

TRADE OF PLASTERING

PHASE 2

Module 1

SLABBING, RENDERING, FLOATING AND SKIMMING

UNIT: 7

Dots and Screeds/Temporary Rules

Produced by

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Introduction

Welcome to this section of your course which is designed to introduce you the learner, to plumbing, ranging dots and screeds and fixing temporary rules.

Unit Objective

By the end of this unit each apprentice will be able to:

- Apply screeds to concrete block walls using the dot and screed method
- Apply temporary timber rules to external angles and to door openings

1.0 Apply Screeds to Concrete Block Walls Using the Dot and Screed Method

Key Learning Points

- Principles of plumbing and ranging dots and screeds on block walls
- Setting out and planning the work in sequence

1.1 Principles of Plumbing and Ranging Dots and Screeds

To make plastered surfaces 'Plumb', that is perfectly vertical or to make them 'level' that is perfectly horizontal, and to ensure the proper thickness of the plaster coat, the plasterer, for first class work, uses 'Dots' and 'Screeds' or 'Grounds' to these ends.

Dots

Small spots of material applied to the background at about floating rule length apart and at suitable heights for forming screeds. Faced with durable pads (usually pieces of hardboard, plywood, slate etc.) which are removed from the floated surface prior to finishing. Dots are primarily, bearing points for the floating ruler in the development of screeds.

Screeds

Are narrow bands of material which are built up between plumbed or levelled Dots, to act as guide lines for the floating rule to bear on and, in so doing develop true plumb or level surfaces on walls and ceilings. The development of surfaces in this fashion is termed as 'Plumbing' and 'Ranging'; ranging being the term used to describe the lining-in of intermediate Dots, to plumbed or levelled.

Grounds

In this sense, (the truing-up of surfaces) grounds are either timber or metal screeds usually prefixed to serve some other function and are usually sited near the base of walls, at window or door opes, or near the top of walls.

Basically, they establish wall lines and plaster thickness, (which gives them their value to the plasterer for screeding purposes) and are usually installed by the carpenter, when of timber. When metal beading or metal plaster stop etc is specified this, is usually fixed by the plasterer himself. This type of ground is usually dual purpose in effect acting as not only a guide for the development of true surfaces but also as a knock resistant and decorative finish.

1.2 Setting Out and Planning the Work in Sequence

Dots and Screeds to Walls

The following applies to first class work. There are two methods that can be employed for the Dotted and Screeding of walls. Method (A) is suitable for walls of approximately 3 metres high. Method (B) is more suitable for walls of a loftier type.

Method (A)

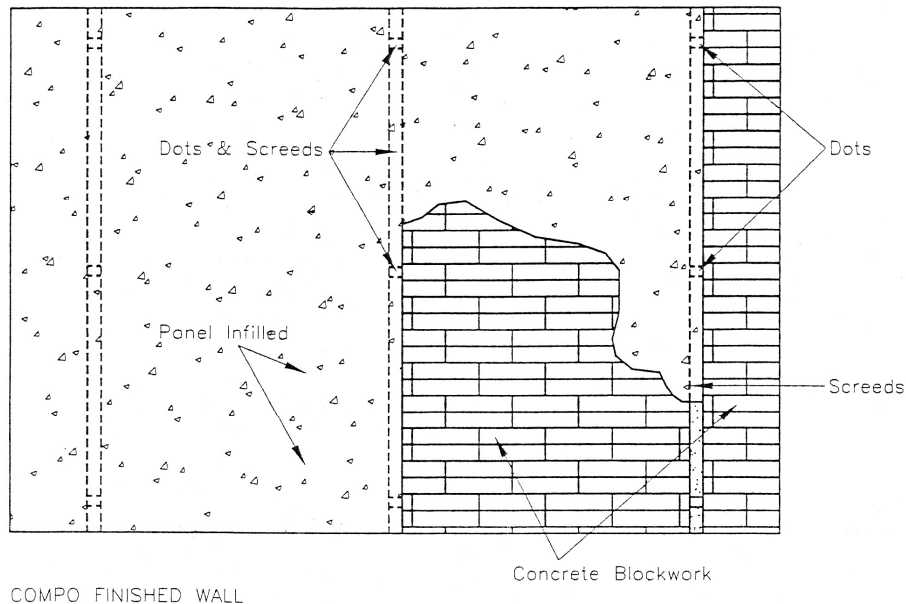
Place Dots at floating rule length (approx) apart and at a height within arms reach above floor level. These Dots are set out to the thickness required for the coat of material to be applied (ensuring that allowance has been made for covering the 'Proudest' or 'Hardest' point on the background to be coated) by plumbing with a spirit level used in conjunction with a parallel rule.

