TallyTrowel

END-USER MANUAL

A practical guide to setting up projects, tracing plans and generating professional material estimates.

01 Project Setup	02 Drawing & Estimating	03 Calibration

Built by Bricklayers, for Bricklayers.

Welcome to TallyTrowel

This guide will show you how to set up a project, trace your plans, and generate professional material estimates directly from your device.

1. Project Setup

Start a fresh takeoff and set your project details.

1. Start Fresh — Tap the Project button at the bottom, then tap 📄 New Project.

2. Enter Details — A screen pops up. Type in your Contractor, Site Name, and Plot/House Type. Tap Save Changes.

3. Check Settings — The app will automatically ask for your Calculation Settings. Here you can set how many bricks/blocks are in a square meter and set your labor rates. Tap Save Settings.

4. Load Your Plan — Tap Project > 📁 Load Plan to choose a blueprint or drawing from your device.

2. Drawing & Estimating

You do not need to calibrate the scale before you start drawing. You can draw first, then tell the app the scale later.

Using the Box Tool (Fast Footprints)

1. Open the tool — Tap Drawing > 🔲 Box Tool.

2. Draw the footprint — Tap and drag across the screen to draw a rectangle over the house footprint.

3. Add House Box — An “Add House Box” screen appears.

4. Name the walls — Name your four walls: Front, Right, Back, Left.

5. Choose construction — Pick your wall construction, for example Cavity or Timber Frame.

6. Set the lift height — Enter the shared height for the lift.

7. Save — Tap Save Box. The app automatically calculates the correct centre-line maths for the corners.

Using the Line Tool (Single Walls)

1. Open the tool — Tap Drawing > 🖍️ Draw Wall.

2. Draw the wall — Tap point A, then tap point B to trace a single wall.

3. Add wall details — An “Add Wall Details” screen appears. Give the wall a label and a height.

4. Add deductions — If there are windows or doors, tap + Add Opening. Enter the quantity, width, and height. TallyTrowel subtracts this from your final brick count.

5. Save — Tap Save Wall.

Pro Tip: Tap the 📏 Ortho button to force your lines to snap to perfectly straight angles.

3. Calibration (Setting the Scale)

Once you have drawn a wall, you need to tell the app how long it is in real life. This scales your entire project automatically.

1. Open Edit / Clone — Tap Drawing > 🖱️ Edit / Clone Wall.

2. Select a known wall — Tap on a wall you just drew where you know the exact real-world length.

3. Start calibration — A menu pops up. Tap 🎯 Calibrate Project with this Wall.

4. Enter the real length — Enter the actual length in metres, for example 5.4.

5. Save — Tap Save.

Done! Every wall you have drawn, and will draw, is now scaled to real-world measurements.

4. The Full-Screen HUD

Need more room to see your plan? Use the Full-Screen view.

1. Open Full Screen — Tap View > 🖼️ Full Screen.

2. Use the extra space — The main menus disappear to give you maximum drawing space.

3. Check Live Totals — A floating HUD appears at the top. Watch your total m^2 and brick counts update live as you draw.

4. Use Quick Tools — Tap the 🛠️ Tools button to quickly switch between the Box Tool, Draw Wall, Pan View, or Edit modes.

5. Exit — Tap ❌ Exit to return to the standard view.

5. Ledger & Exporting

The Takeoff Ledger

1. Open the ledger — Scroll down below the drawing canvas to see the Takeoff Ledger.

2. Review phases/lifts — Walls are automatically grouped by Phase/Lift, such as Splash Band or 1st Lift.

3. Review materials — See exact material breakdowns per layer, such as Brick vs. Block.

4. Check totals — Check the bottom for your Grand Totals.

Exporting the Report

1. Open Report — Tap Report in the bottom menu.

2. View the PDF — 📄 View Report opens a professional, multi-page PDF. It includes a visual map of what you traced, phase-by-phase breakdowns and page numbers.

3. Print or save — Print or save the PDF directly from your device.

4. Share a summary — 🧮 WhatsApp & ✉️ Email generate a text summary of your total area, brick counts and costs, ready to send as a message.

6. Quick Workflow

- Project > New Project
- Enter Contractor, Site Name and Plot/House Type
- Save Changes
- Set Calculation Settings
- Project > Load Plan
- Use Box Tool for a fast footprint or Draw Wall for individual walls
- Add wall construction, heights and openings
- Calibrate using a wall with a known real-world length
- Review the Full-Screen HUD and Takeoff Ledger
- Open Report and review the PDF
- Print, save or share the results

7. Important Checks Before Using Your Estimate

- Make sure the correct blueprint or drawing has been loaded.
- Check your project details and calculation settings.
- Confirm wall labels, construction types and lift heights.
- Check all windows and doors have the correct quantity, width and height.
- Calibrate using a wall whose real-world length is known.
- Review live totals and the Takeoff Ledger.
- Check the final PDF before sending it to the office, client or other recipient.
- Use your normal professional judgement and check the original drawing before ordering materials or pricing work.