



Sussex Freemasons - West Group
‘The West Wing’
(Brighton, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

‘The West Wing’ Lodge of Instruction

Lesson 11

The Ornaments and Furniture of the Lodge

Preceptors Notes



Sussex Freemasons - West Group
"The West Wing"
(Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

Contents

Lesson Objectives	Page 3
Lesson Text	Page 4
Magazine/Student Copy	Page 9



Sussex Freemasons - West Group
The West Wing
(Brighton, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Pulborough, Steyning and Worthing)

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

Lesson Aim

To identify and Explain the furniture and Ornaments of the Lodge

Lesson Objectives.

By the end of this lesson the students will be able to :

- Identify the Furniture and Ornaments of the Lodge.
 - Explain their speculative meaning.
- Identify how they apply to moral conduct.
 - Analyse their spiritual path.

The Ornaments and Furniture of the Lodge

The Traced Design: Lessons from the Floor to the Heavens

"The Lodge, to a Speculative Mason, is a representation of the Universe. Within its tiled walls, every emblem, tool, and boundary speaks a silent language of moral excellence and spiritual progression."

To the casual observer, the lodge room is merely a hall of assembly. To the seeking mind, however, it is a masterclass in human destiny. Let us turn our sight to the structural essence of our spiritual workshop: the **Ornaments** that decorate our path, and the **Furniture** that establishes our law.

Together, these symbols serve as our maps, proving that the tools required to build a temple of stones are the very same tools required to build a noble life.

I. The Ornaments of the Lodge

The Ornaments of the Lodge do not exist for mere aesthetic display. They represent our mortal environment, our cosmic surrounding, and the celestial guidance that shines overall.

1. The Mosaic Pavement (The Chequered Floor)

Lying at the centre of our workspace is the Mosaic Pavement—an alternating grid of white and black tiles.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** The pavement represents human life on this earthly plane. The white squares depict our moments of joy, prosperity, virtue, and health; the black squares represent our sorrows, adversity, temptation, and decay.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** The chequered floor warns us of the instability of our mortal state today. It teaches us **moral equilibrium**. When walking upon the white tiles of prosperity, we must remain humble and avoid pride, remembering that adversity may lie a single step away. Conversely,

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

- when walking upon the black tiles of grief, we must not despair, knowing that light and hope are ever-present.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** Spiritually, the Mosaic P pavement prompts the initiate to transcend dualistic thinking. It teaches us that light and shadow are both necessary aspects of the earthly experience. By finding our centre upon this floor, we learn to observe our passions from a place of quiet, divine stillness.

2. The Tessellated Border

Surrounding our chequered floor is the Tessellated Border, adorned with beautiful, companionable tassels.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** Historically, the border represents the planets and the four cardinal virtues—Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice—which surround and protect our lives.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** The interlaced cords and tassels symbolize the unseen bonds of **brotherly love and mutual charity** that encircle our fraternity. It reminds us that we do not walk the uneven pavement of life alone; we are bound to our families, our neighbours, and our brethren by a comforting grid of support and moral duty.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** The Tessellated Border represents the cosmic envelope of Divine Providence. It teaches the seeker that despite the chaotic dualities of the physical plane, a greater, harmonious law of order holds the universe together, comforting the spirit throughout its earthly pilgrimage.

3. The Blazing Star

Shining directly at the centre of the lodge is the Blazing Star.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** Speculatively, the star represents Prudence, the guiding eye of the Great Architect of the Universe, and the light of truth.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** It acts as an open roadmap, urging us to let wise, prudent judgment guide our choices. It instructs us to keep our

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

- intentions clear and transparent, shining as honest citizens in our communities.
 - **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** The Blazing Star is the symbol of the **divine spark within humanity**—the inner spiritual lighthouse or the higher conscience. Once the dualities of the senses (the Mosaic Pavement) are balanced, this star begins to burn brightly in the centre of the initiate's consciousness, illuminating the pathway to universal truth.
-

II. The Furniture of the Lodge

If the Ornaments depict our environment and aspirations, the Furniture of the Lodge provides our primary rules of conduct and spiritual directions. Without these three Great Lights, a lodge cannot legally or speculatively exist.

"As the sun rules the day and the moon governs the night, so should the Great Lights rule and govern our conduct."

1. The Volume of the Sacred Law (VSL)

Open upon the altar rests the holy text of our faith. Whether it be the Holy Bible, the Torah, the Quran, the Vedas, or another collection of sacred writ, it represents the absolute standard of divine truth.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** The VSL represents the direct revelation of the spiritual laws governing the cosmos.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** It serves as our ultimate guide for duty—to our Creator, our families, our neighbours, and ourselves. It outlines the immutable boundaries of justice, truth, and golden rule conduct.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** The VSL teaches the candidate that no major temple of self-improvement can be securely built without establishing a spiritual foundation. It encourages the spirit to seek alignment with cosmic wisdom before undertaking any noble task.

