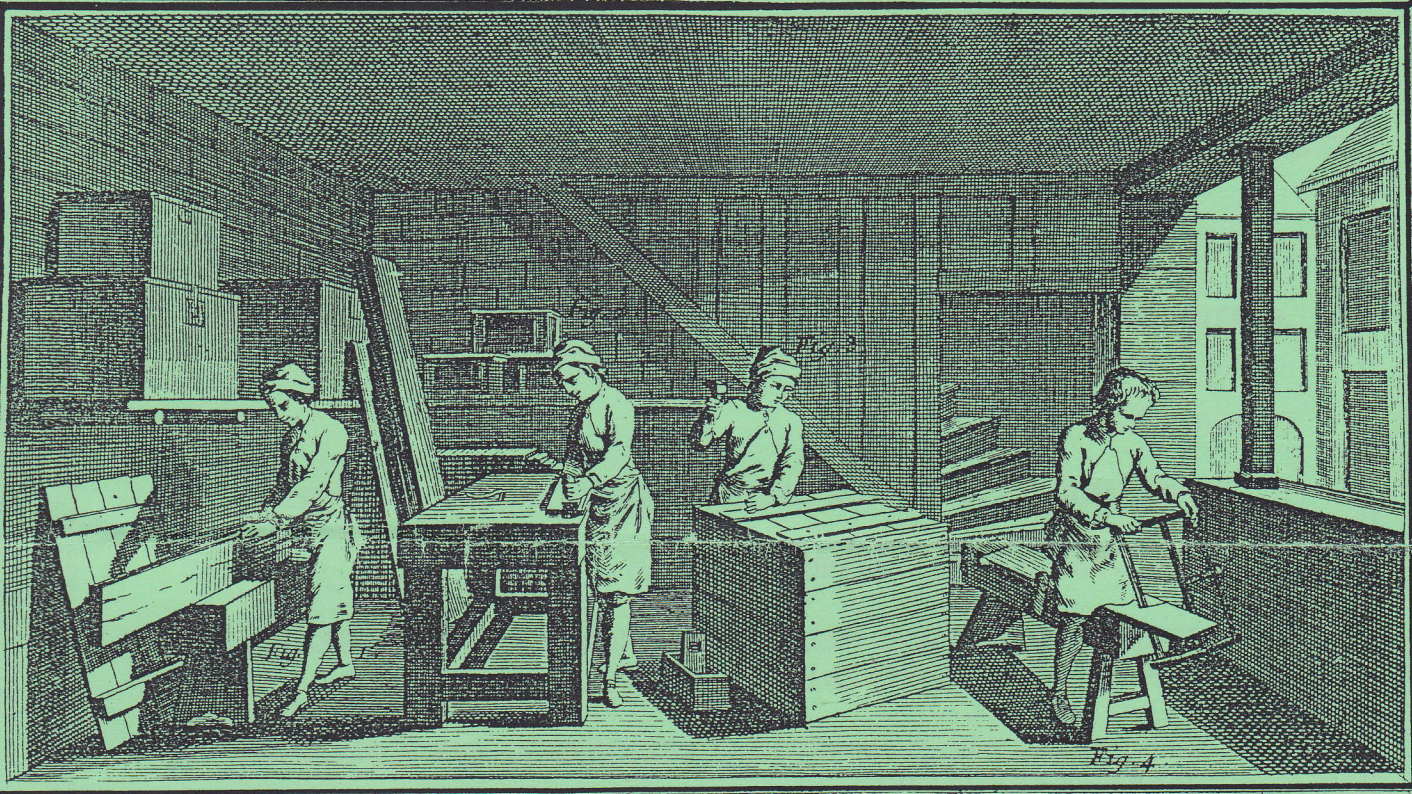


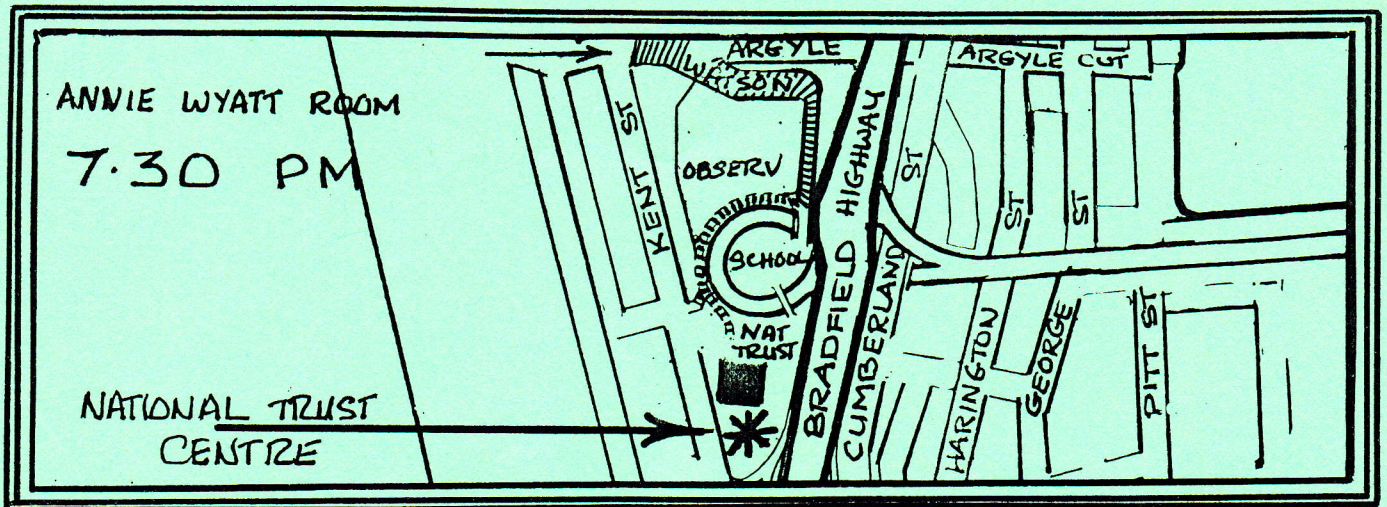
THE TRADE TOOLS GROUP INC.

