

JUNIOR BLOCK LAYER CONTEST: TEAM GUIDELINES

The Junior Block Layer is a 20-minute, team-based competition in which groups of three students collaborate to construct a masonry wall based on a provided design. Before the start of the competition, a base-level course is installed. During the 20-minute period, teams are responsible for setting up their workstations, building the wall, tooling, and ensuring the area is left clean upon completion. Participants may perform any necessary tasks — including laying block, tending, jointing, etc. — to complete the wall within the allotted time. The event reflects a real-world jobsite, where teamwork leads to greater efficiency. After the 20 minutes, each team's wall is judged based on time of completion, quality of construction (including plumb, level, and measurements), tooling precision, and cleanliness of the finished workstation.

SCORING

TIME

20-minute maximum time allotted for completion. Teams must install 36 total block, and teams that finish before the allotted maximum time will receive a scaled score in the time frame order that they compete.

PLUMB

Plumb is judged on the front face of the wall and at each jamb or corner. 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 on the left and right side. 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.

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 wall may be selected as the control or standard of excellence in the field of contestants, and other walls 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 10' x 12'.
- The workstation must be clean after completion of wall and any trash should be placed in the designated spot in the workstation.
- Once the team has their wall complete, the "Captain" of the team will raise their hand so the judge will stop the time for the team.
- Tiebreaker: The tiebreaker for the contest will be plumb. If needed, the next tiebreaker will be level and measurements, in that order.
- A concave jointer will be used for tooling.
- Two mortar boards will be furnished for the contestants as well as 8 extra block. The team can use those to set the mortar boards on and for tool storage if they choose.
- Mortar tubs placed outside of the workstation for the contestant's mortar.

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.)

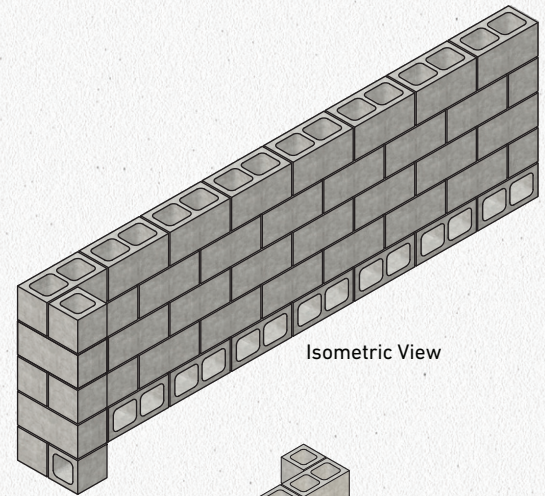
TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

SUPPLIED BY PARTICIPANT

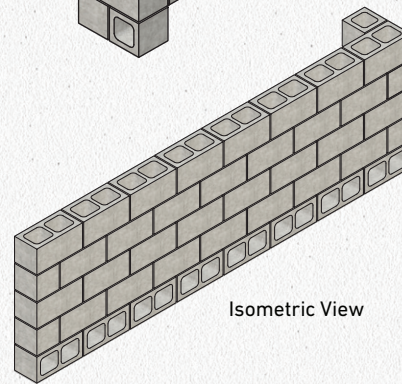
- Trowel/trowels
- Levels (24" and 48")
- "S" jointers (round jointer)
- Sled runner jointer
- Brick hammer
- 6-foot folding rule or tape measure
- Tool bag
- Pencil
- Square
- Brush
- Brick chisel
- Line and line blocks
- Safety glasses

SUPPLIED BY EVENT HOST

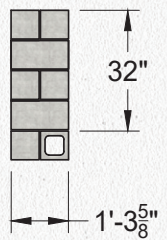
- Mortar mixer and tenders mixing mortar
- Hose
- Water drums
- Mortar pans, boards, pails and wheelbarrows
- Mortar hoes
- Square-nosed, short-handled shovels
- Sand
- Masonry mix or ready-mixed mortar
- Tyvek or suitable area covering
- CMU materials
- Safety glasses



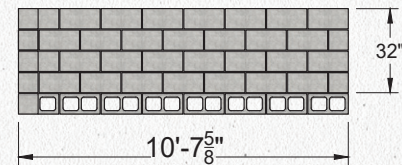
Isometric View



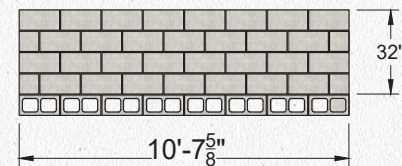
Isometric View



Left End



Front Elevation



Back Elevation

