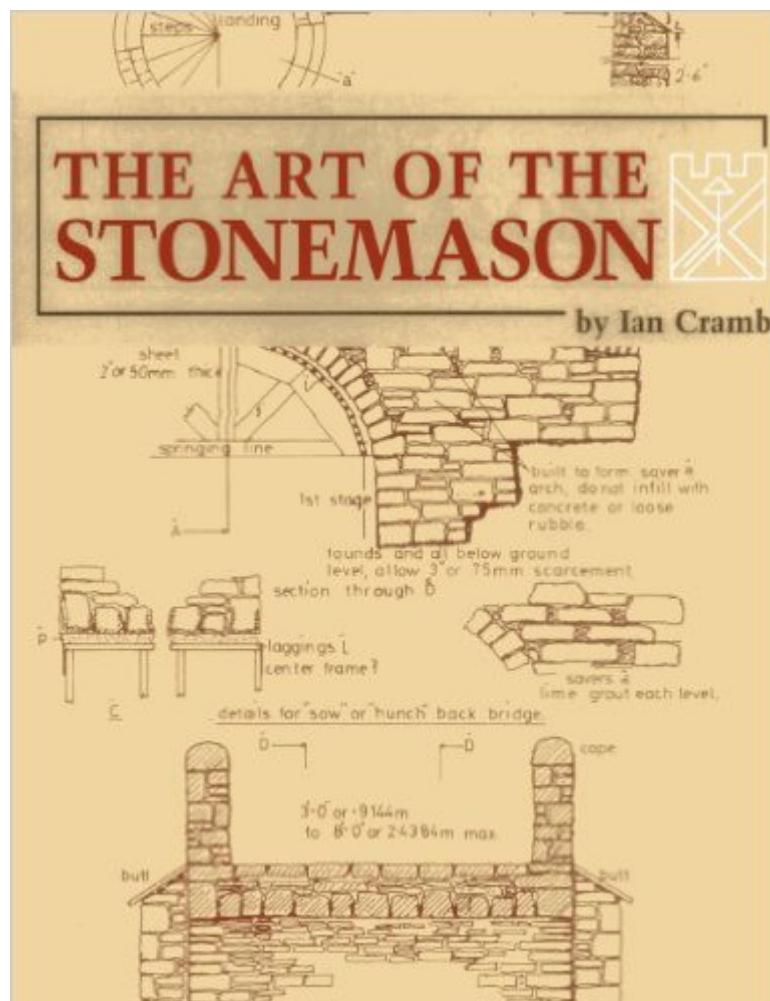


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# The Art Of The Stonemason



## Synopsis

Drawing on five generations of family tradition as stonemasons in his Native Scotland, Ian Cramb created this masterful work to pass on his knowledge and experience to craftsmen who wish to learn the ancient, but still necessary, principles of the stonemason's art.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Having had an interest in stonework for about 20 years I decided it was high time I try my hand at it. First I built a flagstone path, then some stone piers for a gate, stairs followed and even a dry stone bridge 13 feet wide with a ten foot span. According to the book I was using (by Charles McRaven) I was now a master stonemason. Interestingly, I'd never built a stone wall. Now...the walls for the bridge I mentioned paled in comparison to the arch work. Here I'd built a massive bridge with abutment walls that didn't look right. A couple Christmases ago I received Ian Cramb's book and I looked through it and put it aside. Recently part of a boundary wall of the estate I work at collapsed. Instead of rebuilding it in rammed earth as it had originally been built, I remembered Ian's book and I decided to seize the opportunity and learn about coursed random rubble and build the fallen wall in stone instead. I'm finishing this project right now and I can't tell you how invaluable this book has been. What saddens me though is that now I'm aware of so many mistakes I've made on previous projects. Most of you will know that what you build in stone will be a monument to your artistry. You don't ever want to redo stonework. Alas, if only I'd come across this book before. Believe it or not, I'll be redoing the walls on my bridge. In conclusion, most stone books or videos on Youtube will show

people building with stone and making the stones fit any which way. Ian Cramb explains that there is actually a method and specific instructions on setting each stone, that once mastered become easy to use and make your job so much easier. Thank you Mr Cramb.

This book is well conceived and written. As a 36yr.mason on a one to ten scale I give this book a eleven. This author is first class mason in every regard. His examples of riser tying together lifts makes all other rubble stone work appear insubstantial. Thank you Mr. Cramb for your excellent contribution to the craft.

Very complete and informative, down to mortar recipes for different uses. Other books on this subject were not in the same league.

Well written and well organized. Very helpful if building large houses from stone. To much information if you only want to build a small cabin. I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to acquire broad knowledge of stone masonry.

This is an excellent book, a stonemason myself, it really does give a true insight of the art or skill involved in stonemasonry. The illustration are excellent, with several cross sections to show the reader how stone walls are built.

This book had everything in it you could ever possibly want to know about stone masonry. It was overkill for my wall I was building, but very interesting. I'll never use most of what is in this book but I enjoyed reading about the art.

I'm not a stonemason nor am I related to one. So when I decided to build a stone wall I needed a resource book that could teach me how to make stone walls. The one kicker is reading is the easy part. Once you get the ideas down the work begins. My first stone wall was a success. This book and a lot of sweat equity was a whole lot cheaper than the going rates of a local contractor. Overall the book is easy to read. The concepts are easy to understand. I read the book over a couple of sessions and got to work.

Excellent resource!! A must have reference if you want to restore a lot of older stone work, or build with stone. ( most 'masons' in the USA seem to be block and brick layers with little or no training in

stone masonry) so weather a professional mason or home owner worth every cent!!

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