CHAPTER 16

Circular or Curved Walls



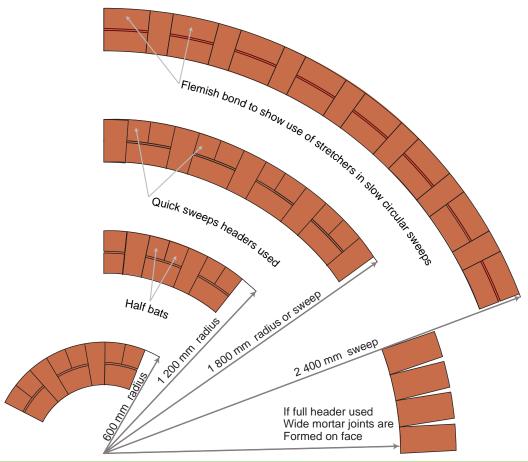




CIRCULAR OR CURVED WALLS

Circular walls can create interesting features inside a house and in gardens, such as around trees or retaining flower bed walls or garden seats. The recommended method of building a curved wall is the line or trammels method. Note that some of the bricks on the inner curve may have to be cut to avoid excessively wide joints.

A half brick wall will have a less complicated bond.



16.1 - Plans of 1 brick circular walls

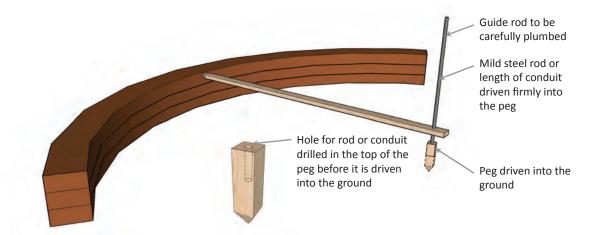
Trammel Method

- 1. Drive a hole down the centre of a short length of batten as illustrated.
- 2. Insert a mild steel rod into the hole. Note: The rod must be truly plumb.
- 3. Decide on the circle diameter, find the radius and cut a length of wood (trammel) equal to radius.
- 4. Drill a hole the size of the rod at one end of the trammel.
- 5. Lower trammel onto rod.
- 6. Scribe an arch.

Another rough method of scribing an arch is to tie a loop on a piece of string equal to the radius. Hook loop over rod and scribe the required arch.

This method has a disadvantage to the trammel method, in that it is not always possible to keep the string equally taut. This results in an irregular curve. The trammel method is therefore recommended.





16.2 - Trammel method

To mark out excavations

- 1. Fix a nail to the trammel and scribe a line on the ground. This line represents the face of the wall.
- 2. Measure back from the line a distance equal to the width of the wall. Scribe a line.
- 3. Measure 150mm on outside of the two lines
- 4. Now excavate 400mm deep between the outer lines.
- 5. Level trench
- 6. Insert level depth pegs so that they protrude 300mm above trench bottom.
- 7. Cast in concrete to the tops of the depth pegs.
- 8. When the concrete is dry use trammel to scribe a line indicating wall face (line).
- 9. Proceed to build the curved wall using one of the methods illustrated.

During building the trammel must be used constantly to ensure, firstly, that the wall follows the correct curve and, secondly, to make the wall plumb. A level must still be used across the top of each course as a line cannot be used in this curved construction.

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