No. 699,537. Patented May 6, 1902.

J. W. LAHMANN.

BUILDING STONE OR BRICK.

(Application filed Feb. 27, 1902.)

(No Model.)

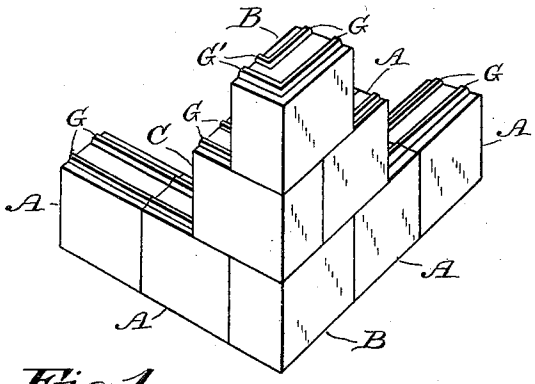


Fig. 1.

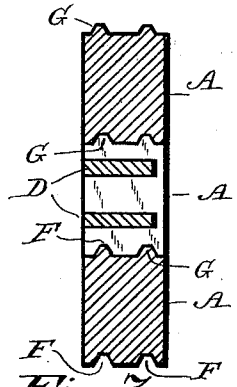


Fig. 3.

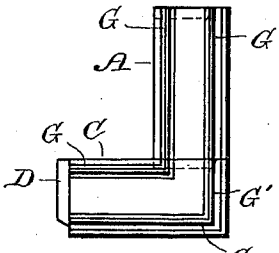


Fig. 4.

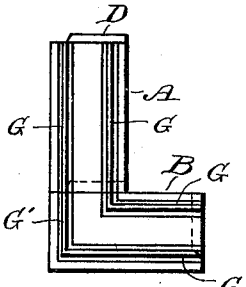


Fig. 5.

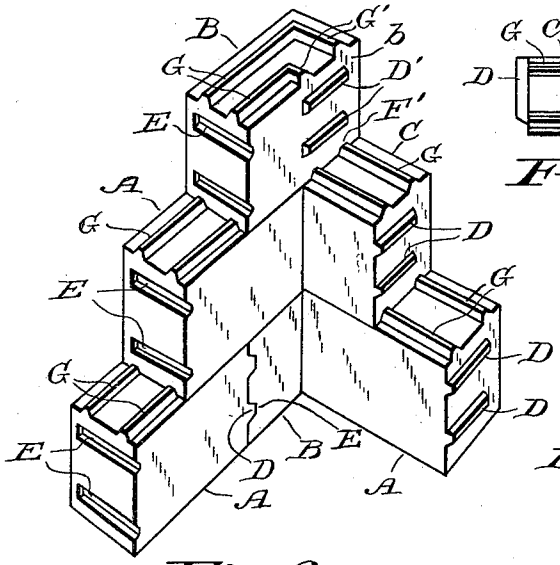


Fig. 2.

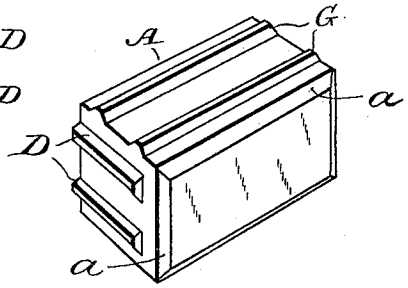


Fig. 6.

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BUILDING STONE OR BRICK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 699,537, dated May 6, 1902.

Application filed February 27, 1902. Serial No. 95,944. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. LAHMANN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Building Stones or Bricks; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to building stones or bricks of the character that are formed artificially, and has particular reference to stones or bricks that are designed to be laid up in walls without the use of tools in the operations, the principal object of the invention being to so improve the forms of such building material that unskilled persons may build true walls thereof easily and rapidly, and therefore cheaply, and another object being to provide stones and bricks of this character that will be self-fitting and self-locking when laid up in walls.

The above-mentioned objects being attained in my invention, the same consists of stones or bricks provided with matching ribs and grooves of novel forms and arranged in a new and useful manner at four faces of the blocks, as particularly described hereinafter, and pointed out in the claims.

Referring now to the drawings, in which similar reference characters indicate like parts, Figure 1 represents an external perspective view of portions of walls composed of stones or bricks embodying my invention; Fig. 2, an internal perspective view of walls similar to those above mentioned; Fig. 3, a transverse vertical sectional view of a part of a wall, showing my improvements therein; Figs. 4 and 5, top plan views of oppositely-turned corner-stones formed in accord with my invention, and Fig. 6 a perspective view of a line-stone formed in accord with my invention.

