My invention relates to a novel tool for use by brick and stone masons, and more particularly to an improved templet type device which serves as a guide for positioning successive rows of bricks.

In the setting of bricks, it is customary that successive rows be guided into adjacent disposed parallel rows. Further, where the bricks of each of the rows are of the same size, as is typically the case, these adjacent parallel rows are all equally spaced. In order to maintain the proper spacing and parallel disposition of the adjacent rows, it has been the general practice to position a taut string at each successive row of bricks being set, with the artisan positioning the brick by using the guide string, in conjunction with a level and trowel. This requires the mason to use a multiplicity of tools, and is quite cumbersome and time-consuming in the successive placement of the taut string at each successive row of bricks to be received.

To solve this problem, the prior art has demonstrated a considerable variety of levels, gauges and spacing instruments, as typically shown in U.S. Patents Nos. 388,827, 1,210,339, 2,534,940, 2,543,716, 2,857,678, 2,915,829, and 3,169,324. All of these devices are of only limited benefit in simplifying the brick-laying procedure.

My invention, however, constitutes significant improvement over such prior art devices in that it is an extremely simplified tool, demonstrating substantial versatility and greatly facilitating the manner in which successive rows or bricks may be guided into place.

Essentially, the novel mason's guide of the instant invention consists of a generally L-shaped templet-like member having a vertically oriented first section, and a horizontally oriented second section extending from one end of the first section. The horizontally extending second section includes a planar surface which forms a platform for abutting engagement with the brick being positioned. A series of notches, or other indicia, are equally spaced along the first section. These indicia are separated from the platform an amount corresponding to the desired displacement of adjacent rows of bricks therefrom. Hence, by lining up successive indicia with a building reference mark (such as a line, along the frame of a building, or the mortar line), the platform will be located at the desired location of the successive rows of brick.

In accordance with a further advantageous feature of my invention, the handle means secured to the templet includes a vertically reciprocable mass which is mounted to transmit an impact force through the platform and against the brick being positioned. Thus, the reciprocating movement of the handle imparts a hammer-like blow to the brick being positioned, thereby avoiding the utilization of a trowel or other tool to urge the brick into its final position.

As still another advantageous aspect of the instant invention, the templet is secured to the handle in an extremely simplified manner, which readily permits removal thereof. A series of templet-like members are provided, having different notch spacings, corresponding to different size bricks or other construction blocks normally encountered in construction. Hence, as the brick size varies, it is merely necessary that one of the templets be removed and substituted with another templet so as to provide a series of indicia corresponding to the particular brick size being employed. Further, the horizontal platform may include notches corresponding to the thickness of brick being used, thereby serving to align the forward brick surface.

It is, therefore, seen that a principal object of my invention resides in the provision of a mason's guide for simplifying the manner in which successive rows of bricks may be set in parallel disposed, equally spaced rows.

Another object of my invention is to provide a brick-layer's guide which includes a templet-like member having a series of indicia corresponding to the vertical spacing between successive rows of bricks to be guided.

A further object of my invention is to provide a mason's guide for positioning successive rows of bricks, comprising in combination a series of indicia for determining the location of the bricks, and a vertically reciprocable handle to transmit an impact hammer-like blow to the brick being positioned.

An additional object of my invention is to provide a mason's guide for positioning successive rows of bricks, and urging the bricks into position, which includes a convenient means of modification to accommodate different brick sizes.

These, as well as other objects of my invention will become apparent upon a consideration of the following descriptions and drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is an exploded perspective view of one form of my invention.

FIGURES 2, 3, and 4 are front elevation, end and plan views, respectively, with the form of my invention as shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 5 is a cross-sectional view along lines 5-5 of FIGURE 2, looking in the direction of the arrows, and shown enlarged, to illustrate the manner in which the handle mass may be vertically reciprocable to impart a hammer-like blow to the brick being set.

FIGURE 6 is a simplified perspective view showing the manner in which the tool of the instant invention may be used to guide the placement of a brick veneer wall about the outside of a frame building.

