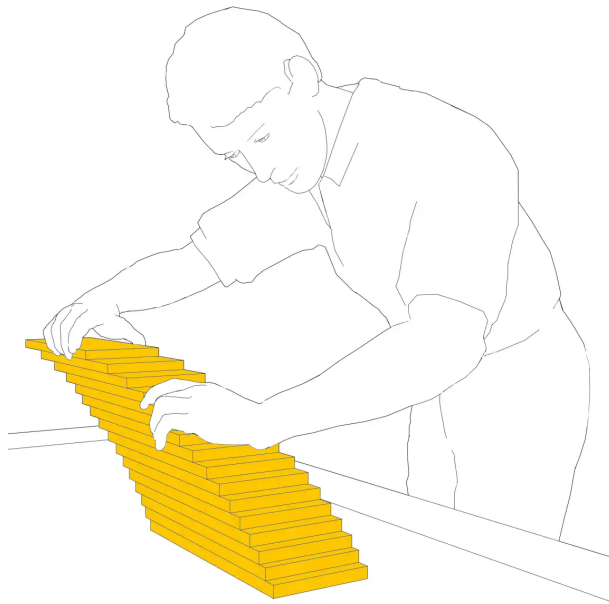


Take it from the top

Do you manage to stack the blocks on top of each other, so that the topmost block sticks out beyond the entire bottom block?



It's best to start with all of the blocks stacked on top of each other.

Push the top block along until it only just balances.

Then push the second block from the top (together with the top block) as far along as possible, and so on.

How many blocks did you need to do it?

Every block (or pile of blocks) can be pushed along until its centre of mass is directly over the edge of the block beneath. The top block can be pushed along by half of its length, the second block (together with the top block) by a quarter of its length, the third (with the two blocks on top of it) by only a sixth of its length, and so on.

If you put two of these piles touching each other, you have a „false arch“. Before people found out how to make round arches, this is how arches were built.