

### INCREASED EFFICIENCY – SAVING LABOUR TIME

The time it takes to cut a brick to the size you need is a key factor in the overall time it takes to lay bricks. Every time a bricklayer puts down his trowel is lost money for either the bricklayer or the contractor who is employing him.

When costing a bricklaying job or working out the time it will take to complete the job, it is usually considered that a bricklayer will be laying bricks for 7 out of 8 hours every day. The remaining hour is allowed for cutting bricks before the laying starts or for cutting them as they go, with a hammer and bolster or with their trowel.

***The large STIHL Brick Jig sat on the slab with the cut-off saw and the water supply manned by an operator not only gets the bricklayers started quicker but also enables the operator to cut up to 10 bricks at a time in just a few moments.***

It is estimated that one operator can cut enough bricks in an hour at the start of a day, using a large STIHL Brick Jig, for a gang of 6 bricklayers on a site to use through the course of the day. This would give the gang or their contractors the hour back for 5 of the 6 bricklayers, allowing them to lay bricks for the full day. At £15 an hour (£120 a day) this will save £75 a day.

Alternatively, the smaller bricklayer setting himself up to cut halves and three-quarters before he needs them, can similarly save most of that hour and maximise the time with a trowel in his hand earning money for himself or the contractor he is working for.

For some of the bigger contractors' sites, buying cut bricks is an option that may be considered. The average price of a regular house brick is approx. 40 pence. From one brick, using a large STIHL Brick Jig you can cut two halves; they would therefore cost 20 pence each plus the cost of a labourer to cut them. For 100 halves or 50 bricks cut in 5 batches of 10, it would take about 20 minutes. At £120 per day for labour that costs £5.00 plus the 50 bricks costing £20, totalling £25.00. A pre-cut half brick costs approx. £2.00 or £200 per 100. Therefore using the large STIHL Brick Jig and a labourer cutting whole bricks into halves would save £175.00 per 100 halves required on the site.

Some 'standard special' bricks can cost over £500 per 100. Many of those can be cut on either of the STIHL Brick Jigs. Making or cutting your own can show huge cost savings using the Jigs.

Similarly, working on scaffold trying to cut bricks on an angle for the gable end of the house has the same problems for the bricklayer as the square cuts, but usually demands he works in a more confined and awkward space.

***Using the small STIHL Brick Jig allows the bricklayer to set the angle of the gable with his first cut on the Jig and keep the Jig set at that angle until the job is finished. Marking the brick for the position of the first cut, the Jig is set for all the remaining cuts. Stored behind you with your cut-off saw, your mortar and bricks, the small STIHL Brick Jig can be pulled out and used quickly and easily.***

Using both of the STIHL Brick Jigs will result in a significant reduction in labour time for cutting and preparing bricks. This time can be put back into the bricklaying, allowing these skilled workers to spend their time actually laying bricks. The results are greater efficiency and faster construction.



### IMPROVED ACCURACY

#### Clean edges

On today's construction sites, pre-manufactured products help the industry to build houses faster and more consistently. Pre-moulded cavity closers for windows and doors, for example, help make cavities compliant to Building Regulations, as well as providing more reliable damp proofing, sealing in insulation and preventing drafts. In order to fit these, both the outside wall and the inside wall need to be finished at a door or window reveal with a clean edge to the cavity.

The best way to achieve this is to cut the bricks with a cut-off saw. However achieving an accurate measurement every time can be a challenge by eye for the average bricklayer.

***Using a STIHL Brick Jig takes the guess work out of measuring the cuts and allows an exact dimension to be achieved every time.***

#### High standard of angled finishes

Following the line of brickwork up to the gable on the end wall of a pitched roof is an aesthetic part of bricklaying where construction companies insist on a high standard of finish. Each top brick needs to be cut to fill the required space and accurately maintain the angle of the gable end.

***Working on the scaffold with the small STIHL Brick Jig, a bricklayer is able to set the angle of the cut to follow the gable either by using the first brick as a template or setting the angle from the drawings. Once set, every cut will be to exactly the same angle and the bricklayer can just concentrate on the position of the cut.***

Accuracy and quality are closely aligned in the construction industry. STIHL Brick Jigs allow that level of accuracy and so bring a further level of quality to the house building industry.



**INCREASED EFFICIENCY – LESS BRICK WASTAGE****Reasons for wastage**

Many sites accept that experienced bricklayers will be chopping bricks with a hammer and bolster or using the trowel as a blade. Only when the brick fails to break in the correct place or shatters across the holes do you start to realise the extent of the wastage. Similarly cutting the brick with a cut-off saw using the 'toe hold' technique, with the brick under foot, can result in wastage as the operator has more regard for his foot than the accuracy of the cut. Often the operator only cuts one half from a whole brick and disregards what's left.

**Impact of brick design**

There are a huge number of different types and designs of bricks on the market that range in price. They also range in their ability to be cut, due either to their hardness or to their design. For example, engineering bricks or bricks used below the damp proof course with their low moisture absorption, are very hard and brittle so do not break consistently. Similarly, bricks with holes in will shatter and old bricks will be too soft to break accurately.