FIGURES 7 and 8 are templet members for use in conjunction with other brick sizes, and having an indicia spacing corresponding to the spacing between rows containing such bricks.

FIGURE 9 shows a modified form of my invention for positioning the bricks from a mortar line or similar reference guide below the work area.

FIGURES 10 and 11 show modified forms of my invention, wherein the handle is directly secured to the templet-like member.

Referring to the figures and FIGURES 1 through 5 particularly, one form of the mason's guide 20, in accordance with the concept of the instant invention, in-
includes a generally L-shaped member 30, having a vertically oriented first section 32 and a horizontally oriented second section 34, joined at right angle bend 21. The second section 34 includes a planar surface 35 which forms a horizontal platform. Vertical section 32 includes a plurality of uniformly spaced indicia, shown in the form of aligned notches 36, 37, 38, 39; 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45; having a spacing from platform 35 corresponding to the spacing between successive rows of bricks to be placed. Further, the horizontal platform 34 may also include one or more series of aligned notches such as 22, 23 and 24, 25 spaced from L-shaped bend 21 a distance corresponding to the thickness of the various size bricks being used, allowing for the open space between the bricks and the frame wall.

A handle assembly 50 is applied to L-shaped templet member 30 by a plurality of screw means, such as 62, 68, 74 which extend into apertures 60, 66, 72, respectively, of the templet member and terminate in tapped apertures 58, 64, 70 of handle housing member 54. Handle housing member 54 includes a vertical recess 56 which receives another handle member 51 of an appreciable mass. Handle member 51 is of suitable dimensions to vertically reciprocate within recess 56, and includes an outwardly extending gripping portion 52, which may be conveniently hand-grasped by the user. Hence, as member 51 is vertically reciprocated within recess 56, it will abut against lower surface 57 of the vertical recess. This will transmit an impact force through platform 35 against the brick immediately positioned therebelow (such as brick 212-3 as shown in FIGURES 2 and 6). The imparting of such a hammer-like blow serves to finally tap the brick into its desired position in the manner conventionally achieved by a trowel or other hammer-like brick-layers' tool. A pair of spirit levels 75, 77 are also located along a platform handle member 54 to indicate the level disposition of the brick being set.

Reference is now made to FIGURE 6 to illustrate the manner in which the novel tool of the instant invention may be utilized to guide successive rows of brick veneer about the outside of a frame building. The particular masons guide assembly 20 has a templet 30 including five equally spaced indicia markings, as shown in FIGS. 1-5. It should naturally be understood that this is for illustrative purposes only, and the templet may include more or less markings, according to the particular brick size and convenience of the user in handling the tool.

A series of brick-like markings 220, 230, 240 are placed about the wall surface, having a spacing corresponding to five such rows of bricks. FIGURE 6 shows the alignment of the template for laying the second row of bricks 212. In laying the previous row of bricks 210, notches 44, 45 of the vertical templet section 32 had been aligned along building reference guide marking 220. Hence, the platform surface 35 was then located at the top surface of brick 210. Here, as the bricks were successively applied, such as bricks 210-1, 210-2, 210-3, etc., indicia guide markings 44, 45 were successively moved from left to right along line 220 with the handle member 51 being vertically reciprocated downward so as to urge the individual brick in position. To position the next layer of bricks 212, the next indicia means, such as 42, 43 is shown located along guide marking 220. Platform surface 35 will now be positioned at the upper surface of successive brick row 212, shown by the manner in which brick 212-3 is being set. The successive rows of bricks 214, 216, 218 may then be located by positioning aligned indicia means 40, 41; and 38, 39; and 36, 37, successively, at the guide marking 220. After the successive layers of bricks have been set at the guide marking 220, the next set of brick rows may then be positioned by referring to guide markings 230 and 240 respectively.

Should it be necessary to set bricks in a location where there is no inside wall or structure to mark the lines, a modification of my invention, as shown in FIGURE 9, may be used, with one of the mortar lines below the work area as a guide. Handle member 154 is shown secured to the outer surfaces of L-shaped templet member 30 by screws 62, 68, 74. Spirit levels 175, 177 may also be mounted to the horizontally extending portion of handle member 154.

