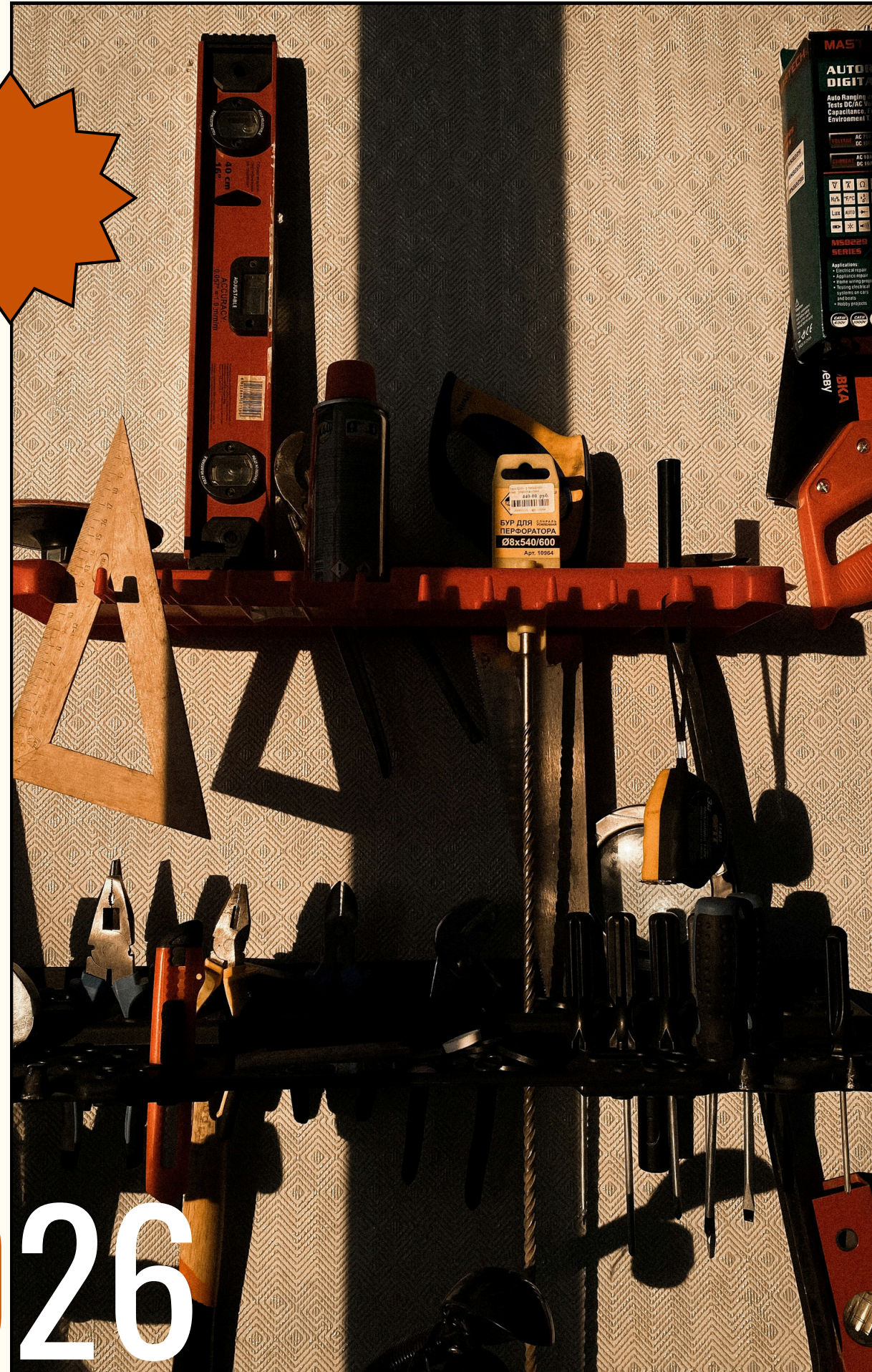


THE BUILDER'S ARSENAL (TOOLS OF THE TRADE)