With this in mind some companies target wastage as a key area to save money, encouraging Site Managers to check skips for wasted bricks and allowing quotas for the total number of bricks on a site. Over-runs carry penalties to the Site Manager or the Bricklaying Contractor

***Planning the regular cuts using the STIHL Brick Jigs and avoiding some of the handmade cuts or the 'toe hold' cuts will all reduce the number of wasted bricks. At around £30/£60 per 100 bricks that can result in a substantial cost saving.***

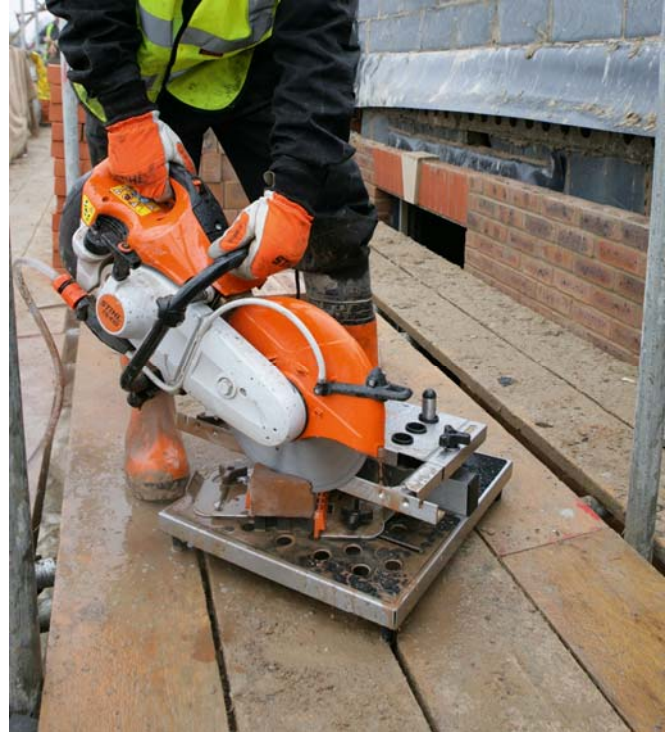
By helping to cut the bricks faster, more easily and more accurately, the STIHL Brick Jigs will prevent wasting all those parts of bricks that do not get used or the bricks that shatter or do not break cleanly. The consequence is significant cost savings on bricks and fewer part- bricks on the ground or in skips.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

The simple act of cutting bricks on a construction site is a necessary activity, but one which can carry health and safety risks for both the person doing the cutting and people in the immediate vicinity or underneath, if working on scaffolding.

The 'toe hold' method of securing the brick under the foot is currently the recognised method of stabilising the part of the brick you want or the part you plan to discard. Notwithstanding the obvious hazard to the operator even if the cut goes smoothly, the chance of a 'kick' from a hard fragment within the brick itself creates a real danger the cut-off saw will jump or the brick will shatter or throw itself from under the hold and fly away. Any of these scenarios could have serious health and safety consequences.

The large STIHL Brick Jig is used on the ground, probably on the 'slab' of the house or an area that can serve a number of bricklayers. An operator cuts bricks for the bricklayers, either by knowing he needs to cut half or three-quarter bricks, or by being given specific dimensions by the bricklayer.



***Using the Large Jig in this way means that the bricklayer or labourer is safely away from the running cut-off saw and the risk of flying bricks. With the bricks sitting up off the floor, the cut is well away from the feet, legs and body of the operator and there is less strain on their back.***

In addition to the risks of cutting the bricks, there is also the health and safety risk from dust or dust/water slurry from the cutting process. With the advances in water control on cut-off saws, dust should not be shrouding the bricklayers with every cut, but even if the dust is being suppressed, there is management of slurry to contain.

***Using a STIHL Brick Jig will allow the operator to contain the slurry in a tray or plastic sheet under the Jig and away from the cutting area. Also, due to the portability of the Jig it can be used in an area where water is available, reducing the risk of running out and spreading dust over the site.***

On the scaffold, bricks still need to be cut. Using the large STIHL Brick Jig will help reduce the number of cuts for windows and feature brickwork made on the scaffolding. However, the gable ends and working around the eaves will still often require individual cuts. A frequent and dangerous practice, again notwithstanding the act of cutting the brick, is the location where the brick is cut. A sacrificial board is usually intended to stop the operator from slicing the scaffold board itself where he is standing. When the board fails in its intended role, or is not even used, the outcome could be fatal. Weakened scaffold boards can give way at any time.

A brick that jumps and flies from a scaffold is a danger to the workers below as well as to the cut-off saw operator. Similarly, discarded parts of bricks left lying on the scaffold are a danger to the bricklayers walking the scaffold as well as workers below. People may trip over or kick these bricks off the boards.

***The small STIHL Brick Jig can be taken up onto the scaffold. This Jig can contain the cut bricks, lift the cut away from the scaffold boards and reduce wastage. All contribute to a safer working area. Having to remove the discarded part of the cut brick from the Jig also encourages the operator to drop it into a bucket for removal from the scaffold later. The small STIHL Brick Jig is small enough to store in the line of mortar and bricks on the scaffold, away from the thoroughfare where the bricklayers walk.***

Individually or together on a construction site, using the large and small STIHL Brick Jigs will mean the practice of cutting bricks and the effects this has will be safer and healthier for those involved and those around them.