FIGURES 7 and 8 show templet members 130 and 235, corresponding essentially to member 30, but having indicia spacings differing therefrom. That is, templet member 130 of FIGURE 7 is designed for a smaller brick size and includes ten equally spaced indicia notches 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89; 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97; and 98, 99. Templet member 235 is designed for a larger brick size and includes five equally spaced indica means 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109; 110, 111.

It should naturally be understood that where a modification of brick size is being effected, the templet may be changed merely by removing screw members 62, 68, 74, and replacing templet member 30 with 130, 235, or other templet having a spacing corresponding to the particular brick size being used.

Further, as another modification of my invention, two or more indicia spacings may be included within a single templet member, but with the indicia being of a different shape or color so as to readily permit their discernment by the user.

FIGURES 10 and 11 correspond to a simplification of my invention, in accordance with the novel arrangement shown in FIGURES 1 and 9, respectively. Namely, the vertically reciprocable handle has been replaced with a stationary handle member. This embodiment may be used in those applications where the artisan prefers, because of past experience and familiarity, to utilize his trowel for tapping the brick into final position. Handle member 152 is secured to templet member 30 by screw means 162, 168, either at the inner portion of the L, as shown in FIGURE 10 (and corresponding to FIGS. 1-5), or at the outer portion of L, as shown in FIG. 11 (and corresponding to FIG. 9).

It is, therefore, seen that the instant invention provides a simplified mason's guide for locating successive rows of bricks in parallel disposed, equally spaced rows. This provides the use of a separate level and row-by-row markings of the brick position. Hence, extreme accuracy in brick placement may be achieved with only a minimum of effort and skill, permitting a group of men to start from different points of the structure and be assured of properly meeting at successive brick rows.

Although described a preferred embodiment of the invention, many variations and modifications will now be apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, this invention is to be limited, not by the specific disclosure herein, but only by the appended claims. The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive privilege or property is claimed are defined as follows.

1. A mason's guide of the hand tool variety for positioning successive rows of bricks, comprising, in combination:

   a substantially L-shaped hand-carried template member, including a first section, extending in a first direction, and a second section projecting from a first end of said first section, and extending in a second direction, transverse to said first direction, said second section including a planar surface forming a platform means extending in said second direction, for individually urging the bricks into their desired locations, said first section including a plurality of uniformly spaced indicia means along the length thereof, with the spacing thereof corresponding to the spacing between successive rows of bricks to be guided in place,
handle means mounted to said member for manually grasping and moving said member to successive brick receiving locations, the distance between successive ones of indicia means and said platform, corresponding to the spacing of successive rows of brick from a predetermined building reference line, such that with successive ones of said indicia means being positioned at the building reference line, said platform position defines the locations of successive brick rows, and urges the bricks into said locations.

said handle means including a vertically reciprocable mass, mounted to transmit an impact force through said platform and against the brick to be positioned, such that the reciprocable movement of said mass imparts a hammer-like blow to the brick being positioned.

2. A mason's guide of the hand tool variety for positioning successive rows of bricks, comprising, in combination:
   a substantially L-shaped hand-carried template member, including a first section, extending in a first direction, and a second section projecting from a first end of said first section, and extending in a second direction, transverse to said first direction, said second section including a planar surface forming a platform means extending in said second direction, for individually urging the bricks into their desired locations,
   said first section including a plurality of uniformly spaced indicia means along the length thereof, with the spacing thereof corresponding to the spacing between successive rows of bricks to be guided in place,
   handle means mounted to said member for manually grasping and moving said member to successive brick receiving locations, the distance between successive ones of indicia means and said platform, corresponding to the spacing of successive rows of brick from a predetermined building reference line, such that with successive ones of said indicia means being positioned at the building reference line, said platform position defines the locations of successive brick rows, and urges the bricks into said locations,
   said handle means including a first member secured to said L-shaped member, said first member including a vertical recess, a second member located within said vertical recess for vertically reciprocating movement therein, said second member including a first portion extending outward of said vertical recess for manual grasping, and a second portion of appreciable mass, to transmit an impact force through said platform and against the brick to be positioned, such that the reciprocable movement of said second member imparts a hammer-like blow to the brick being positioned.