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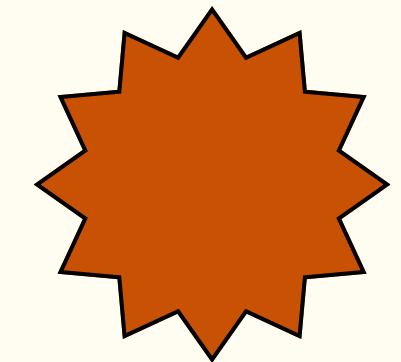
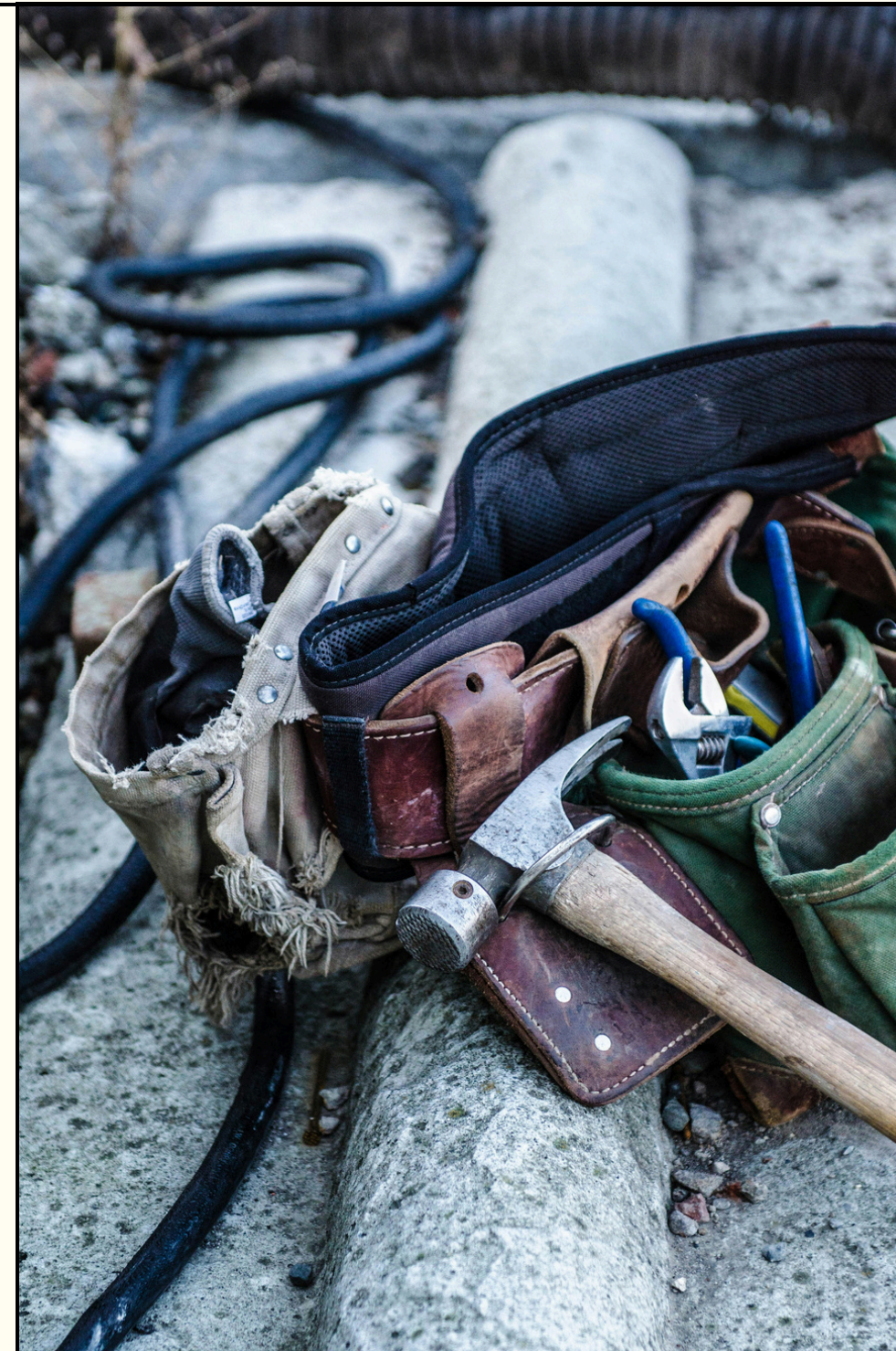
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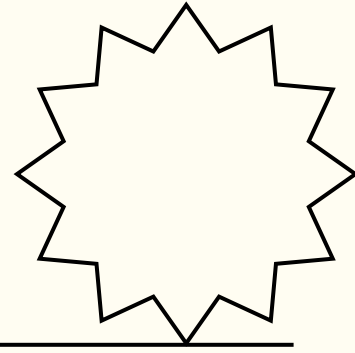
THE BUILDER'S ARSENAL