2. The Square

An instrument of ninety degrees, the Square is the tool of the craftsman used to verify that stones are perfectly carved for building.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** In speculative Masonry, the Square is the emblem of morality, virtue, and truth.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** It commands us to "**square our actions by the square of virtue.**" This means behaving with absolute honesty, equity, and fairness toward all men. To "act on the square" is to live a life free of deceit, honouring our promises and treating every human being with equal dignity.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** Spiritually, the Square represents the material plane and our physical nature. It is the earthly force that shapes our raw, unrefined instinct (the Rough Ashlar) into an upright, symmetrical structure (the Perfect Ashlar) that is fit to receive the light of the spirit.

3. The Compasses

The Compasses are used by the designer to draft proportions, draw perfect circles, and determine spatial limits.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** The Compasses represent the spiritual boundary, emotional restraint, and our connection with the infinite.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** The Compasses instruct us to "**circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds.**" It teaches the critical moral lesson of self-control. By limiting our ambitions and temper, we prevent excess from corrupting our character, ensuring that our behaviour remains honourable and constructive.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** While the Square symbolizes the physical body and earthly mind, the Compasses represent the higher, celestial spirit. As the candidate ascends the degrees, the position of these tools on the altar changes, symbolizing the beautiful, gradual mastery of the spiritual nature over the physical desires.

Conclusion: The Unified Journey

Brethren, when we look upon the floor, we see the dualities of our mortal walk. When we look to the altar, we find the divine guidelines of the Sacred Law, the moral correction of the Square, and the spiritual limits of the Compasses. Finally, when we

raise our eyes to the centre of the ceiling, we find the Blazing Star of divine intuition guiding us home.

Let these symbols not remain static within our temples. Take them with you into the quarries of worldly life. Walk balanced upon the pavement, stay bounded by the border, live squared with your neighbour, act circumscribed by wisdom, and let your inner star shine brightly.



The West Wing Learning and Development Team

Student Copy

Lesson 11 - The Ornaments and Furniture of the Lodge

Lesson Aim

To identify and Explain the furniture and Ornaments of the Lodge

Lesson Objectives.

By the end of this lesson the students will be able to :

- Identify the Furniture and Ornaments of the Lodge.
- Explain their speculative meaning.
- Identify how they apply to moral conduct.
- Analyse their spiritual path.

The Ornaments and Furniture of the Lodge

The Traced Design: Lessons from the Floor to the Heavens

"The Lodge, to a Speculative Mason, is a representation of the Universe. Within its tiled walls, every emblem, tool, and boundary speaks a silent language of moral excellence and spiritual progression."

To the casual observer, the lodge room is merely a hall of assembly. To the seeking mind, however, it is a masterclass in human destiny. Let us turn our sight to the structural essence of our spiritual workshop: the **Ornaments** that decorate our path, and the **Furniture** that establishes our law.

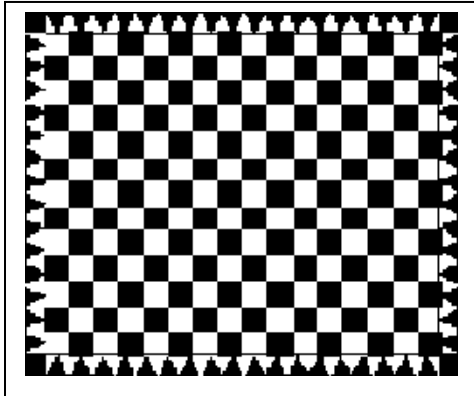
Together, these symbols serve as our maps, proving that the tools required to build a temple of stones are the very same tools required to build a noble life.

I. The Ornaments of the Lodge

The Ornaments of the Lodge do not exist for mere aesthetic display. They represent our mortal environment, our cosmic surrounding, and the celestial guidance that shines overall.



1. The Mosaic Pavement (The Chequered Floor)



Lying at the centre of our workspace is the Mosaic Pavement—an alternating grid of white and black tiles.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** The pavement represents human life on this earthly plane. The white squares depict our moments of joy, prosperity, virtue, and health; the black squares represent our sorrows, adversity, temptation, and decay.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** The chequered floor warns us of the instability of our mortal state today. It teaches us **moral equilibrium**. When walking upon the white tiles of prosperity, we must remain humble and avoid pride, remembering that adversity may lie a single step away. Conversely, when walking upon the black tiles of grief, we must not despair, knowing that light and hope are ever-present.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** Spiritually, the Mosaic P pavement prompts the initiate to transcend dualistic thinking. It teaches us that light and shadow are both necessary aspects of the earthly experience. By finding our centre upon this floor, we learn to observe our passions from a place of quiet, divine stillness.

2. The Tessellated Border

Surrounding our chequered floor is the Tessellated Border, adorned with beautiful, companionable tassels.