TTTG NEWSLETTER NO.16
APRIL 1994

BOX MAKERS WORKSHOP



'The History of Tools is the History of Man'



OUR NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

The Secretary
T.T.T.G. Inc.
P.O. Box 240
GROSVENOR PLACE
SYDNEY NSW 2000

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY APRIL 12TH

**AT THE ANNIE WYATT ROOM, NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE, OBSERVATORY HILL.
COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM SHARP**

PROGRAMME:

1. FRED MURREL'S " WOTS IT" SESSION - PLEASE BRING SOME TOOLS.
2. DRAWING OF THE DOOR PRIZE
3. MAURICE BROWN WILL PRESENT INDUSTRIAL TOOMAKING SITES IN SHEFFIELD (FOLLOWING A RECENT VISIT).
4. WE'LL CHECK AND EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF AN OLD TRADESMANS' TOOLBOX (COMPLETE)
5. SUPPER
6. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO CHECK OUT;
A. SID BAILEYS LIBRARY TABLE
B. OUR TOOL SWAP ITEMS (PLEASE BRING TOOLS FOR SALE)

TTTG Inc.
THE TRADE TOOLS GROUP

TTTG NEWSLETTER NO.16
APRIL 1994

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS : DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 10 MAY 1994

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Any opinions expressed are those of the contributor.

Programme Organiser's News

OUR LAST MEETING (TUESDAY FEB. 8TH) FOLLOWED A HOT AND STICKY DAY AND REMAINED SO DURING THE EVENING, EVEN SO WE HAD A TOTAL OF 34 MEMBERS AND GUESTS ATTEND THE MEETING.

BOB CROSBIE SET THE BALL ROLLING WITH SOME 'COLOURFUL' DESCRIPTIONS AND USES OF THE DISPLAY OF CRAMPS AND CLAMPS, THANKS TO FRED MURRELL, RAY GURNEY, PAUL GREGSON, BOB CROSBIE AND ONE OF TWO OTHERS WE HAD A GREAT VARIETY. BOB WAS BACKED UP BY A MOST WORTHY AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ASSISTANT, RAY GURNEY, THANKS RAY!

NEXT, RALPH HAWKINS STARRED IN OUR FIRST HOME VIDEO ABOUT THE CONVICT ROAD NORTH OF WISEMAN'S FERRY, "STONEMASONRY" BY FORCED LABOUR DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT TO THAT OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER.

WE WERE PRIVILEGED INDEED TO HAVE GEORGE PROUDMAN "MASTER STONEMASON: ADDRESS US THAT NIGHT. DESPITE A VERY RECENT ILLNESS HE PROVED A MOST WORTHY AND INTERESTING SPEAKER AND I'M SURE LEFT US ALL WITH A MUCH GREATER APPRECIATION FOR GOOD STONEMASONRY. GEORGE WAS NOT ONLY A MASTER CRAFTSMAN BUT AN ACTIVE AND DEDICATED ADVOCATE FOR PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE. PART WAY THROUGH WE PRESENTED HIS PROFESSIONALLY PRODUCED VIDEO ON THE RESTORATION OF SYDNEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

MR. PROUDMAN WAS KINDLY TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM THE MEETING BY MIKE & JENNY WILLIAMS, STAYED FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING AND APPEARED MOST INTERESTED IN THE CLUB ACTIVITIES.

OUR DOOR PRIZE, A SET OF HIGHLY DESIRABLE COATED DRILL BITS, WAS TAKEN OUT BY FRED MURRELL, NOT ONLY IS FRED LUCKY AT THE MARKETS BUT DRAW TICKETS TOO!

THEN HENRY BLACK ON PATTERNMAKING PRODUCED AN IMPRESSIVE TOOLBOX FULL OF HIS WORKING TOOLS. DEMONSTRATED THEIR USE AND SHOWED US MANY EXAMPLES OF PATTERNS. SOME PATTERNS DISPLAYED WERE FROM AN OLD CAROUSEL FROM TARONGA ZOO 1920'S AND BELONG TO T.T.T.G.

WE SCHEDULED THE OPENING OF A MYSTERY TOOLBOX, AS THIS WAS NOT DONE IT WILL REMAIN A MYSTERY UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

MAURICE BROWN
PROGRAMME ORGANISER

BACK ISSUES TTTG NEWSLETTER

Any members who want to purchase back issues of our newsletter, or any member who has been promised a back issue of the newsletter, or any member who feels entitled to receive a back issue of the newsletter is asked to contact the editor via the TTTG postal address. Please provide details of your requirements and we will arrange to supply the copies requested. The TTTG Committee apologies for any inconvenience members may have received in this matter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HOW IMPORTANT IS TTTG IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS?

In a word **VERY** - let me explain

At ground level, as the general membership, we are able to share our knowledge of both what we do and what we are largely interested in. And so we are able, individually, to increase our experiences and our knowledge.

But there is a much bigger prize at the end of the rainbow for all people in the grand scheme, no matter how small each contribution, it will now be recorded for all time and can be retrieved by those who seek further knowledge or wish to add to and expand upon it.

Whereas in the past much knowledge that was shared among groups of people was committed to memory only, by those who attended the group discussion, and rarely found its way to a permanent record, now, written matter passed on to the right source will be electronically recorded and stored with other relevant material. These very words I have written may become a permanent record! Not that there is much of importance here, but elsewhere in this journal are matters most important and only time will tell how great or useful they may be.

So, my friends, get on the band-waggon with your contributions to the Newsletter and add your bit of history.

TERRY BUTCHER
President

NOTE: Copies of our Newsletter are now lodged with the State Library, the National Library in Canberra and the National Trust.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Another Newsletter with too few Classified Advertisements! Members advertisements are free, no cost, nothing to lose. Perhaps you may sell something or find that elusive item. So why not use this free service?

Our last meeting was very successful and the coming evening promises to be as good. Keep encouraging Maurice Brown as he deserves praise for the effort he puts into each general meeting. If any one knows of a potential "speaker" don't hesitate to contact Maurice.

The home video was well received and it occurs to me that some members may have videos or photographic material suitable for general distribution to TTTG members. Why not have a go and put that idea on film.

Sid Bailey is getting the Library organised. The first books are out on loan. This service should eventually become a great strength for TTTG. Any books you no longer need can be donated to TTTG's Library, of course Sid has the right of refusal.

The Committee will soon be coming to grips with our donations. A computer listing will be available so members can have the opportunity of becoming fully informed about TTTG's acquisitions.

Editorship of TTTG Newsletter

The editor feels it would be a healthy situation if at the next general election a new TTTG editor was to be elected. Anyone willing to stand for this position would receive assistance from the present editor. If you are interested in this position please let the TTTG Committee know of your intentions. The present editor will not nominate for this position at the General Election if someone else wishes to become editor.

ADVERTISING RATES

MEMBERS: Wanted or Swap or For Sale
First issue free. Thereafter 20¢ per word.

TRADER'S RATES: First Placement : Free
Second and subsequent advertisements

BLOCK ADVERTISEMENTS:
Half Page : \$20 per placement
Quarter Page : \$15 per placement
Other : pro rata

COMMERCIAL LINE ADVERTISEMENTS: 50¢ per word

All artwork and/or Prime Position, subject to negotiation.

SAW NIBS AND TOOL TRADITIONS.

Mike Williams.

Around 1650, the newly developed process for rolling strip steel using water power allowed the toolmakers in England and Holland to make wide bladed handsaws and to be able to dispense with the tensioning frame which had characterised the necessarily narrow bladed saws up to this time.

Small handsaws with narrower blades had previously been able to be made without frames and almost without exception they had straight in-line handles like a knife or else a simple pistol-grip handle. The early Dutch wide bladed handsaws continued this tradition and presumably because the saw looked unbalanced with a thin handle and wide blade, they added a decorative element to the saw nose to visually lighten the blade and improve its aesthetic appeal. Presumably these new wide bladed saws were considerably more expensive than their narrow bladed framesaw equivalents, so the elaborate toe decoration was entirely in keeping with the "top of the range" position which the new saws occupied.

By the end of the seventeenth century, the toe decoration was often characterised by stops, curls and elaborate piercing as shown in the sketch in fig 1.

The English sawmakers of this period had abandoned the knife handle or pistol-grip approach when they moved to the wider blades and had adopted the wide flat saw handle with which we are familiar today. This offered better control, was more comfortable to use, allowed greater pressure to be brought to bear on the workpiece

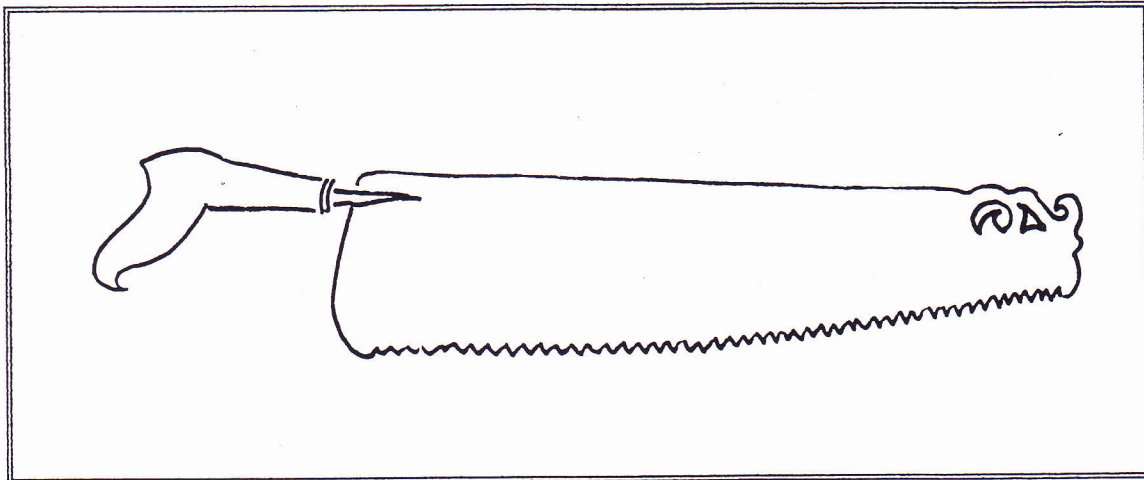


Fig.1 Dutch handsaw c. 1698

and provided a better visual balance between blade and handle, obviating the necessity for toe decoration.

In 1689 William of Orange and his wife Mary ascended the throne of England bringing with them an infusion of Dutch craftsmen and styles.

Old traditions die hard and although the newcomers adopted the obviously superior English-style saw handles, the new Dutch craftsmen could not resist some minimal toe decoration.

Over the next century, the so-called "golden age of furniture" encouraged the parallel growth and standardisation of the woodworking tool industry. Smith's "Key" of 1816 shows a panel saw of now very familiar form where toe decoration has shrunk to a restrained vestigial nib. (fig 2) Perhaps this decorative feature would have finally

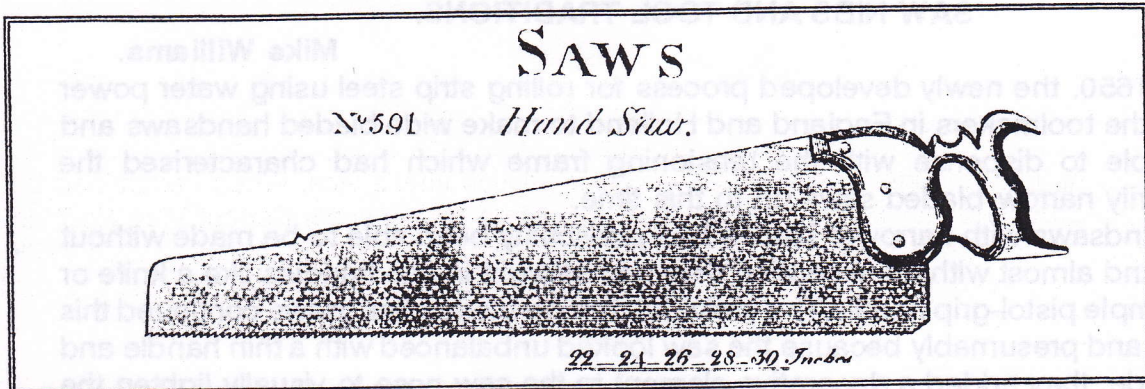


Fig.2 From Smith's "Key" 1816.

shrunk to nothing last century had it not been for Henry Disston and the influence he exerted on the global saw industry in the latter half of last century. Disston was born in the U.K. in 1819 and learnt the saw trade with Spear and Jackson of Sheffield where he must have been very familiar with the decorative nib on hand saw blades. Emigrating to the U.S.A., he started to manufacture his own saws in 1840 and by 1855 he was producing his own strip steel. So efficient were his manufacturing methods that he rapidly captured the world market and his saws became the product against which all others were judged. His famous streamlined "skew-back" saw was introduced in 1874 but the company continued to produce the classical straight-backed design complete with its historical nib up to the early 1920s and this was slavishly copied by many of its competitors. To the best of my knowledge, no saw manufacturer today produces a model which exhibits the stopped toe with its little nib and hence a tradition which had its origins in the 1650s and vestiges of which lasted for nearly 300 years has now faded into history.

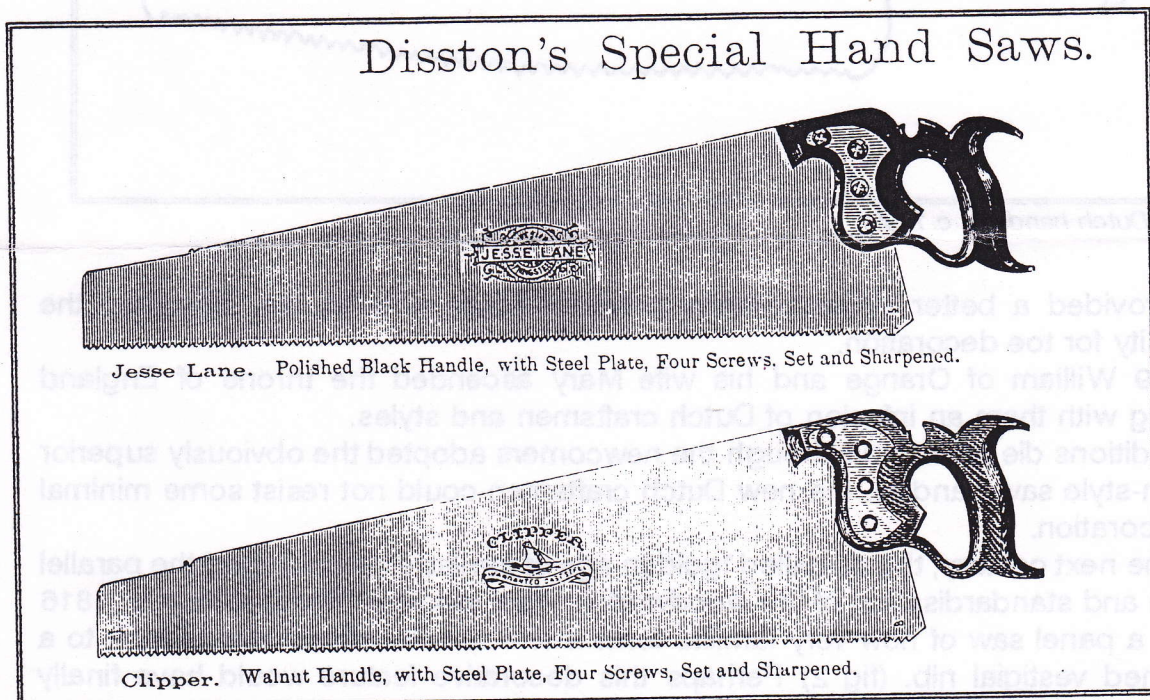


Fig.3 Tool Catalogue 1884

PERFECT VICES

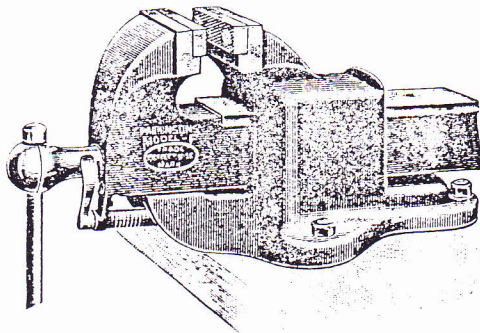
Recently I saw two vices which I believe will be of general interest to TTTG members. Both are quite old but while one has been superseded the other has become a "standard" vice. One vice was invented by Parkinson. The first vice was brought by me because of its condition. At first I thought it was a standard quick action fitter's vice. When I examined it I first noticed the superior machining and then the words "Parkinson's Perfect Vice No.7" in the casting. So I started to look up old tool catalogues. I found the vice in Tyzack's 1908 catalogue. The advertisement for Parkinson's vices is reproduced below. You can read the details but I will say that the vice is as good as the claims made by its manufacturers.

Parkinson also applied this principle to a joiner's vice. This was called the "sudden grip" and an advertisement for it is also included. This is clearly the forerunner of the modern quick grip bench vice.

The second vice I saw was less familiar. I had seen it in old text books. Again the quality was superb. This vice was also in Tyzack's 1908 catalogue. The vice was a bench vice and the advertisement identified it as the "Lightning" Joiner's vice.

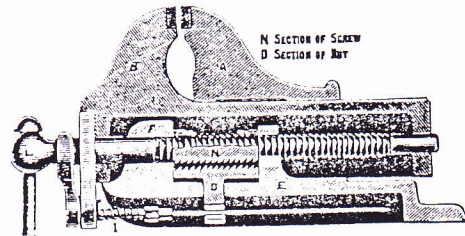
Further investigation found an article on this vice in the English Mechanic 16 August 1878. It was invented by Mr W. Riley of Keighley. Despite its advantages cost probably precluded success.

Parkinson's Patent "Perfect" Vice, "Screw and Sudden Grip" Combined.



No. 721.

Carriage Forward.



No. 721. Section.

The second illustration is a sectional view of the Engineers' Vice, showing its construction. The Screw travels with the front Jaw. The Nut (D) has its upper portion cut away, and is made of sufficient length to give ample strength and durability. Both Nut and Screw are formed with "Buttress" Thread in such manner that when gripping they interlock with each other, giving great power and security to the grip with little friction, and consequent ease to the workman. The Screw cannot be strained, and the Nut follows up the wear and tear between itself and the Screw, so as to preserve a "perfect" fit of the one to the other, and both are protected from dirt, filings, or damage. Years of work show no deterioration of the parts.

To "open" the Vice, grasp the Knob (L) of Screw, at the same time compressing the Lever (J). The Nut (D) is simultaneously moved out of gear with the Screw, and the Jaw pulled out to receive the work, then slid into contact with it. On releasing the Knob and Lever, the Nut instantly engages with the Screw, and the grip is applied by the Vice Pin, as in the old Vice. The Screw may be used to move the Jaw its entire distance of travel, so that all sorts of material may be securely held, and any kind of work done that can be done in a Vice. Every part will work and wear well.

Portable Iron Stands, mounted on Wheels, are supplied for Engineers' use in yards, for erecting and repairing purposes. These have Telescopic Pillars, which enable the Vice to be readily adjusted any height to suit the stature of workmen.

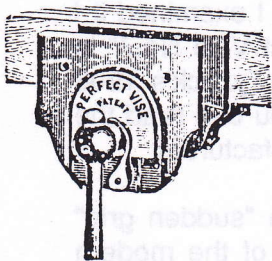
Engineers' and Metal Workers' Vices.

