We taped the opened joints to easily identify them once we got going and act as a guide for a Bosch detail sander/grinder with a diamond masonry blade. I bought the tool after looking at pictures of the heater and it was a nice tool for the job. Dust was minimal. We didn't need to grind out all the mortar on the wider joints: just break the bond on the side that was still stuck to the stone


and gouge out the pieces.
Mason and his helper took turns with the vac and the grinder.

The tape also kept the stone clean during tuck pointing.

Other than the one on the right side of the door by Mason's knee and just above where he's working, the bed joint crack I mentioned earlier has been the only horizontal crack I've seen. And these are not from "lifting": they're from individual stones "sliding". My experience with expansion in the real world doesn't mirror what we might think it should be "in theory".

Steve

PS: Feel free to copy/paste out the repair and pictures for MHA News. Also, I enjoyed the testing report you did in VT. I'll be interested to hear why you think that one run with a vertically stacked load would get 80% efficiency when I see you in April…

> On Jan 31, 2018, at 10:26 AM, Norbert Senf <norbert.senf@gmail.com> wrote: