

For Battening

Once your felt has been pulled tightly and tapped across the section of roof you are slating, you need to start your battening as follows:

- Measure 320mm from the front top of your fascia board
- Do this at both ends of the felt
- Now tap a nail in one end, protruding 10mm, to hook your chalk line to.
- Take the other end of your line to the 2nd mark you made earlier.
- Pull the line tight, lift and drop the line. Now you have a straight chalk line to work from.

- Nail your first batten with its top against the line; always join battens halfway across any given rafter.

- Now measure down for your next batten 241mm, making sure you measure from the top of the 1st batten to the top of your 2nd batten.

- Now again starting from the chalk line batten measure up the roof 254mm for each batten their after.

Slates and Cuts That You Need To Complete the Roof

The size of slates you will need are as follows:

- 1st eave slate 600mm x 150mm
- 2nd eave slate 375mm x 300mm
- **Gable and Abutments:** use either 600mm x 150mm or 600mm x 450mm
- Top cuts are decided when you lay your last whole slate, you may have to cut 40mm off the 2nd to last slate, then be left with approx. 230mm of cut slate. Remember always have 254mm space between the bottom of each slate. This will give you the correct size cut for your very last slate at the top of each slope.

Abutment Soakers: when you fix your 375mm x 300mm 2nd eave slate nail a 330mm x 100mm x50mm soaker with the 100mm sitting on the slate, keeping the top level with the batten. From now on repeat this on every slate laid at the abutment.

In the next issue we will tell you how to cut and fix lead step flashing and lay your ridge tiles.