

Building An Entry Monument

Basic Steps for Building an Entry Monument.



Enhance your home in just a weekend with a dramatic entry monument that can be installed directly on patios or pavement as well as on an unfinished surface such as sod and soil. This project demonstrates how to build on an unfinished surface by creating a foundation pad.

Poor soil conditions under the foundation pad may require additional attention. See How-to sheet #140 for more foundation information.



Corner Block



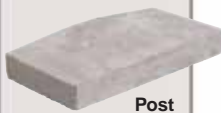
AB Dublin Block



AB York Block



Wall Cap

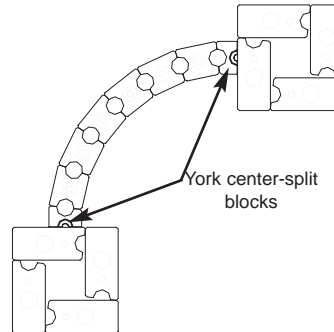


Post Cap

Step 1 Layout the Pattern

Begin by laying out the entire first course of blocks, as a guide for where the sod and soil will be removed to construct the base. To do this you will need to split a AB York center-split block and place one half on each end of the wall panel. (Figure 1). See *How-to sheet #210 for more information on cutting and splitting*. Then use a shovel to cut around the blocks to mark the layout.

Figure 1: First Course Pattern

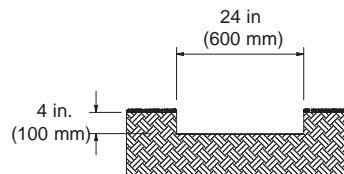


Step 1
Cut Around Blocks to Mark Layout

Step 2 Dig Area for Foundation Pad

Set aside the first course of blocks. Remove the sod and soil in the area marked. For the post locations dig a hole 24 in. (600 mm) square, 4 in. (100 mm) deep (Figure 2). For the wall between the posts, dig a trench 3 in. (75 mm) deep to match the width and location of the blocks (Figures 3).

Figure 2: Post Base

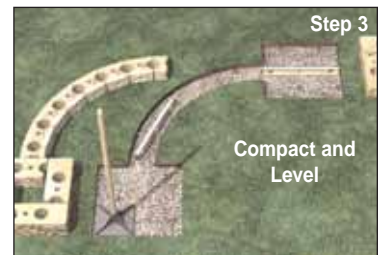
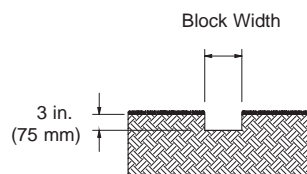


Step 2
Remove Soil

Step 3 Prepare the Foundation Pad

Next, prepare the foundation pad. Place 4 in. (100 mm) of crushed rock for the post locations and 3 in. (75 mm) in the trench between the posts. Thoroughly compact with a hand compactor. Level the pad in all directions, making sure the transition between the post and wall foundations are at the same height and level with each other.

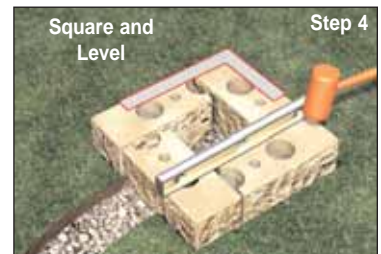
Figure 3: Wall Base



Step 3
Compact and Level

Step 4 Install First Post Base Course

The first post is the tallest of the two posts to be constructed. Begin the base course by placing 4 Corner Blocks with the long sides facing out. Align the blocks with a square, and level with a dead blow hammer.



Step 4
Square and Level

Step 5 - Complete the First Post

Place the second course of Corner Blocks on the post by alternating the pattern to offset the vertical seams (Step 5). Continue stacking a total of six courses, alternating the pattern on each course.



Step 5
Offset the vertical seams



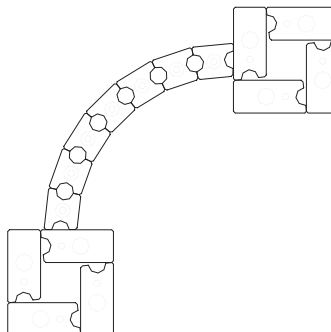
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Step 6 - Build the Wall

Now we are ready to build the wall. For the base course, split a AB York center-split block and place the split side against the post, as shown in Figure 1. Install the six York blocks needed to build the base course. Use the other half of the AB York center-split block to finish the base course by placing the split side against the next post. On the second course, no splitting will be needed, just place seven York blocks (Figure 4). **Building two courses at a time will ensure proper alignment.**

Figure 4: Second Course Pattern



Step 7 - Build the Second Post

The second post will be shorter than the first post. Build the second post at the end of the curved wall. Again, place 4 Corner Blocks with the long sides facing out, making sure they are tight against the split block of the wall base course. Align the blocks with a square, and level with a dead blow hammer. Continue stacking a total of four courses, alternating the pattern on each course.

Step 8 - Stepping Down the Wall

The step down will be accomplished over two courses. Begin to step down the wall on the third course. *The third and fourth courses will only touch the taller post.* Split a AB York center-split block and place the split side against the first post. Then place 4 AB York blocks to complete this course. For the top course, place 2 York blocks against the first post to complete this course. This will give you a gradual step down effect to the second post.

Step 9 - Capping the Posts

Finish the posts with Post Caps. Apply a bead of masonry adhesive (optional) near the outer edge of each Corner Block and place the caps on top of the post.

Step 10 - Capping the Wall

Finish the wall with Wall Caps. Where the wall steps down stack two caps on top of each other for a more gradual look. There will be some small gaps between the caps that can be filled by cutting caps to fit. When cutting caps to fit, first score the top using a saw with a masonry blade. Place the split caps on the wall with the split side facing in and the finished side facing out against the post. *See How-to sheet #210 for more information on cutting and splitting.*

Step 11 Securing Caps (Optional)

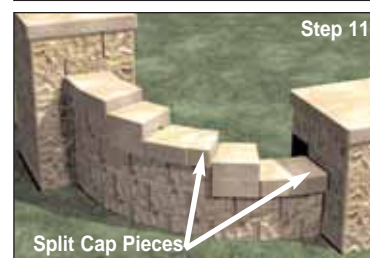
Apply a bead of adhesive along the front and back edges of the blocks and under the additional step-down caps.

Tools Needed:

Dead Blow Hammer	Square
Measuring Tape	Level
Skill Saw w/ Masonry Blade	Safety
Hand Compactor	Glasses
Hammer & Chisel	Work Gloves

Materials Needed:

40 Corner Blocks
21 AB York Blocks
10 Wall Caps
4 Post Caps
2 Tubes of Masonry Adhesive
8 - 50 lb Bags of Crushed Rock



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