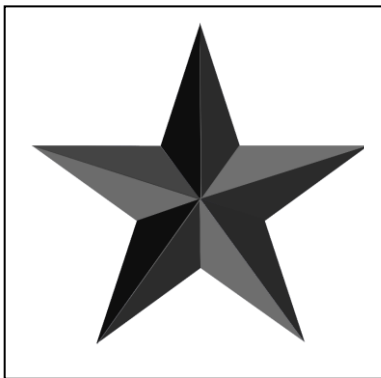
- **The Speculative Meaning:** Historically, the border represents the planets and the four cardinal virtues—Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice—which surround and protect our lives.



The West Wing Learning and Development Team

- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** The interlaced cords and tassels symbolize the unseen bonds of **brotherly love and mutual charity** that encircle our fraternity. It reminds us that we do not walk the uneven pavement of life alone; we are bound to our families, our neighbours, and our brethren by a comforting grid of support and moral duty.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** The Tessellated Border represents the cosmic envelope of Divine Providence. It teaches the seeker that despite the chaotic dualities of the physical plane, a greater, harmonious law of order holds the universe together, comforting the spirit throughout its earthly pilgrimage.

3. The Blazing Star



Shining directly at the centre of the lodge is the Blazing Star.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** Speculatively, the star represents Prudence, the guiding eye of the Great Architect of the Universe, and the light of truth.
 - **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** It acts as an open roadmap, urging us to let wise, prudent judgment guide our choices. It instructs us to keep our intentions clear and transparent, shining as honest citizens in our communities.
 - **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** The Blazing Star is the symbol of the **divine spark within humanity**—the inner spiritual lighthouse or the higher conscience. Once the dualities of the senses (the Mosaic Pavement) are balanced, this star begins to burn brightly in the centre of the initiate's consciousness, illuminating the pathway to universal truth.
-

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

II. The Furniture of the Lodge



If the Ornaments depict our environment and aspirations, the Furniture of the Lodge provides our primary rules of conduct and spiritual directions. Without these three Great Lights, a lodge cannot legally or speculatively exist.

"As the sun rules the day and the moon governs the night, so should the Great Lights rule and govern our conduct."

1. The Volume of the Sacred Law (VSL)

Open upon the altar rests the holy text of our faith. Whether it be the Holy Bible, the Torah, the Quran, the Vedas, or another collection of sacred writ, it represents the absolute standard of divine truth.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** The VSL represents the direct revelation of the spiritual laws governing the cosmos.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** It serves as our ultimate guide for duty—to our Creator, our families, our neighbours, and ourselves. It outlines the immutable boundaries of justice, truth, and golden rule conduct.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** The VSL teaches the candidate that no major temple of self-improvement can be securely built without establishing a spiritual foundation. It encourages the spirit to seek alignment with cosmic wisdom before undertaking any noble task.

2. The Square

An instrument of ninety degrees, the Square is the tool of the craftsman used to verify that stones are perfectly carved for building.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** In speculative Masonry, the Square is the emblem of morality, virtue, and truth.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** It commands us to "**square our actions by the square of virtue.**" This means behaving with absolute honesty, equity, and fairness toward all men. To "act on the square" is to live a life free of deceit, honouring our promises and treating every human being with equal dignity.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** Spiritually, the Square represents the material plane and our physical nature. It is the earthly force that shapes our raw, unrefined instinct (the Rough Ashlar) into a upright, symmetrical structure (the Perfect Ashlar) that is fit to receive the light of the spirit.

3. The Compasses

The Compasses are used by the designer to draft proportions, draw perfect circles, and determine spatial limits.

- **The Speculative Meaning:** The Compasses represent the spiritual boundary, emotional restraint, and our connection with the infinite.
- **The Guide for Moral Conduct:** The Compasses instruct us to "**circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds.**" It teaches the critical moral lesson of self-control. By limiting our ambitions and temper, we prevent excess from corrupting our character, ensuring that our behaviour remains honourable and constructive.
- **The Path to Spiritual Enlightenment:** While the Square symbolizes the physical body and earthly mind, the Compasses represent the higher, celestial spirit. As the candidate ascends the degrees, the position of these tools on the altar changes, symbolizing the beautiful, gradual mastery of the spiritual nature over the physical desires.

The West Wing Learning and Development Team

Conclusion: The Unified Journey

Brethren, when we look upon the floor, we see the dualities of our mortal walk. When we look to the altar, we find the divine guidelines of the Sacred Law, the moral correction of the Square, and the spiritual limits of the Compasses. Finally, when we raise our eyes to the centre of the ceiling, we find the Blazing Star of divine intuition guiding us home.

Let these symbols not remain static within our temples. Take them with you into the quarries of worldly life. Walk balanced upon the pavement, stay bounded by the border, live squared with your neighbour, act circumscribed by wisdom, and let your inner star shine brightly.

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.