

## PLAYING & BUILDING

### ORIGINS

The originating materials of clay bricks for building are, in a literal sense, the primary rocks of our Earth: e.g. gneiss and granite. The clay has developed from rocks over thousands of years. This genuine, unique, natural, earthly material is the basic stuff of all BauSteinZeit building bricks. The carefully sought clays of the region are suitably stored, and their plastic mass developed through exposure to air and water. Next, flat lengths of soft clay are shaped; to be sliced through by wire cutters and so separated into small pieces. In a special drying process, moisture is carefully evaporated from the little pieces. In a kiln, carefully fired to a temperature of about 1150 Celsius, the substance eventually converts, so that the pieces change into permanently hardened building bricks of clay: a change of state takes place in the potters' or ceramicists' workplace kilns.

The process gives every single brick its unalterable appearance.

Since primeval times building has been a basic human need.

BauSteinZeit encourages children to build up the small earthenware bricks, repeatedly, and to create their own fantasy worlds. Amazing structures arise, are destroyed, but yet again the pieces are built up into something new. To be able to do this children need no direction, but in this play they are allowed freedom for original, imaginative familiarity with these bricks.

The bricks can also be secured together „for real“ with (soluble) mortar. For that, wet clay must be specially prepared for use as a fixing medium\*. If doing that, children learn about fundamental materials. They discover that it is possible to alter the state of physical things, and recognise how the properties of clay might be altered.

BauSteinZeit is an activity toy which offers children numerous possibilities. Playing with the natural fired-clay building bricks helps children to improve their sensory and motor skills, to see and think in spatial terms, and engage in a practical approach to problems.

\* see details in main booklet

### BUILDING TIME

For many years small terracotta building bricks of natural clay, have been in production at the M.Wolf ceramics workshop. Their handy, comfortable faces, light weight, and **54x26x12mm** size (most suitable for children's grasp) ensure these miniature blocks provide stimulating play material for all children from the age of 4 years.

The range consists of various boxes of bricks, supplementary boxes, and single bricks. They all fit together without any problem. Building with the bricks and fitting them together suits the child's individual abilities. As children develop increased opportunities to create are possible.

Building Time : an interesting play opportunity for all age groups.

### SUPPLEMENTARY BLOCKS/EXPANSION



#### Basic bricks

130 whole, half, ¼ & ¾ hard bricks, wood, raw clay, introduction & plans  
Nr.: G/130



#### 32 Arch stones

to static building with many examples  
Nr.: B/32



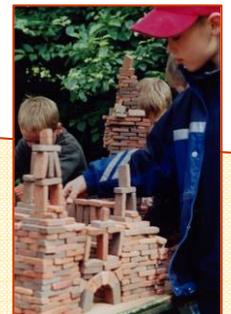
#### Arches (fixed)

in three different sizes  
Nr.: B/6



#### Roof tiles

120 tiles, wood for making a roof and drawings.  
Nr.: D/120



## THE SELECTION



### Basic Box A.

300 basic bricks, 6 arches,  
32 voussoirs, wood, raw  
clay, introduction & plans

Nr.: G/300



### Basic Box B (Castle)

500 basic bricks,  
32 voussoirs, 8 arches,  
wood, raw clay,  
introduction & plans

Nr.: G/500



### Model Box (Tower)

225 basic bricks, 4 arches,  
rawclay, 100 roof tiles,  
wood for making a roof  
frame,  
introduction & plans

Nr.: T/225



### Brick Stack A

380 basic bricks  
for stacking and  
building

Nr.: ST/380

## CONTACT

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GERMANY

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# BauSteinZeit

**Ceramics Workshop**

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*...deep inside  
one scarcely believes –  
in the intense, surrounding furnace  
ancient dwarves are riding fire-balls:  
how they glide from volcanoes  
in the face of sunlight,  
as if raining out of heaven,  
the showering stones are born –  
then, like deep-frozen water,  
quite slowly  
the rock itself changes  
through the mutations of existence...*

<<

*Michael Wolf*

*(trans. Peter Lanham)*