		No.	Width of Jaw.	Depth of Jaw.	Opening.	Weight.	Price.			No.	Width of Jaw.	Depth of Jaw.	Opening.	Weight.	Price.
No. 721.	4	2 1/2 in.	3 3/8 in.	3 1/4 in.	13 lb.	£1 0 0		No. 721.	9	6 1/2 in.	5 in.	8 1/2 in.	113 lb.	£2 18 0	
"	5	3 1/4 "	2 3/8 "	3 1/4 "	33 "	1 8 0		"	9c	6 1/2 "	4 1/2 "	8 1/2 "	134 "	3 5 0	
"	6	3 3/4 "	3 1/4 "	4 1/2 "	42 "	1 14 0		"	9a	7 "	6 1/8 "	9 1/2 "	171 "	4 0 0	
"	7	4 1/4 "	3 3/4 "	4 3/4 "	59 "	2 0 0		"	9b	8 1/2 "	7 1/2 "	12 "	260 "	7 10 0	
"	8	5 1/4 "	4 1/2 "	6 1/2 "	77 "	2 6 0		"	9b	8 1/2 "	7 1/2 "	12 "	287 "	} 8 0 0	
"	8a	6 "	4 1/2 "	6 1/2 "	80 "	2 12 0		With Adjustable Front Pillar							

23 VICES

Parkinson's "Sudden Grip" and "Screw all the Way" Vices.

No. 722a.

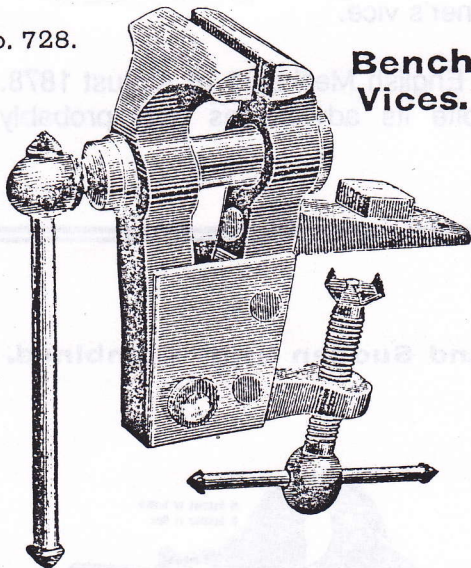


Carriage Forward.

These Vices combine all the advantages of the Continuous Screw Vice with the quickness and economy of the Sudden Grip. They are very simple to manipulate, will give a tighter grip than any other Vice, and the wearing parts are so constructed that they improve with use.

	Width of Jaw.	Opening.	Weight.	Price.
No. 722a.	... 7 in.	6 in.	19 lb.	12/- each.
„ 722b.	... 9 „	12 „	40 „	16/- „
„ 722c.	... 10½ „	12 „	44 „	18/- „

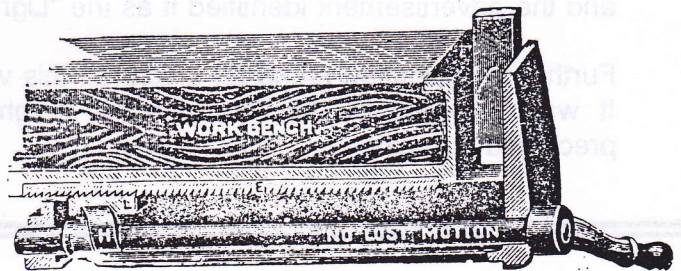
No. 728.



Bench Vices.

No. 728. Best Forged Bench Vices, with Steel Jaws.

3	4	5	6 lb.
3/6	4/3	5/-	5/6 each.



No. 720.

Carriage Forward.

The "Lightning" Joiners' Vices.

The "Lightning" Pattern Makers' and Joiners' Vice, with Instantaneous Grip. With Steel or Iron Racks. Illustration shows Joiners' Vice with work gripped.

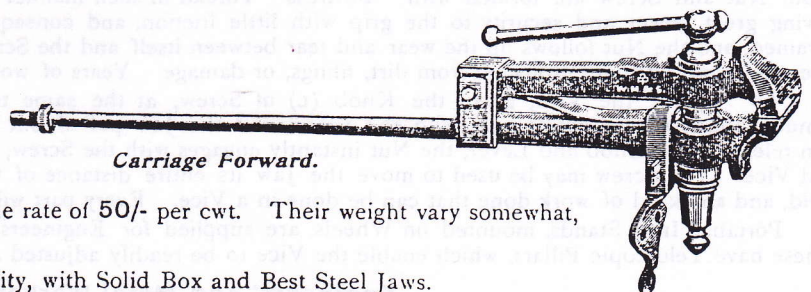
One-third of a turn of Handle backwards releases work and leaves the Jaw free.

Having only two working parts—viz. Spiral Cam H and Short Rack L—it combines extreme simplicity with great strength.

Steel Racks are specially recommended.

Solid Box Leg Vices.

No. 724.



Carriage Forward.

Leg Vices over 35 lb. in weight are charged at the rate of 50/- per cwt. Their weight vary somewhat, and prices given below are about the average :

No. 724. Blacksmiths' Staple Leg Vices, best quality, with Solid Box and Best Steel Jaws.

Vice with	3	3½	3¾	4	4¼	4½	5 in. Jaws.
	12/-	15/-	17/6	20/-	22/-	25/-	28/- each.

No. 725. Vice Boxes and Pins, 1/- per lb.

GLASS SMOOTH END GRAIN

Given skill and a sharp plane iron planing end grain is fairly straight forward. It does of course blunt the edge very quickly. This means frequent sharpening. Also the workpiece usually needs holding in the bench vice or some other device. Various types of shooting boards can speed up the operation. Even so planing end grain can be time consuming. Last century all mitres had to be planed by some kind of shaving operation. Today circular saws and disc sanders can produce reasonable mitres. Time has always been money and so several inventions appeared to speed up end grain preparation. All aimed to deskill the operation and remove the dependence on planes and plane guiding appliances.

The first inventions were improved types of shooting boards. In these the plane was guided in fixed ways, a further development was to increase the mechanical advantage of the operator. The "ZYTO" Mitre Shuttering Machine was probably the ultimate development of this concept.

Another idea was to apply the guillotine principle to wood. This generated various types of "Trimmers". All Trimmers shared these characteristics:

- heavy fixed blades
- rigid work holding
- adjustable in one plane, e.g. 90° to 45°
- improved mechanical advantage

Many manually operated patterns were manufactured. The ultimate was probably the "ZYTO Universal Wood Trimmer". Foot operated trimmers were developed and these are still in wide use by Picture Framers.

