THE 'MORRIS' BATSLATE (© Copyright Colin Morris)

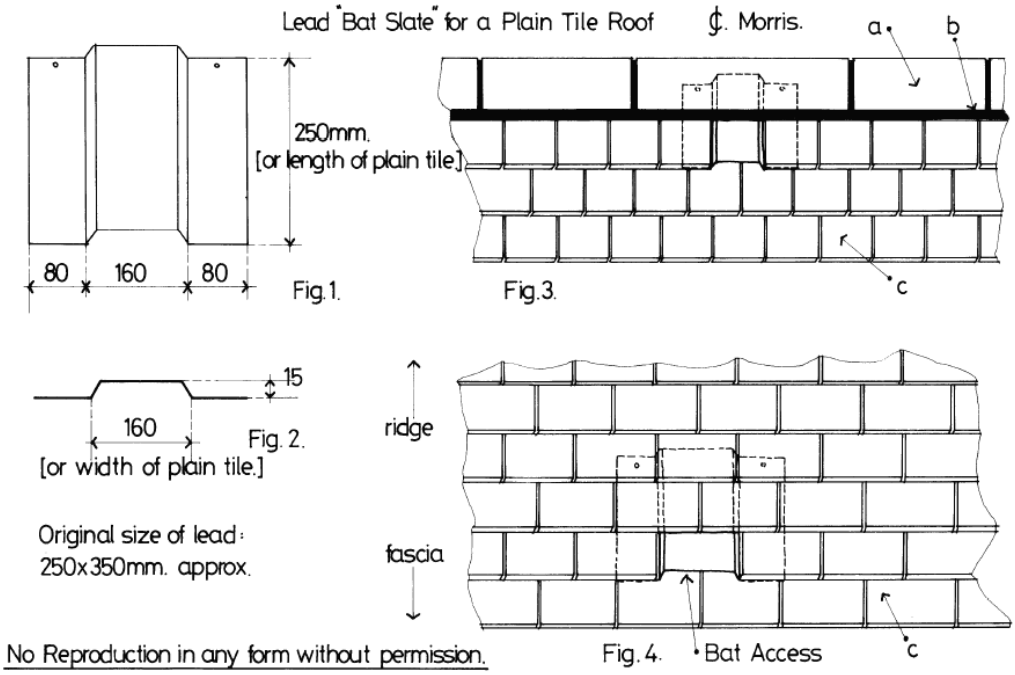
The 'Morris' BATSLATE is low in cost of materials and labour involved in the construction. It should take no more than a couple of minutes to make and can be fitted during the normal re-roofing process with minimal disruption to the roofer. Some species of bat are quite happy living between the roofing felt and the tiles/slates - never actually entering the roof void. Other species prefer the 'openness' of the attic. For species of bats that use the 'inside' of the attic, a hole will need to be established in the felt (if fitted) to allow access into the loft. The hole needn't be large - 75mm long x 30mm wide is more than ample, but it is very important to establish it immediately adjacent to a rafter or wall. This will allow bats to land on the timber/brick/block and climb out. Some species of bat use the cavity wall so consideration should be given on how bats will emerge from the cavity and exit the building.

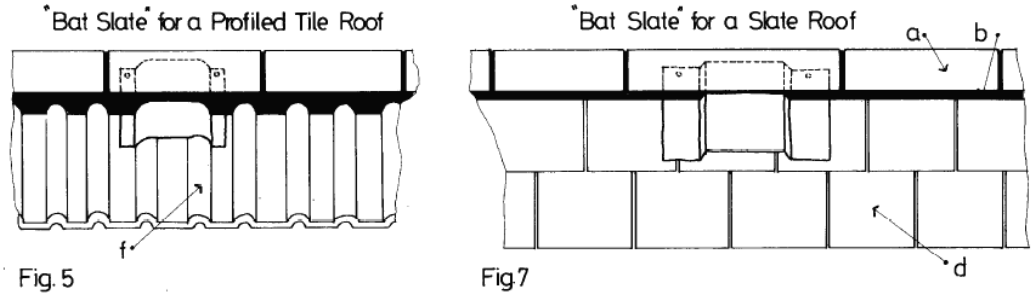
Please get a reputable roofer or builder to fit the slate should you be at all unsure about climbing on the roof. The lead used should be at the ***very least*** **Code 6**. A lower code will sag after a very short time, blocking the bats access. A 300mm square of lead should be big enough to construct all types of BATSLATE **(Figs 1 and 2),** it can be reduced slightly as tile size/type dictates but the depth of the bats access should remain between 15 – 17mm. On a refurbished building there may be some old lead lying around that can be used - such as from a valley, hip or wide flashing.

