My device relates in general to means for aligning bricks, blocks or tiles, when laying the same and in particular to means for holding a mason’s line across the course to be laid.

It is well known to those skilled in the art that when a bricklayer is laying bricks, it is necessary that some guiding means be provided to enable him to lay the bricks in a straight horizontal line. Such means usually consist of nails driven between two previously laid bricks across which a line is stretched. Not only does the insertion of these nails, which are afterwards removed, leave nail holes which must be later closed, but an extra brick or block must be laid at the end of and above the course being laid in order to have some mortar into which to drive such nails, and obviously the mortar must be set sufficiently to hold the nails from moving before the line can be tautly fastened thereon.

The principal object of my invention has been to obviate the disadvantages of the customary methods of fastening a bricklayer’s line and to provide a line holder or tool which may be quickly engaged with the first brick or block initially placed at each end of the course to be laid for holding the line.

Another object has been to provide an elastic line, which not only holds the line tool in position, but which will avoid any slack in the line and hold it in taut position.

Another object is to provide a tool formed with means for conveniently attaching the elastic line in any desired position.

Moreover, it has been an object to provide a holder which engages three sides of the brick and therefore can be conveniently maintained in alignment with the corners of the brick without any fastening means.

The above objects and advantages have been accomplished by the device shown in the accompanying drawings, of which:

Fig. 1 is an isometrical perspective view of my device;

Fig. 2 is an end elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a reduced perspective view showing the device in use;

Fig. 4 is a plan view thereof; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the device in use when laying a brick window sill.

In the specification and in the accompanying drawings, I show the device as being used in the laying of courses of bricks; and in Fig. 3, I show the device engaged with the corners of the end bricks of an illustrative use, such as a chimney, while in Fig. 5 I show it in use upon a window sill, the course of bricks in each figure being shown as completed.

The device comprises a body 10 made of sheet metal or the like having a top wall 11 and front wall 12 bent at right angles to each other for engagement with the tops and fronts of the bricks or blocks 15 and 17, respectively, of the wall shown in Fig. 3. This enables the bricklayer to register the devices with the ends of the course which is to be laid. The top wall 11 of each fixture is formed with a downwardly extending flange 13, and the front wall 12 is formed with an inwardly extending flange 14. Each of the flanges 13 and 14 are bent at substantially right angles to the attached parts and engage the end faces of the brick or block, thereby acting as abutments to prevent movement of the device in one direction along the brick or block when it is engaged therewith.

While I have shown in Fig. 3 the devices as being right hand and left hand, it is obvious that duplicates may be used.

The top and front walls of each of the tools are so positioned that a sharp corner 16 is formed therebetween and two spaced holes 20 and 21 are formed in the corner thereof through holes 22 and 23 which are extended to the opposite tool. The free end of the elastic line extending through hole 21 is preferably passed between the overlapping top and front flanges 13 and 14, respectively, and is clamped therebetween by the resiliency of these two members. It will be obvious that by passing the line from the inside of the corner of one tool to the inside of the corner of the other tool, it will be positioned at the corners of the end bricks and will serve as a guide for aligning all other bricks of the course. It will also be obvious that, since the line is elastic, the length between tools may be so proportioned that it will be placed under proper tension when in use thus keeping it taut and firmly drawing and holding the tools in engagement with the end bricks while the course is being finished.

It will be obvious, that while I have shown my invention as applied to the laying of bricks, it can be used with equal facility when laying blocks, tile, or the like.

From the foregoing, it will be obvious that when the cord is once attached to the tools, the assembled device becomes a unit and it may be removed from the finished course of bricks and simply snapped in place upon the end bricks of a new course without having to detach or adjust the cord.

I claim:

1. A mason’s tool comprising a top wall, a front wall extending downwardly from said top wall, said walls being positioned substantially at right angles to each other and having a sharp corner therebetween, a front flange extending inwardly from and adjacent to one edge of said front wall, a top flange extending downwardly along one edge of said top wall in resilient overlapping relation with said front flange, said tool being formed with two spaced openings disposed in said corner, an elastic line disposed on the inside of the corner at the end opposite the front and top flanges and passed outwardly through the openings at that end, that portion of said line between the openings being disposed on the outside of said corner, the outer end of said line being passed inwardly through the opening adjacent said flanges and extended on the inside of said corners from the last mentioned opening to and between the overlapping front and top flanges, means for fixing the opposite end of said line, whereby a guide is provided for the laying of bricks necessary to complete a predetermined course.

2. The combination with two spaced end bricks of a proposed course, of two duplicate tools arranged oppositely to each other and engageable one with each of said end bricks, each tool comprising a top wall, a front wall extending downwardly from said top wall, said walls being positioned substantially at right angles to each other and having a sharp corner therebetween registerable with the aligned longitudinal edges of said end bricks, a front flange extending inwardly from and adjacent to one edge of said front wall, a top flange extending down-
wardly along one edge of said top wall in resilient overlapping relation with said front flange, each of said tools being provided with two spaced openings formed in said corner, an elastic line stretched between said tools and having each of its end portions disposed on the inside of the corner of one of said tools at the end opposite the front and top flanges and passed outwardly through the opening at that end, those portions of said line between the openings being disposed on the outside of said corners, the outer ends of said line being passed inwardly through the openings adjacent said flanges and extended on the inside of said corners from the last mentioned opening to and between the overlapping front and top flanges, whereby when said tools are engaged with said end bricks the line will be stretched tautly between them and be coincident additional with the free longitudinal edges of the end bricks and form a guide for the laying of bricks necessary to complete a predetermined course.

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