours), the bricks can be painted with acrylic paints. If white DAS was used, apply an overall coat of terracotta paint to suit the colour of brick required. Individual bricks can be picked out in different shades of the basic colour. When the paint has dried (or if you are using terracotta DAS) apply a very thin wash of "dirty" grey/brown over the whole wall. This settles into the mortar grooves and produces the mortar colour and also produces a pleasing weathering effect over the brick surfaces. The brickwork can be given a coat of matt acrylic varnish, if desired, to give extra protection to the surface.

Brick Bonds for walls and floors



English bond was the earliest form of brick bond for walls that are two bricks wide. Rows of headers (bricks placed across the wall) alternate with rows of stretchers (bricks placed along the wall). The headers tie the two halves of the wall together. The later Flemish bond has alternate headers and stretchers in each row. Both of these bonds have 2in closer bricks to adjust the bond so that clean edges

are formed at corners and openings. Stretcher bond is used in cavity walls (from the early 1920s). Early Tudor bricks were thinner and longer (2" x 10") than later "standard" bricks.

Brick "Nogging"

Bricks were often laid flat for floors or, alternatively, 6" tiles were used for floors.

This is the technique of infilling panels between the timber frames of a building with bricks. The bricks may be laid either in a horizontal bond (usually stretcher) or in a herringbone style as shown here.

The standard moulds (including the herringbone one) can be used to create this effect. Glue strips of wood (about 2mm thick) spaced so that the mould fits between the timbers. Then fill the space between the timbers with DAS to the same thickness as the timbers and press the moulds into the DAS as described overleaf.

Impress moulds for all the bonds described (including herringbone, tudor and 6" wall/floor tiles) are available in 1/12 and 1/24 scales from:

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