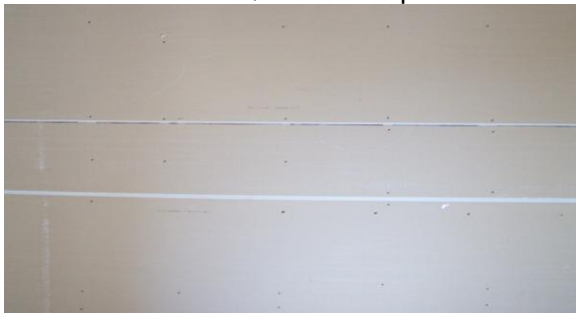


PLASTERING SHEETROCK

I am a stairbuilder and I also build Southwest Style doors. Some people love to play golf; I had rather be building a complicated staircase. I enjoy my work. I was born to be a carpenter.

But in the construction business you have to do it all. I have hung and finished a few truckloads of sheetrock. This week I am going to give you a procedure for plastering sheetrock (wallboard). I have had a load of email about the backblock article I wrote, 99.9% positive.



When you are going to plaster rock you need to hang the back (brown side) out. There are two advantages to this. One is you don't have to contend with the bevels in the field joint and at the top and bottom of the sheets. Second, is that, chemical and structural engineers say that the adhesion to the brown paper is about 25-30% more than the white side. I believe it.

Notice that I have put the 12" ripper in the center of the wall elevation. This is a lot easier than getting on your knees and taping a joint 12" off of the floor.

All you have to do is tape the joint, no floating is necessary. If we have a tight joint at the ceiling and corners we just run a bead of caulk in them and don't have to put tape and mud. We can plaster a wall faster than we can tape; bed, float, sand and texture a wall.

The mixture for the plaster is to get a 10 gallon plastic bucket (available at most hardware stores, they have big rope handles).

Put a box of lightweight drywall mud ($\frac{1}{2}$ cubic foot) in the bucket, and then pour in 3 quarts of latex paint (your choice of color) and mix this, then put in a $\frac{1}{2}$ cubic foot ($3\frac{3}{4}$ gallons) of ($\frac{1}{8}$ " screen) masons sand and mix well.

You will have one cubic foot ($7\frac{1}{2}$ gallons) of plaster, and it will cover about 100 square feet ($\frac{1}{8}$ "). Cost, about \$15-\$20, (\$3 gal) or you can buy interior plaster for \$50 (\$10 gal) a bucket and get 5 gallons. We are currently plastering a ICF (Concrete Filled Insulated Foam) house and we will save about \$3000 mixing our own plaster.

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Bob Johnston