

Masonry Trowels

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Hand Tools



Photo: Mike Lupinacci — CC BY-SA 3.0 — via Wikimedia Commons (Masons_trowel.jpg)

Masonry trowels are flat steel blades with handles for spreading mortar and laying brick, block and stonework. Different shapes suit spreading, pointing and finishing, and quality steel springs true without flexing.

Key Features

- Philadelphia and London patterns
- Pointing and gauging trowels
- Spring steel blades
- Shaped wooden handles
- Sizes from 200 to 350 mm

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Spread mortar for bricklaying
- Lay blocks and stone courses
- Point and finish joints
- Mix and carry mortar

Safe Operation

1. Load mortar onto the trowel
2. Spread a full bed and furrow it
3. Lay the brick and tap to level
4. Clean excess mortar from joints
5. Keep the blade loaded efficiently

SAFETY NOTES

- Wear gloves and eye protection
- Keep the blade clear of hands and faces
- Do not use trowels as scrapers or pry bars
- Store blades clean and dry
- Do not strike with hammers

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean mortar off after each use
- Lightly oil the blade
- Check the handle is secure
- Re-sharpen the edges occasionally
- Store in a dry rack

Specification & Buying Notes

A 250 mm Philadelphia trowel plus a pointing trowel covers school masonry. Quality spring steel holds its shape; cheap blades bend and feel dead.