The trimmer principle was also applied to easily transportable small machines known as Mitre Cutters.

Improved shooting boards, shooting machines and trimmers were of particular value to cabinet makers, picture framers and pattern makers. In all cases the surplus material is removed before using the device.

The illustrations give some idea of the range of this invention.

THE "ZYTO" MITRE SHUTEING MACHINE.

No. 1239b.

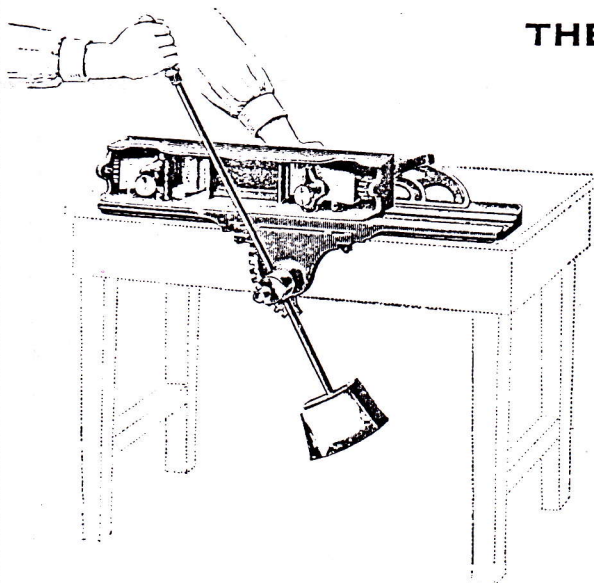
This Machine will make an absolutely true joint in a few seconds, and works equally well upon hard and soft mouldings. Being fitted with double mouth it is always ready to work either hand.

The bed of the machine measures 26 in. × 12 in., and the fence is adjustable to any angle.

Will shoot up to 6 in. × $2\frac{7}{8}$ in. Each machine is tested and sent out carefully packed in a strong case.

Price, £5 5.

(Packing case free.)



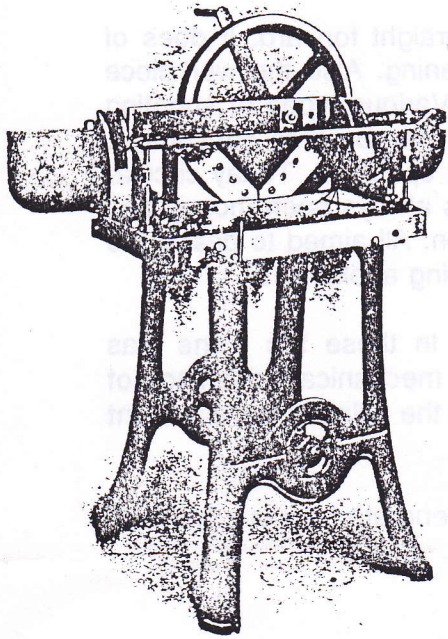
No. 1239b.

THE "Zyto" UNIVERSAL WOOD TRIMMER.

The Improved Patent "Zyto" Trimmer.

No. 1239a.

Large Size Cuts	...	...	...	20 × 1 or 16 × 5½ in.
Small " "	...	...	...	20 × 1 or 17 × 4 "
Price, Large Size	...	...	...	£13 13.
" Small "	...	...	...	£12 12.



No. 1239a.

12 POINTS OF SUPERIORITY.

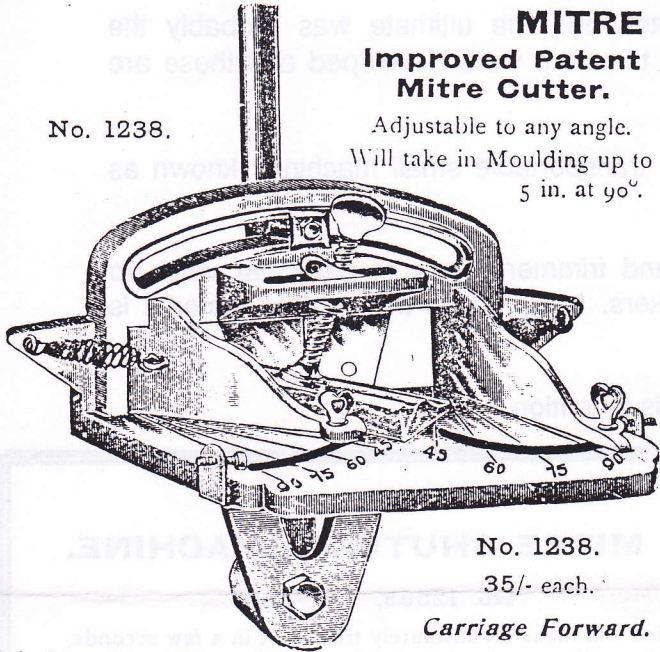
- 1.—Gearing cut from mild steel, not only the most costly, but the best.
- 2.—The screwed-on rack instead of being a receptacle for chippings to drop in is fixed at top.
- 3.—The knife slide being the only wearing part of machine is easily renewable, making the machine as good as new.
- 4.—This knife slide is an oblong frame, giving a 20-in. bearing, a feature not found in other makes.
- 5.—The heavy fly-wheel gives an impetus for heavy work, and does not jar the hand like a lever.
- 6.—The wheel fixed near end of machine, so that operator need not lean over, even when cutting a 20-in board.
- 7.—Upright gauge rods marked in degrees, for cutting angles on skirting boards, plinths, and similar work.
- 8.—Horizontal bar for cutting cornice moulds at all angles. Exclusively used on our machines, and the only adjustment of its kind.
- 9.—Adjustable rod for dead length work.
- 10.—Fences are fitted with plates for cutting Belection or hollow backed moulding.
- 11.—Adjustment screws provided for taking up wear in slides.
- 12.—Warranted one year, and guaranteed to do work that no other Trimmer in the world will do.

MITRE CUTTERS.

Improved Patent Mitre Cutter.

No. 1238.

Adjustable to any angle.
Will take in Moulding up to 5 in. at 90°.



No. 1238.