Welcome back to Class35. In our previous session, we established the 'Three Golden Rules' of construction: Square, Level, and Plumb. Today, we move into Chapter 2: Bricklaying Tools.

To achieve professional results, a builder must not only possess the correct equipment but also understand the specific function and maintenance of each tool. We categorize our arsenal into four functional groups: Setting-out, Bricklaying, Cutting, and Jointing.

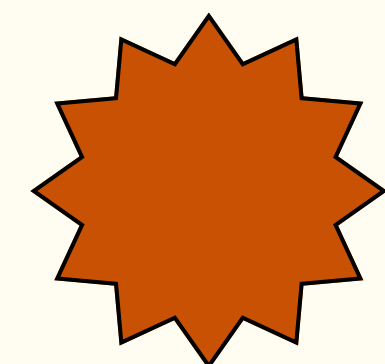
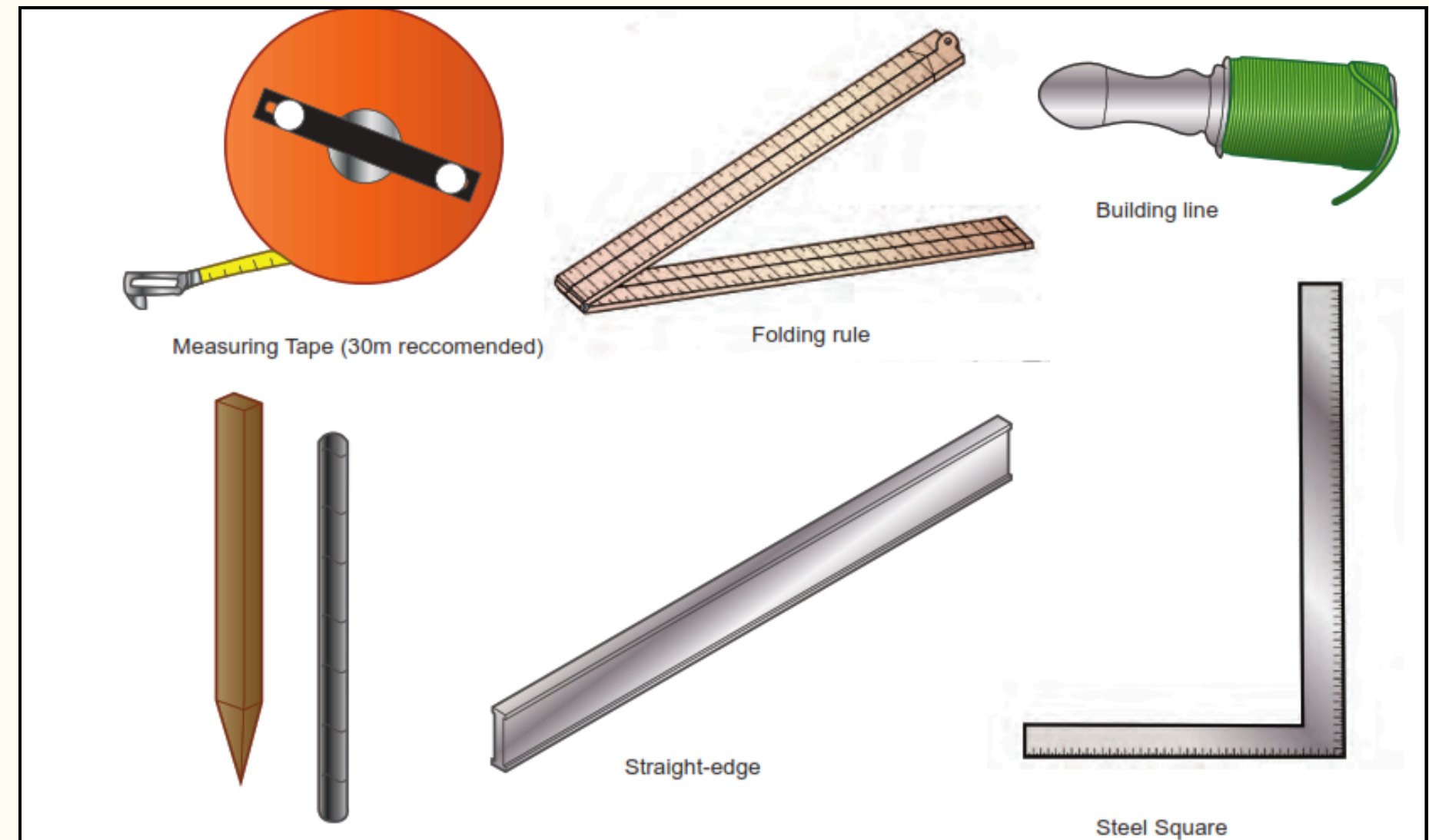


GROUP 1: SETTING- OUT TOOLS

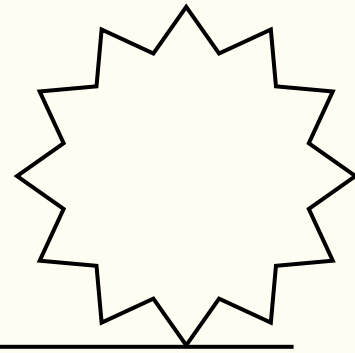


The foundation of accuracy begins with Setting-out tools. You will require a Steel Tape and a One-metre Folding Rule for all primary measurements.

To ensure our corners are at perfect right angles, we utilize the Steel Square. Because this is a precision steel tool, it is susceptible to oxidation; ensure it remains lightly oiled. You will also utilize Building Line and Steel or Wooden Pegs to establish your boundaries, and a Straight-edge—typically aluminum—to transfer levels across the site.



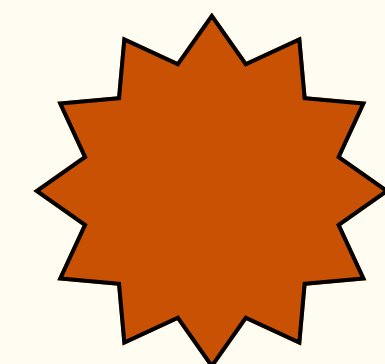
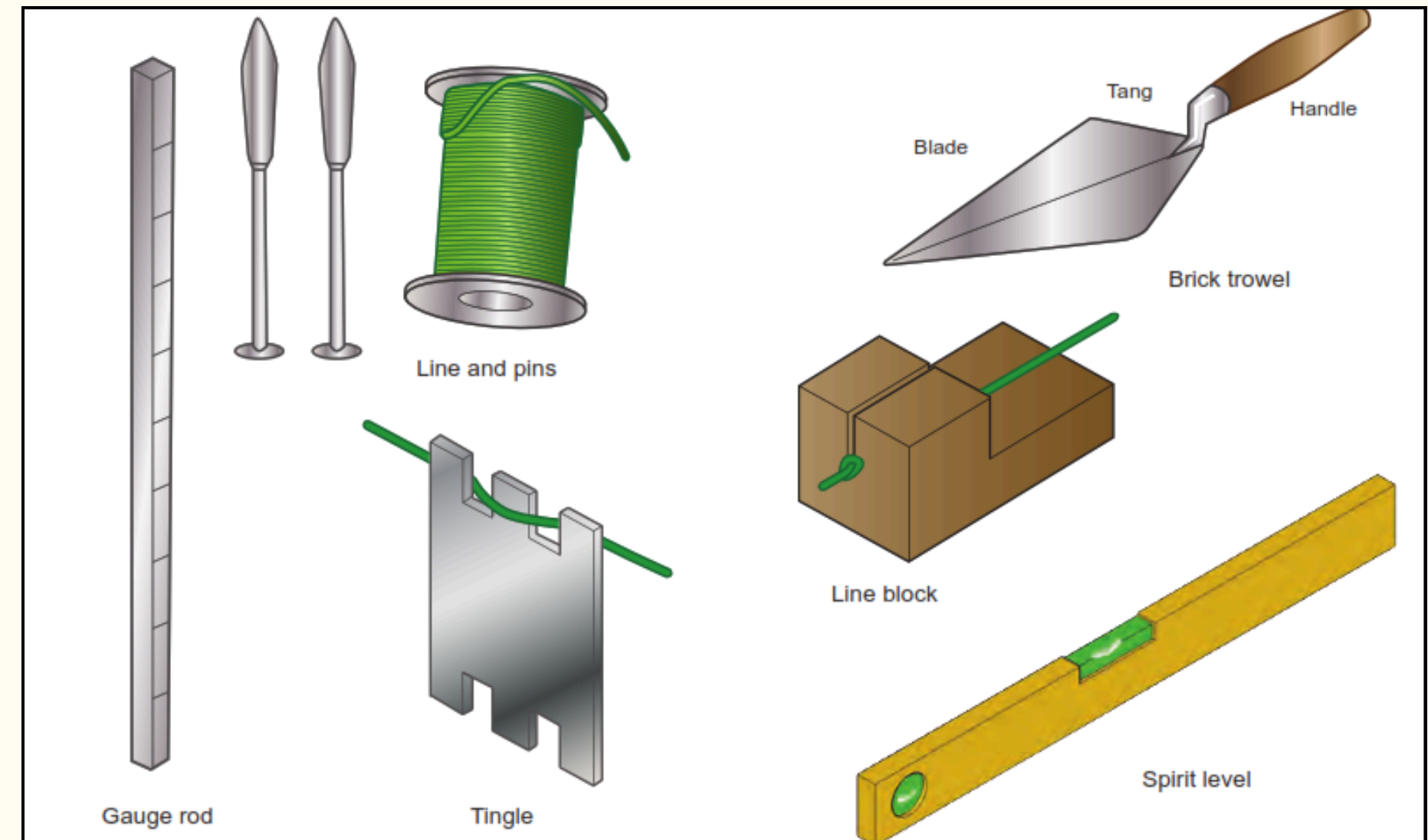
GROUP 2: BRICKLAYING TOOLS



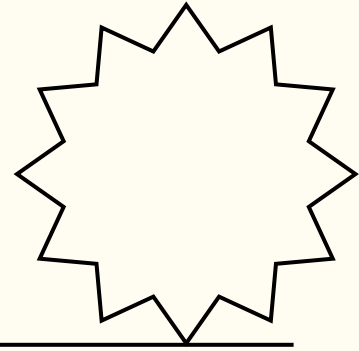
Next, we examine the core tools of the trade. The Brick Trowel is your primary instrument for spreading mortar. Proficiency comes only through consistent practice. Remember to clean and oil your trowel after every use, and avoid over-saturating the handle to prevent cracking.

