

JUNIOR BLOCK LAYER CONTEST: ADVANCED GUIDELINES

The Advanced Level Junior Block Layer Contest is a timed contest that is based on the overall skillset of the contestant's laying of 30 total CMUs. The contestants will be judged on 9 total criteria that range from quality of the work to delivering a finished product in the allotted time. **Lowest score wins!**

SCORING

TIME

The suggested time allotted for completion is 90 minutes. However, prior to the start of the competition, the head judge can determine an alternative time limit that remains both realistic and challenging. If the project is not complete when time is called, the judge will count the number of CMU not laid and a point will be added for each CMU not laid.

PLUMB

Contestants' 4' level will be used for judging at four locations. A step gauge will be inserted at the largest gap. There will be 1 point given for each $\frac{1}{16}$ " deviation at each location. If the project is not complete, this item cannot be judged. As a result, a maximum of 30 points will be added to the score.

LEVEL

Contestants' 4' level will be used for judging the level on top of the wall at three locations. A step gauge will be inserted at the greatest deviation in each location and will be recorded. There will be 1 point given for each $\frac{1}{16}$ " deviation at each location. If the project is not complete, this item cannot be judged. As a result, a maximum of 30 points will be added to the score.

SQUARE AND RANGE

Square will be judged at one location on the project. One point will be given for each $\frac{1}{16}$ " of difference in this location. Range (alignment) will be judged at three locations on the project. A step gauge will be inserted at the largest gap on each side. The total out of range will be calculated, and 1 point will be given for each notch the gauge ($\frac{1}{16}$ ") is inserted. If the project is not complete, the square and range cannot be judged. As a result, a max of 30 points will be added to the score.

MEASUREMENTS

Contestants' ruler or tape will be used for judging at two locations. The horizontal measurement will be made on the top left side. A vertical measurement will be made from the floor to the top of block on the corner of the project. One point will be given for every $\pm \frac{1}{16}$ " difference in measurements. If the project is not complete, a maximum of 30 points will be added to the score.

FULL AND UNIFORM JOINTS

Contestants will be observed while working. Scores will be determined based on the extent to which head and bed joints are filled and the uniformity of head and bed joints. A void is defined by any opening in a head or bed joint or mortar that did not squeeze into the plane of the face shell. Voids will be measured and rounded up to a whole inch. A point will be given for each 1" void.

CORRECT DESIGN

Each project will be observed after the contest is completed and compared with the working drawings for conformity. The project must match the drawing exactly. Each project will be checked to determine if the drawings and specifications have been followed. One point will be given for every unit (block) laid that does not match the project drawing — up to a maximum of 30 points.

TOOLING AND NEATNESS

All joints are to be struck and brushed as finished masonry. No oil, water or other additives may be rubbed on the face of the masonry to enhance its appearance, nor may anything other than a dry brush (i.e., carpet, burlap, floats) be used. All tooling and brushing must be completed in the time given to build the project. Tooling and Neatness will be judged after completion of the time given for construction. Safe disposal of unusable units, mortar use and waste, and finished appearance of the work will be judged. This category is subjectively rated by a team of journeyman masons. A particular contestant may be selected as the control or standard of excellence in the field of contestants, and other contestants will be judged from there.

SAFETY

The judges will add a point for every safety violation observed during the competition. See the other side for guidelines and potential violations.

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CONTEST NOTES

- Each contestant's workspace should be 8' x 8'.
- The judge will need a stopwatch, 4' level, rule or tape, and a step gauge.
- Contestants will be required to cut the excess mortar off of the bed joint on each block laid.
- Upon project and/or contest completion, contestants must leave their 4' level, square, rule or tape, and station number on top of their project.
- Tiebreaker: The tiebreaker for the contest will be plumb. If needed, the next tiebreaker will be level, square and range, and measurements, in that order.

SAFETY

- All contestants will be monitored throughout the competition for safe work practices. Safe work practices include the following:
 1. Safety glasses are to be worn for the entire contest.
 2. Hard sole shoes (work boots) are required. No sneakers or open-toed shoes are allowed.
 3. Tools should not be left on the floor as they may cause a tripping hazard. Any tools not in use should be stored in the extra 8" CMU given.
 4. NO electronic devices will be allowed (i.e., cellphones, earbuds, smartwatches, etc.)