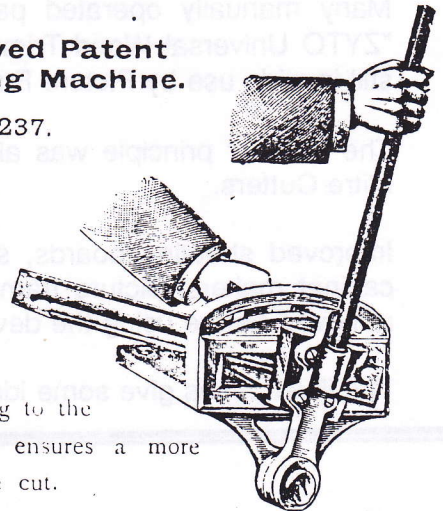
35/- each.

Carriage Forward.

The Improved Patent Mitre Cutting Machine.

No. 1237.

The improvement consists in the Semi-Circular Slot at Top of Frame, through which a Guide Pin passes, which provides a firm fastening to the Cutter Blades, and ensures a more regular and accurate cut.



No. 1237 : 1. Cutting Mouldings to 2½ in. ... 12/6 each.

" 1237 : 2. " " 4 " ... 21/- "

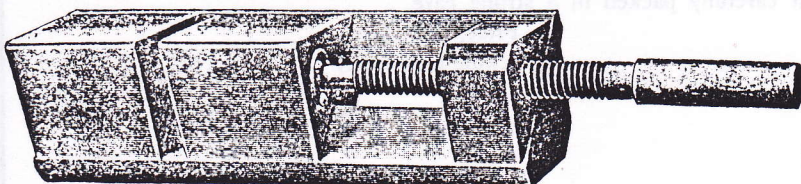
Extra Cutters, 4/- per pair.

Carriage Forward.

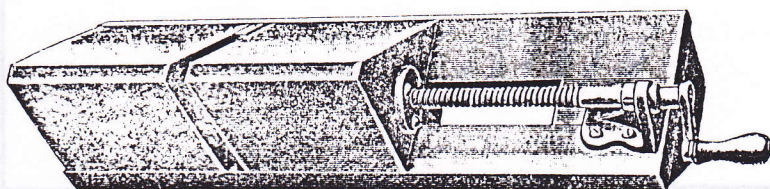
MITRE SHOOTING BOARDS.

For Joiners and Picture Frame Makers.

No. 1274a.



No. 1274b.



These Shooting Boards are made of best beech wood, they are strong and durable and are made either with Wood or Iron Spindle.

		Price.
No. 1274.	Mitre Shooting Boards, for mitre and half-mitre angles, planing surface 5½ in.	
	With Iron Spindle	12/6
" 1274a.	With Wood Spindle	10/6
" 1274b.	Mitre Shooting Boards, for mitre and right angles, half mitres being planed by means of a rest supplied with board.	
	With Iron Spindle	16/-
" 1274c.	With Wood Spindle	14/6

MITRE SHOOTING BOARDS.

For Picture Frame Makers.

This Shooting Board is of special construction, and is a wonderful assistance to the inexperienced hand in mitre squaring.

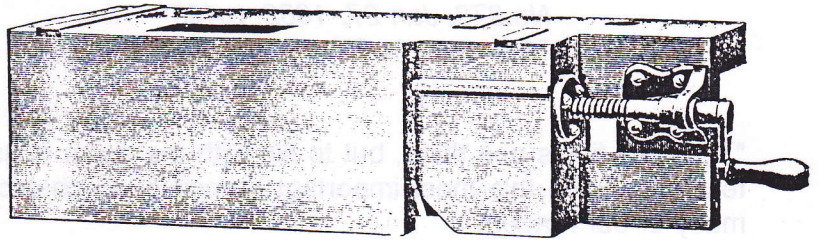
Whereas in the use of other Shooting Boards a certain experience in the use of a Plane is necessary in order to get a square surface, and to avoid damaging the board, this Board is fitted with cross pieces of Lignum Vitæ on which the long Plane is carried along without the Iron touching the Board at all.

Damage to the Board is thus rendered impossible, and a man of no particular experience can make true mitres.

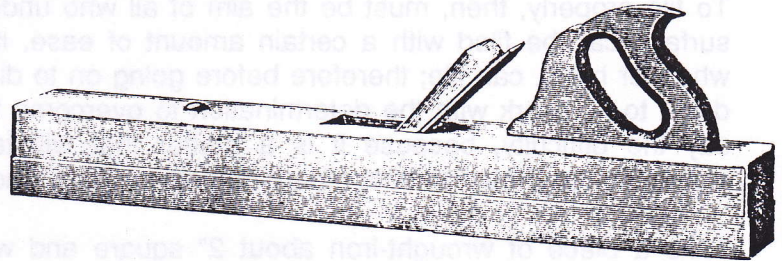
For fixing to the bench the Shooting Board has a flange overlapping the table by about 3 in., and is fixed to the same by means of two Thumb Screws, or the Board can be fixed in a work bench.

No. 1274d.	Mitre Shooting Board, for mouldings up to 4½ in. wide	21/-
„ 1274e.	Mitre Shooting Plane, ready for use	6/9
	Two Thumb Screws for fixing	1/-

No. 1274d.



No. 1274e.



Price.

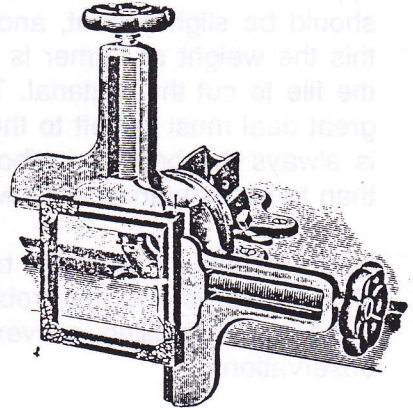
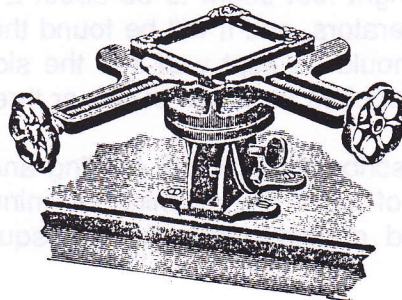
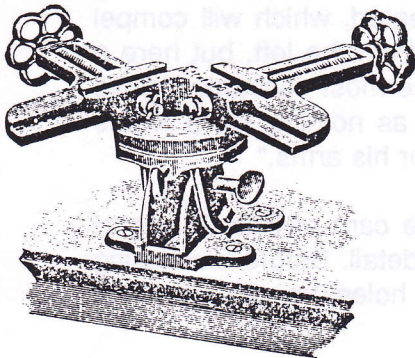
21/-

6/9

1/-

The Marsh Picture Frame Vice.