3. A mason's guide of the hand tool variety for positioning successive rows of bricks, adjustable to accommodate different size bricks, comprising in combination,
   a set of template members, including at least a first and second substantially L-shaped template member, each template member including a vertically orientatable first section, and a horizontally orientatable second section extending from a first end of said first section,
   said second section including a planar surface to form a horizontal platform means at said first end for individually urging the bricks into their desired locations,
   said first section of said first member including a plurality of uniformly spaced indicia means having a first spacing along the vertical length thereof, with said first spacing corresponding to the vertical spacing of a first size of bricks to be guided in place, said first section of said second member including a plurality of uniformly spaced indicia means, having a second spacing along the vertical length thereof, with said second spacing corresponding to the vertical spacing between successive rows of a second size of bricks to be guided in place, said handle means for selective and removable mounting to one of said set of template members, for selective utilization of the member having an indicia means spacing corresponding to the particular brick size being guided into place, the distance between successive ones of indicia means and said platform of the selected member, corresponding to the spacing of successive rows of brick from a predetermined building reference line, such that with successive ones of said indicia means being positioned at the building reference line said platform position defines the locations of successive brick rows and urges the bricks into said locations,
   said handle means including a first member secured to said L-shaped member, said first member including a vertical recess, a second member located within said vertical recess for vertically reciprocating movement therein, said second member including a first portion extending outward of said vertical recess for manual grasping, and a second portion, of appreciable mass, to transmit an impact force through said platform, and against the brick to be positioned, such that the reciprocable movement of said second member imparts a hammer-like blow to the brick being positioned.

4. The method for guiding the positioning of successive rows of bricks, utilizing an L-shaped template member, comprising the steps of:
   providing a horizontal reference line on the building receiving the bricks,
   applying a horizontal layer of mortar along a region which is intended to receive the bottom surface of the row of bricks being positioned,
   placing the bottom surface of an individual brick on the top of the mortar layer,
   placing a horizontally orientated platform portion of the L-shaped template member on the top surface of the individual brick, while manually urging the template downward in abutting engagement with the brick, until indicia means on a vertically orientated portion of L-shaped template, displaced from the platform portion a first distance, are in horizontal alignment with the building reference line, such that the template platform is in parallel alignment with the building reference, and displaced therefrom an amount equal to said first distance.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the downward manual urging of the template including the step of vertically reciprocating a mass mounted to said template member so as to transmit a downward impact force through the platform against the top surface of the brick being positioned.

6. The method of guiding bricks in accordance with claim 4, including the further step of aligning the forward surface of the brick being positioned with respect to auxiliary indicia means on the horizontal platform, displaced from the plane of the vertically orientated template section.

7. The method of claim 4, including the further step of placing the bottom surface of the next adjacent brick within the row being positioned, on top of the mortar layer, adjacent the last-positioned brick; horizontally moving the template such that its horizontally orientated platform is placed on the top surface of such next adjacent brick to be guided into position; and
manually urging the template downward in abutting engagement with the bricks, such that the indicia means in the vertically orientated template portion is in alignment with the building reference line.

8. The method of claim 7, including the positioning of a successive row of bricks on the previously positioned row, comprising the steps of:
   applying a horizontal layer of mortar along the top surface of the previously formed row of bricks;
   placing the bottom surface of a brick on the mortar layer;
   placing the horizontally orientated platform of the L-shaped template on the brick, while manually urging the template downward in abutting engagement with the brick, until another indicia means on the vertically orientated template, separated from the previously utilized indicia means, a vertical distance corresponding to the desired displacement between successive rows of brick, is in horizontal alignment with the building reference line.

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