Method (B)

This method employs the use of the Plumb-bob and Cord Line. It is the most practical method for lofty walls. The plumb-bob is suspended by the line from a point about 150mm (6" approx) down from the top of the wall and clear of it. When perfectly at rest the plumb line is vertical and therefore can be used as the reference point for measuring from to form the Dots.

The plumbing of Dots in both these methods is only necessary at the extreme ends of surfaces to be coated and subsequent (further) Dots (usually called intermediate Dots) are 'ranged' or 'lined-in' from these original Dots.

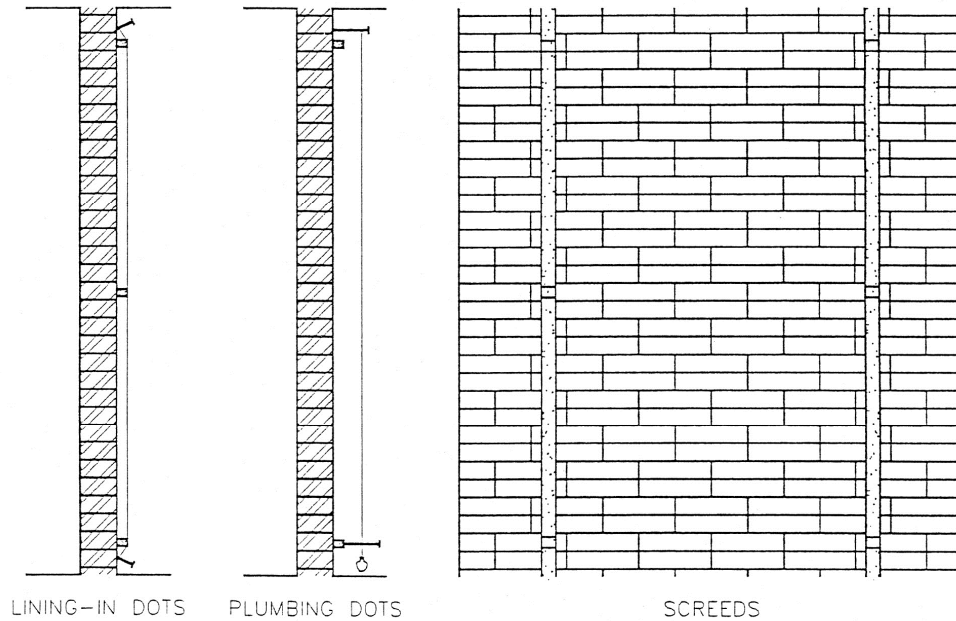
The formation of the Screeds is carried out when the Dots have set. They (the Screeds) can be formed either horizontally or vertically but, most plasterers favour the vertical screeds especially for lofty walls as, when floating to them later on, the surplus material can be held on the, floating rule and then transferred to the spot board for re-use. Horizontal Screeds are favoured to some extent for the lower height walls (3m approx.) but most of the surplus material then tends to fall on the floor, which means it must be picked up and re-softened for further use. Working with them entails slightly less labour in operating the floating rule however.



Dotting and Screeding Ceilings

In buildings where first class work is specified ceilings are levelled to ensure accuracy of the finish. This is essential when mouldings, such as cornices are specified. This method is relatively easy to ensure this accuracy.

A level line is marked round the walls at approximately 300mm (12" approx) this line is known as the 'Datum Line' and its function is similar to that of the line suspending the plumb-bob in the method previously described for screeding lofty walls (Method B). A mark is now made on a wooden square this mark is placed to ensure a minimum coat of material over the proudest or hardest point on the background to be coated. Thus, when the square is held against the walls and the mark on it corresponds to the Datum Line, Dots pressed to the ceiling are of course level. From these primary Dots levelled round the ceiling perimeter, intermediate Dots can now be lined-in and when all Dots are set, screeds can be formed. When the screeds are set, the floating coat is laid on and the floating rule is transversed over the screed to give a true and level ceiling.



2.0 Applying Temporary Timber Rules to External Angles and Door Openings

Key Learning Points

- Method of plumbing, leveling and fixing temporary rules to door openings and external angles

2.1 Plumbing, Leveling and Fixing Temporary Rules

External angles can be formed using timber rules or laths. Timber rules are nailed to external angles and the reveals of door and window openings plumbed and lined in. Margins should be checked top, bottom and middle for accuracy. The area between the rules can then be floated, the rules taken off, re-fixed checking margins and squareness on the opposite side and this side can then be floated.

S O L A S

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