No. 1237a.



Nothing of the kind, or Half so Complete, ever before on the Market.

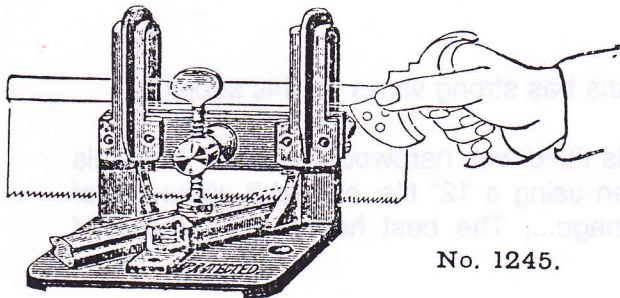
It meets the demand for a Frame Clamp in every instance. No matter what kind of a Mitreing Machine one has, or even if you are using the old-fashioned Mitre Box, the Frame can be held in proper place for nailing perfectly, and with the greatest ease possible. The Vice has the same Swivel and Tilting attachments, in fact, the same Base as the Marsh Mitre Machine, and a Frame can be swung or tipped in ANY POSITION a person desires, either in a horizontal or a perpendicular. It takes in small and large Frames alike—as small as 3½ × 3½ inches, from this to the largest size. It takes in any kind of Moulding 4 inches wide or under. It is light, well made, and strong.

No. 1237a. Price, 22/6.

N.B.—Net Weight, 12 lb.; Gross Weight, 18 lb.

Combined Mitre Cutter and Saw Vice.

Arranged to take any Hand or Back Saw.

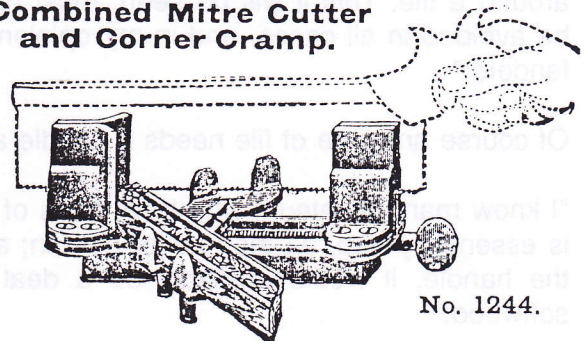


No. 1245.

The two-planed Metal Plates through which the Saw works is adjustable to Saws of any thickness.

No. 1245.	Will take in Mouldings to 2½ in. wide,	8/6 each.
„ 1245a.	„ „ 5 „	13/6 „

Combined Mitre Cutter and Corner Cramp.



No. 1244.

The Cramp is first used to cut the Moulding accurately, and then used to secure the Moulding whilst being nailed together.

No. 1244 : 1.	Takes in Mouldings to 2¾ in. wide,	9/6 each.
„ 1244 : 2.	„ „ 5 „	12/9 „

USING FILES

*Extract from: English Mechanic and World of Science
No.878. Jan 27. 1882. p.485
"A Lesson in Filing". J.H. Evans*

"To use a file is one thing, but to file with the same is quite a different matter, and I think a few hints upon this most important branch of mechanics will be found of much service to many of our readers.

To file properly, then, must be the aim of all who undertake to do it at all, and until a flat surface can be filed with a certain amount of ease, it cannot be said that the workman, whoever he is, can file; therefore before going on to different things, let the beginner settle down to his work with the determination to overcome the difficulty of filing a flat surface. I say the difficulty, because it is a matter that will take some practise, and now I will endeavour to show the best means of setting about such a job.

Take a piece of wrought-iron about 2" square and with a 10" file, bastard cut, make a commencement. The vice should be so fixed that it is a convenient height, and that ought to be about the level of the right elbow, or a little below, if anything. The point of the file should be held in the left hand and the handle grasped in the right, so that the thumb is uppermost. To one who has not filed before it will feel very awkward at first. The left knee should be slightly bent, and the body must move in conjunction with the knee, by doing this the weight of former is thrown on the file, and a pressure created, which will compel the file to cut the material. The right foot ought to be about 2' 6" from the left, but here a great deal must be left to the operators, and it will be found that the most convenient pose is always the best; the elbow should be kept well into the sides, as nothing looks worse than to see a man at work who requires the room of two or three for his arms."

Evans continues at length to describe the process of filing and the care of files. Types of files, file cards and the problem of "pins" are examined in minute detail. Before discussing tasks such as filing convex and concave surfaces and square holes he makes these observations;

"I dare say, in these enlightened days, when so much work is done by machinery of different kinds, that many may look upon these few remarks as worth very little; but to whatever extent machinery is eventually brought into use, we shall not be able to dispense with the file."

Later Evans condemns some workshop practices,

"I have often noticed in different factories the men with a whole sheet of emery cloth around a file. This it will be seen, must render the surface anything but flat. Cloth should be avoided in all cases, and in my opinion emery cloth is only fit for housemaids to polish fenders."

Of course any type of file needs a handle and Evans has strong views on this subject,

"I know many amateurs who have tools of all kinds fitted with hardwood handles. Now this is essentially bad, as they never hold in; and when using a 12" file, should it come out of the handle, it would probably do a deal of damage.... The best handles are those of softwood."

One hundred and twelve years later Evan's methods are still sound. By following his instructions total mastery can be achieved provided sufficient application is applied. His observations on machinery have proved to be correct. It is still true that anything can be done with files. But how often are they used?

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INFORMATION WANTED

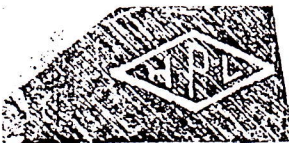
Dear Sir,

I recently purchased a wooden rabbet plane with markings not known to me. Can anyone out there help me with any information about the manufacturer?

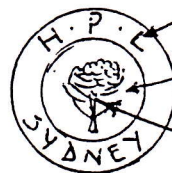
- Name: "HPL"?
- Place: Sydney?
- Date(s) of Operations?
- Etc.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,
Trevor Semmens
19 Loinah Rd.
Montagu Bay
Tasmania 7018



Stamp- front
top left hand
side.



Black printing on 'gold'
Red Background
Black Waratah

Sticker- at top
rear left hand
side.

Plane: Rabbet 1" wide - not skewed
Timber? Rough finish each end.

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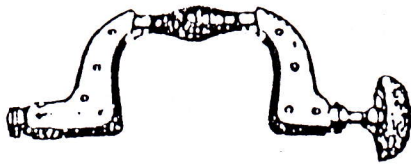
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