

Roof Impress Moulds

Instructions for use



The roof impress moulds are used with DAS (or equivalent) air drying clay to quickly produce slate or tile roofs. White DAS is best for slates to allow a suitable slate colour to be created, Terracotta DAS can be used for tiles.

Start by kneading the DAS to make sure it is soft (add a little water if necessary), then roll a thin (2mm thick - thinner for 1/48 - thicker for Pantiles) sheet of DAS (like pastry) large enough to cover the roof. Spread a thin layer of PVA glue over the roof and lay the sheet of DAS over the glue. If the area to be covered is too big for a single sheet separate pieces can be laid and blended together with a wet finger or spatula. Press down gently to give a smooth surface with no trapped air or glue bubbles. Trim off excess material from the edges.

Start from the bottom of the roof at a corner and press the impress mould firmly into the DAS. Lift out and check that the slates/tiles have been moulded cleanly. Reposition the mould alongside the previous position and repeat. Note that the moulds are designed so that the correct repeating pattern will be obtained when the mould is placed exactly alongside the previous position with no overlap. If you are working into an internal corner and cannot fit the complete mould into the space left, make sure that when you overlap with the previous position the slates/tiles are aligned correctly.

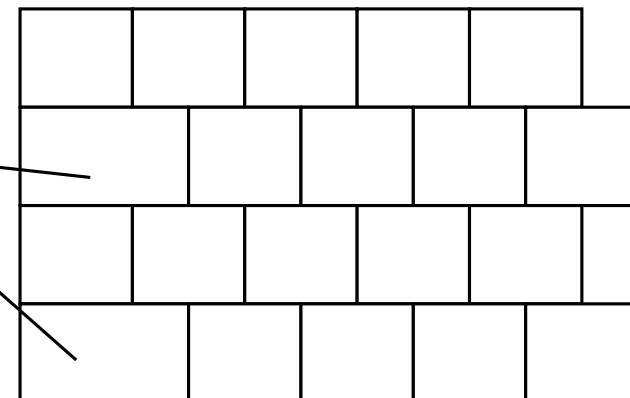
Roll out another thin strip of DAS for the ridge tiles/capping stones. Trim to width and lay onto the ridge of the roof smoothing down on each side. Use either the mould or a knife to mark the gaps between the ridge tiles/stones.

For 1/12 and 1/24 scales, when the whole roof has been covered, use an old toothbrush or paint brush to lightly stipple the surface of the slates or tiles. This flattens the surface (which may have been lifted slightly when removing the moulds) and adds a little texture to the surface. This is not necessary for 1/48 scale. Clean any DAS adhering to the moulds.

When the DAS has dried (allow at least 8 hours), the roof can be painted with acrylic paints. For slates apply an overall coat of paint to suit the colour of slate required. Individual slates can be picked out in different shades of the basic colour, if required. Tiles made from terracotta can be left in the natural finish. When the paint has dried apply a very thin wash of "dirty" grey/brown over the whole roof. This settles into the grooves and also produces a pleasing weathering effect over the slate/tile surfaces. The roof can be given a coat of matt acrylic varnish, if desired, to give extra protection to the surface.

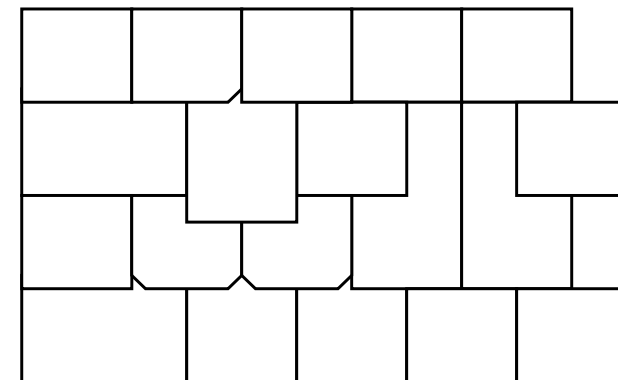
Roof slates and tiles

1½ sized slates or tiles



At the edge of the roof, the slate and plain tile moulds will create alternate full and half slates/tiles. The normal practice is to have alternate full and one and a half slates/tiles as shown above. Use a spatula or knife to smooth out the groove between the half slate/tile and the adjacent full one. This does not apply to Pantiles.

Old roofs often have some damage to the roof - slates or tiles may be broken, have corners missing or have slipped. Slates/tiles may even be missing altogether. A knife or spatula can be used to remove a corner or to remove the slate/tile completely, extending the groove from the row below into the space created. Alternatively a slipped slate/tile can be made by adding a small piece of DAS below a moulded slate/tile and blending it in using a knife or spatula.



Impress moulds for brick, stone, paving, slates and tiles are available in 1/12, 1/24 and 1/48 scales from:

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