For alignment, we use Line Pins and Line, or Line Blocks for built-up corners. To prevent the line from sagging over long distances, a Tingle is employed to maintain a true horizontal.

The Spirit Level is perhaps your most critical instrument for ensuring work is 'Level' and 'Plumb.' Handle it with extreme care; the glass vials are fragile. Never clean it with water; simply wipe it down with sacking to prevent moisture from penetrating the casing. Finally, the Gauge Rod—a custom-made straight edge—is used to ensure uniform course heights across all sections of the building.

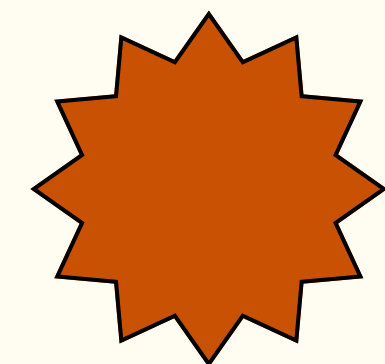
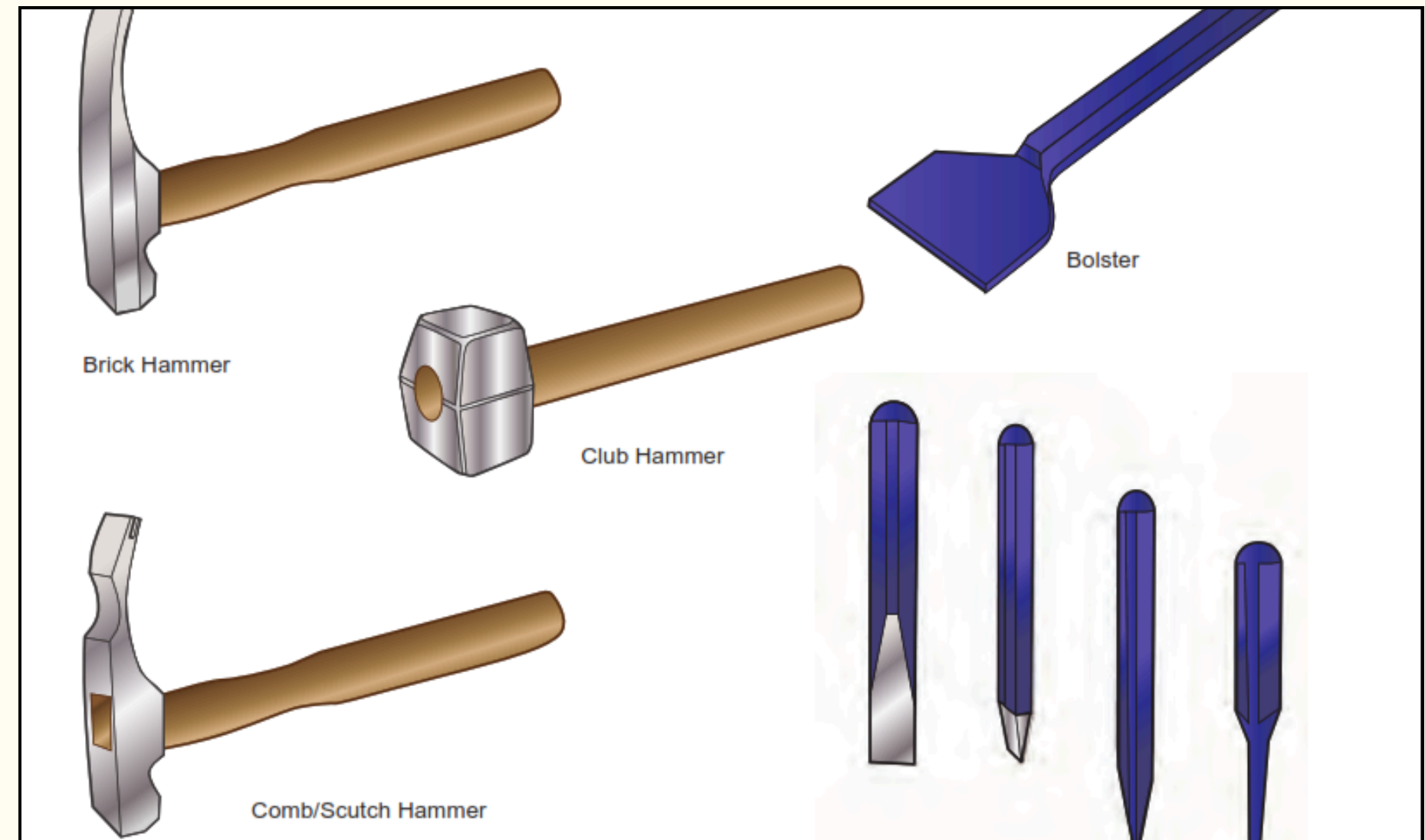


