

What is a Stonemasons Lewis ?

A Stonemason's Lewis is a device used in raising and lowering stone blocks in the course of building construction; to raise the stone and then lower it into its exact final position into the structure, which would not be possible if chains, or ropes passed underneath the stone.

When the stone is in its exact position, the metal key and shackle bolt is removed, thus allowing the spacing piece to be withdrawn and then the two wedges.

The Lewis is used to lift the heaviest stones with the minimum expenditure of physical effort.



This form of 'heavy lifting' was known to the Romans, several taken from old ruins are now in the Vatican.

The Romans, are thought to have used it in the building of the Flavian Amphitheatre.

There is evidence for believing that the device was employed in putting into place some of the more massive stones of Hadrian's Roman Wall (AD120– 209)

*The Lewis may therefore be regarded as an appropriate symbol of **STRENGTH**.*