



## **What do the Masonic Symbols Mean?**

The Square and Compasses or a Square and a set of Compasses which are joined together each leg of the compass pointing in opposite directions, is the single most universally identifiable symbol of Freemasonry. Due to slight Masonic jurisdictional differences around the world, this symbol does not always look exactly the same to all Freemasons. Some jurisdictions call this symbol the Square and Compass, (non-plural) and a few jurisdictions omit the "G" at its center. But, no matter its slightly different look, all Freemasons are in unison as to what this symbol means to them within the fraternity.

### ***Speculative Masonic Symbolism of the Square and Compasses***

In speculative Freemasonry, the Square and Compasses are emblematic symbols used in Masonic ritual. The Square is an emblem of virtue in which we must "square our actions by the square of virtue with all mankind". The Compasses exemplify our wisdom of conduct,... the strength to "circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds". When these 2 Masonic tools are placed together with God (the Creator) as our central focal point... (just as King Solomon built God's Temple, first... and then built his house around it), peace and harmony is the result.

### ***A Short History about the Square and Compasses***

THE SQUARE...Morality

THE COMPASS...Boundaries

Trying Square: In the operative stone mason era, the 90 degree angle of the square was a necessary tool used to test the accuracy of the sides of a stone to ascertain that the stone's angles matched the square's "true" right angle.

Morality: In speculative Freemasonry, the square is a symbol of morality.

Official Masonic Usage:

1. It is one of the 3 Great Lights (the Square, the Compass and the Holy Bible or Holy Book).
2. It is the working tool of a Fellowcraft.
3. It is the official emblem of the Master of the lodge.

In each of its above roles, it teaches the repeated lesson of morality, truthfulness and honesty.

**Common Usage:** The square is so universally accepted that it has found its way into colloquial language with which we communicate on a daily basis. We have all heard the sayings: "Getting a square deal; Are you on the square? and Squaring off".

While the specific date with which the Masonic square became an official Masonic symbol is not known, it was one of the primary tools which an operative mason used in his craft.

In France, one leg is longer than the other due to the nature of its original construction. American Freemason square has equal length "legs", however it has been unnecessarily marked off in increments of inches, as if to measure length and breadth, which is not its true purpose.

Square and Compasses...Masonic Symbols

Not only is the symbol of the Square and Compasses seen on Masonic Regalia in the lodge, but Master Masons proudly wear the Square and Compasses on Masonic clothing such as Masonic shirts and Masonic Jackets.

Among pieces of Masonic Jewelry at the lodge level like [Masonic Rings](#) and Masonic Lapel pins the Square and Compasses is the most often seen Masonic symbol.

Masonic rings display the Square and Compasses in a vast array of metals and jewels...with both [Gold Masonic Rings](#) and [Silver Masonic Rings](#) being equally popular.

You will also find the Square and Compasses on such items as Masonic Money Clips, Masonic Hats, cool Masonic ball caps, Masonic ties, Masonic pins and even a Masonic Door Knocker....

If you have ever walked through the parking lot at Grand Lodge, as members of the brotherhood attend their Grand Lodge's Annual Communication each year; you will also see the depth of loyalty that Freemasons so willingly accord their fraternity. There are more vehicles with Masonic auto emblems...comprised mostly of the Square and Compasses, than those without them. You will see Masonic tail light emblems and Masonic Stickers on a large number of their vehicles.