In practically carrying out my invention the stones or bricks may be formed in suitable molds or formers of any suitable material with either plain or ornamental outer faces, the latter preferably having beveled edges *a*. The line stones or bricks A and the corner stones or bricks B and C are all of equal dimensions and are rectangular and preferably oblong, the widths and heights being either equal or different in dimensions, as may be desired, while the horizontally longitudinal dimensions may be either equal to or greater than the vertical or the lateral dimensions; but they are all of uniform length. Each line-block A has one or more ribs D at one end thereof projecting from the vertical joint-face thereof, and at the opposite end it has one or more grooves E in the vertical joint-face thereof, the ribs and the grooves corresponding in contours one to the other and each extending horizontally from the inner or unfinished face of the block nearly to the outer or finished face thereof, so that when the unlike ends of the blocks are joined together they will not only be guided to true alinement, but will also be locked against twisting movements. The corner-blocks B are also provided with the grooves E at one end thereof, and have ribs D′ projecting from the inner face *b*, near one end thereof, so as to match the grooves E in a contiguous block A, and the blocks C have the ribs D at one end thereof and suitable grooves near the opposite end in the inner face thereof to receive the ribs D. All of the blocks have longitudinal grooves F in the under sides or bottoms thereof, excepting they be omitted in those designed to form the bottom layer of a wall. By the term "longitudinal" is meant longitudinally of the wall formed of the blocks. All the blocks also have longitudinal ribs G upon their upper sides or tops. The ribs and the grooves correspond in contour and extend from end to end of the blocks A and from one end nearly to the opposite end of the blocks B and C. The corner-blocks have transversely-disposed grooves F′ extending from the inner face *b* to the grooves F, and also transverse ribs G′ extending from the face *b* to the ribs G, so that the transverse grooves and the ribs in one wall will match the longitudinal grooves and ribs of the abutting blocks and form continuations thereof in the other wall at right angles thereto. In making the blocks any suitable number of lines of grooves and ribs may be made, two

usually being sufficient, while one may in some sizes suffice. It is designed that broad blocks be provided for thick lower walls and narrower ones for upper-story walls; but, obviously, the blocks may all be of the same width and laid up as ordinary bricks usually are laid, so as to form thicker lower walls, in which case suitable tie-blocks may be provided with suitable grooves and ribs to lock with those above described. Preferably the ribs and the grooves have inclined sides, as shown.

In practical use it is designed that thin cement be used in the joints merely to render them air-tight and water-tight, the grooves and ribs performing the functions of both gages and binders. The courses are so laid that the vertical joints shall be broken, as usual, right and left corner-blocks B and C being used alternately in the courses as the wall is raised, as will appear in Figs. 1 and 2.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A building stone or brick having a longitudinal groove in its bottom extending from end to end thereof, a longitudinal rib upon its top extending from end to end thereof, a horizontally-disposed groove in one end extending from the inner side nearly to the outer side or face thereof, and a rib projecting from the opposite end and extending from the inner side nearly to the outer side or face thereof, whereby the blocks are rendered self-alining and self-leveling when laid upon a level and alined bottom layer.

2. A building corner stone or brick having a longitudinal and a transverse groove in its bottom, and a longitudinal and a transverse rib upon its top integral therewith extending from one end nearly to the opposite end thereof and thence to the inner side thereof; a horizontal transverse groove in one end extending from the inner side nearly to the outer side thereof, and a horizontal rib on the inner face near the opposite end thereof, substantially as set forth.

3. A building corner stone or brick having a longitudinal and a transverse groove in its bottom, and a longitudinal and a transverse rib on its top integral therewith extending from one end nearly to the opposite end thereof and thence to the inner side thereof; a horizontal transverse rib in one end extending from the inner side nearly to the outer side thereof, and a horizontal groove in the inner face near the opposite end thereof, substantially as set forth.

4. A wall formed of stones or bricks comprising line-blocks having each a longitudinal groove in the bottom thereof and a longitudinal rib on the top thereof, the grooves and the ribs extending from end to end of the blocks, said blocks each having also a horizontal groove in one end thereof extending from the inner side nearly to the outer side thereof, and a horizontal rib on the opposite end thereof extending from the inner side nearly to the outer side thereof; corner-blocks each having longitudinal and transverse grooves in the bottom and longitudinal and transverse ribs on the top thereof, and also a horizontal groove in one end thereof and a horizontal rib on the inner side near the opposite end thereof, registering with the grooves and the ribs of the line-blocks; and corner-blocks having each longitudinal and transverse grooves in the bottom and longitudinal and transverse ribs on the top thereof, and also a horizontal rib on one end thereof and a horizontal groove in the inner side near the opposite end thereof, registering with the grooves and the ribs of the line-blocks, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN W. LAHMANN.

Witnesses:
WM. H. PAYNE,
E. T. SILVIUS.