GROUP 3: BRICK CUTTING TOOLS

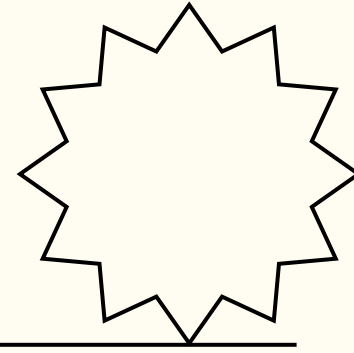


When modification is required, we turn to Brick Cutting Tools. The Brick Hammer is used for general hammering and cutting stock bricks, while the Bolster—a wide-blade chisel—is used with a Club Hammer for clean, precise breaks.

For 'chasing' walls—creating channels for plumbing or electrical pipes—you will use a Cold Chisel or a Scutch Hammer. The Scutch hammer is particularly useful as it features replaceable combs for trimming and dressing the brickwork.

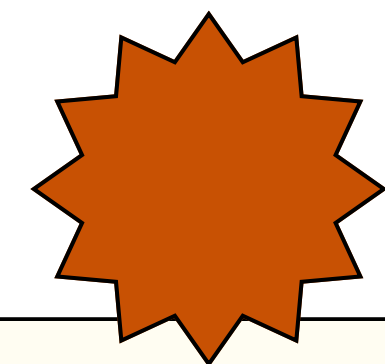
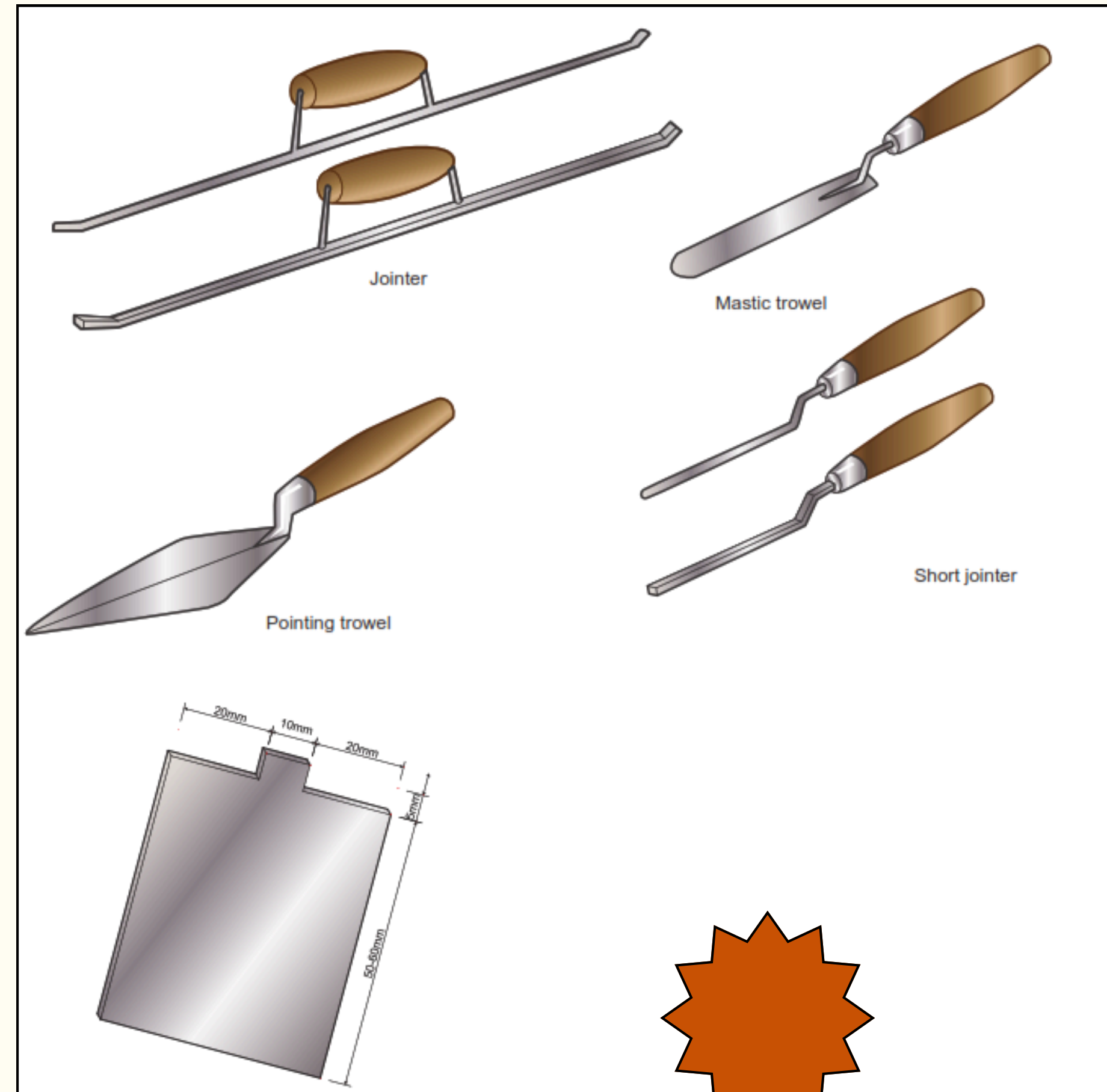


GROUP 4: JOINTING TOOLS

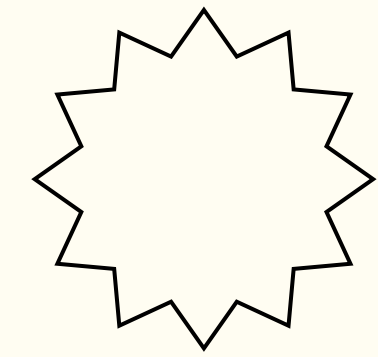


The final aesthetic and structural finish is achieved through Jointing Tools. The Long Jointer creates the horizontal hollow key joints, while the Short Jointer is used for vertical joints.

For detail work, the Pointing Trowel and the narrow Mastic Trowel are used to fill voids and refine the finish. Before jointing, a Scraper—which can be fabricated on-site—is used to remove excess mortar, ensuring a clean and professional appearance.



THE BUILDER'S ARSENAL



Professionalism in construction is defined by the care you take of your equipment. A builder is only as good as the tools they maintain. Please refer to the Class35 portal to download your Chapter 2 tool diagrams. Study the differences between the jointers and the various hammers, as we will be identifying these in your practical assessments. In our next session, we will cover Chapter 3: Terms in Brickwork, where we define the technical vocabulary of the modern building site. Class dismissed.