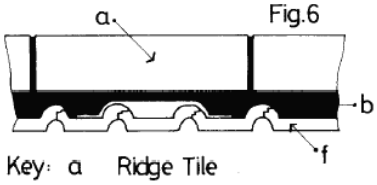
• On a 'plain tile' roof, the BATSLATE can be fitted anywhere **(Figs 3 and 4).** The 'wings' of the BATSLATE should go under the adjacent tiles – a welt on each 'wing' will further reduce the likelihood of water ingression.

• On a 'slated' roof, the BATSLA (Figs 7 and 8). Fig 7. Shows the traditional 'mortar' line. **Fig 8.** Shows the ridge tile 'side' adapted or 'cut away' allowing for a lower ridge tile line (such as when 'secret' or back bedded mortar is required).

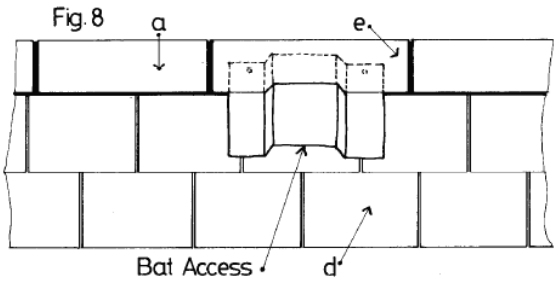
• On a 'profiled' tile roof, the BATSLATE can only be fitted unc ridge line **(Figs 5 and 6).**







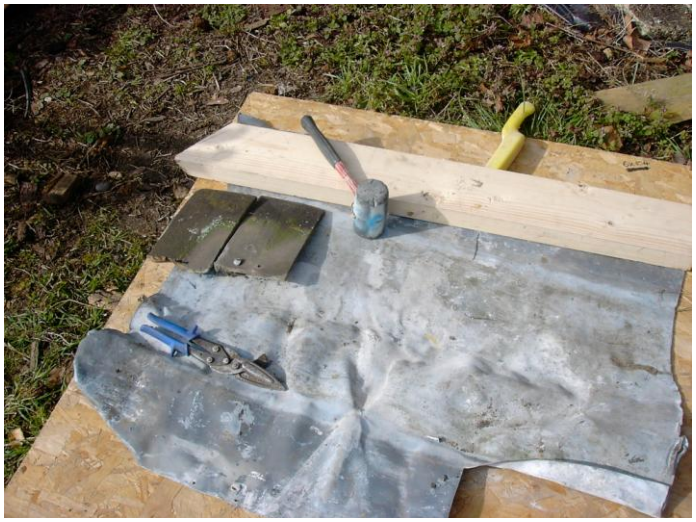
Key: a Ridge Tile
b Mortar
c Plain Tile
d Slate
e Modified Ridge
f Profiled Tile



℄. Morris.

Fabrication & fitting of a Bat-slate in a Plain tile roof

1) Lead used to fabricate the Bat-slate must be at least Code 6 as it is less likely to sag after time. It can be made from second hand or previously used lead, such as from a valley, hip, ridge or wide flashings. Second-hand lead has the advantage of already looking weathered in and is usually free.



2) The lead needs dressing flat.

3) Cut the lead to the length of one of the plain tiles you are going to use.

4) Dressing the lead over suitable sized timber. The depth of the Bat-slate should be 17-20mm.

5) Forming the second ‘wing’ of the Bat-slate and the width by using one of the tiles.

6) The second wing is complete.

7) The completed Bat-slate alongside two tiles, showing how it'll look once fitted.

8) A typical place where a Bat-slate might be fitted in an old roof without felt. The Bat-slate will be fitted alongside a rafter, allowing bats to land and crawl out. On a new or re-furbished roof a hole will need to be cut in the felt.

9) The Bat-slate shown here is fitted so that a whole tile will fit alongside it. Where this isn't possible, tiles will require cutting. The Bat-slate is nailed (x2) to the batten.

10) Tiles are refitted around the Bat-slate.

11) The completed Bat-slate.

12) Bat-slate in the middle of a plain tile roof. From the ground it's almost invisible.

13) This picture shows a hole being cut in the roofing felt when the Bat-slate is fitted in/near the ridge tiles. This will allow bats access into the loft/attic area.

14) The Bat-slate is fitted in the same way as the previous one, being the same length and width as a plain tile and nailed twice into the top batten. Note the Bat-slate is above the hole in the felt.

15) The top ‘eave’ tiles are fitted in the normal way.

16) The Bat-slate can also be fitted by replacing one of the shorter eave tiles. The Bat-slate should be cut accordingly.

17) This picture shows the ridge tiles being bedded on. If the mortar joint in the ridge tiles come ‘above’ the Bat-slate, material like a broken tile should be placed on the Bat-slate to avoid the mortar blocking bat access.

18) Ridge-line showing the Bat-slate in place of the top eave tile.