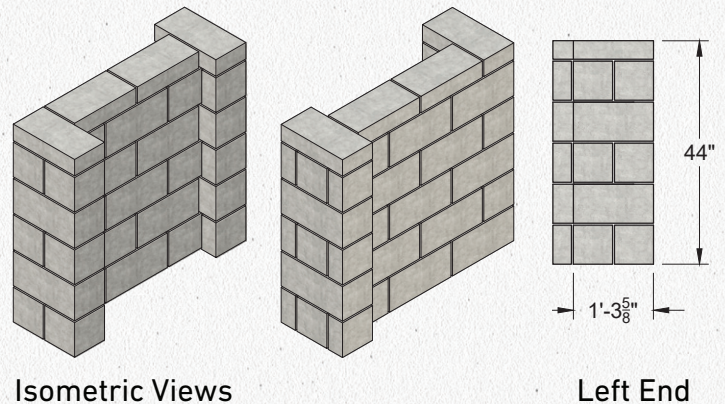
TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

SUPPLIED BY PARTICIPANT

- Trowel/trowels
- Levels (24" and 48")
- "S" jointers (round jointer)
- Sled runner jointer
- Brick hammer
- 6-foot folding rule or tape measure
- Tool bag
- Pencil
- Square
- Brush
- Brick chisel
- Line and line blocks
- Safety glasses

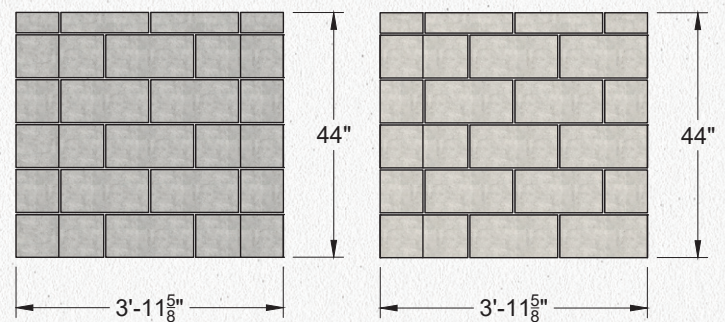
SUPPLIED BY EVENT HOST

- Mortar mixer and tenders mixing mortar
- Hose
- Water drums
- Mortar pans, boards, pails and wheelbarrows
- Mortar hoes
- Square-nosed, short-handled shovels
- Sand
- Masonry mix or ready-mixed mortar
- Tyvek or suitable area covering
- CMU materials
- Safety glasses



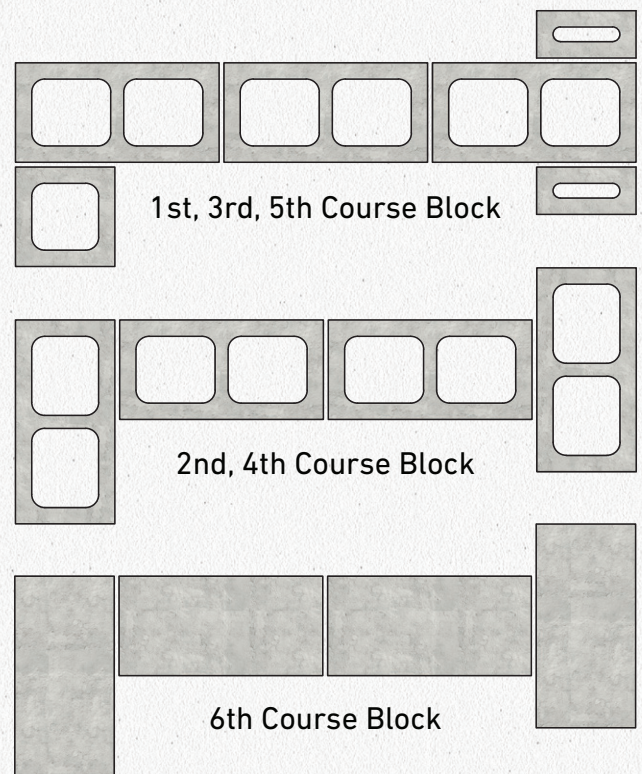
Isometric Views

Left End



Front Elevation

Back Elevation



1st, 3rd, 5th Course Block

2nd, 4th Course Block

6th Course Block