

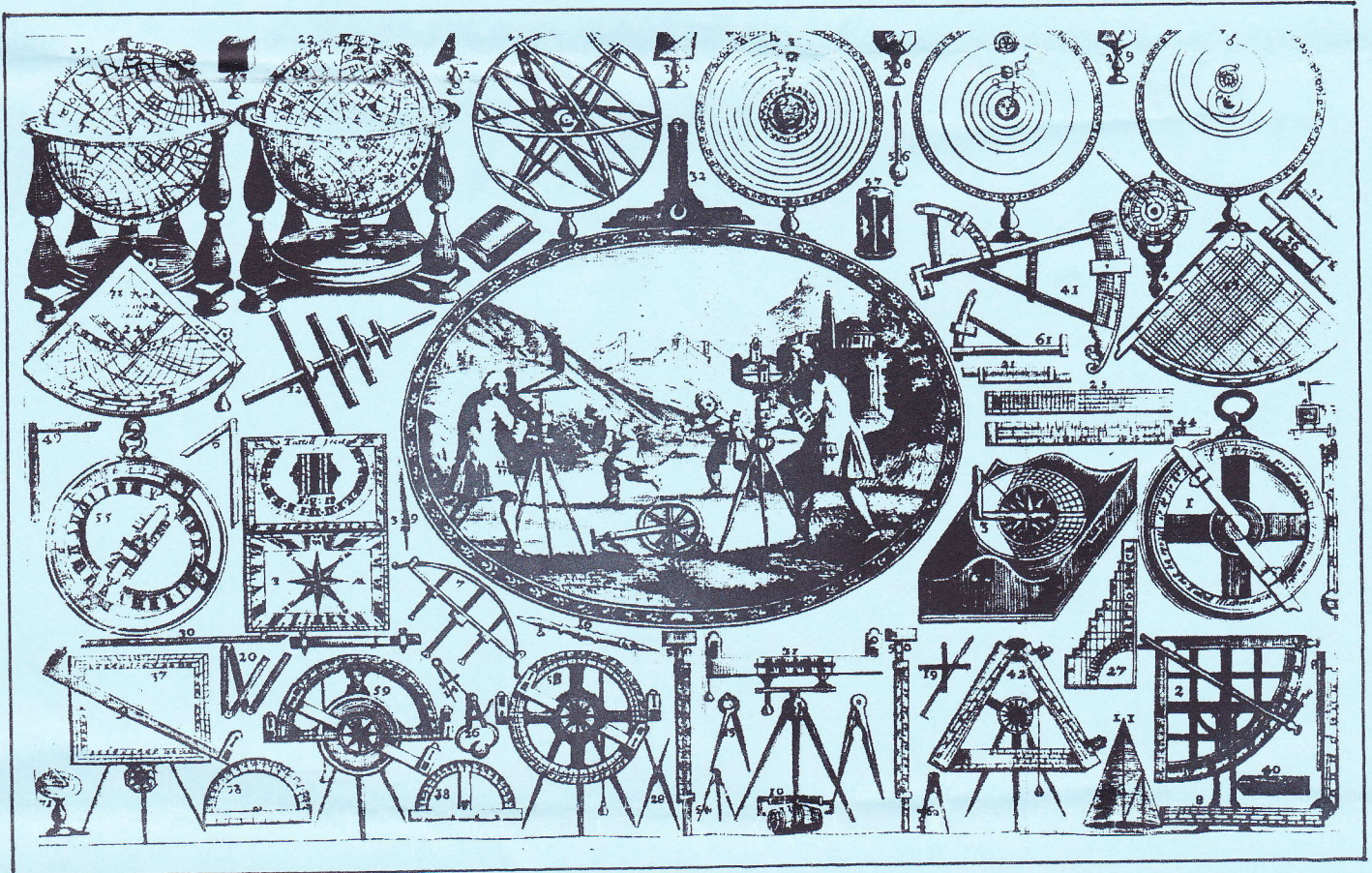
The Traditional Tools Group

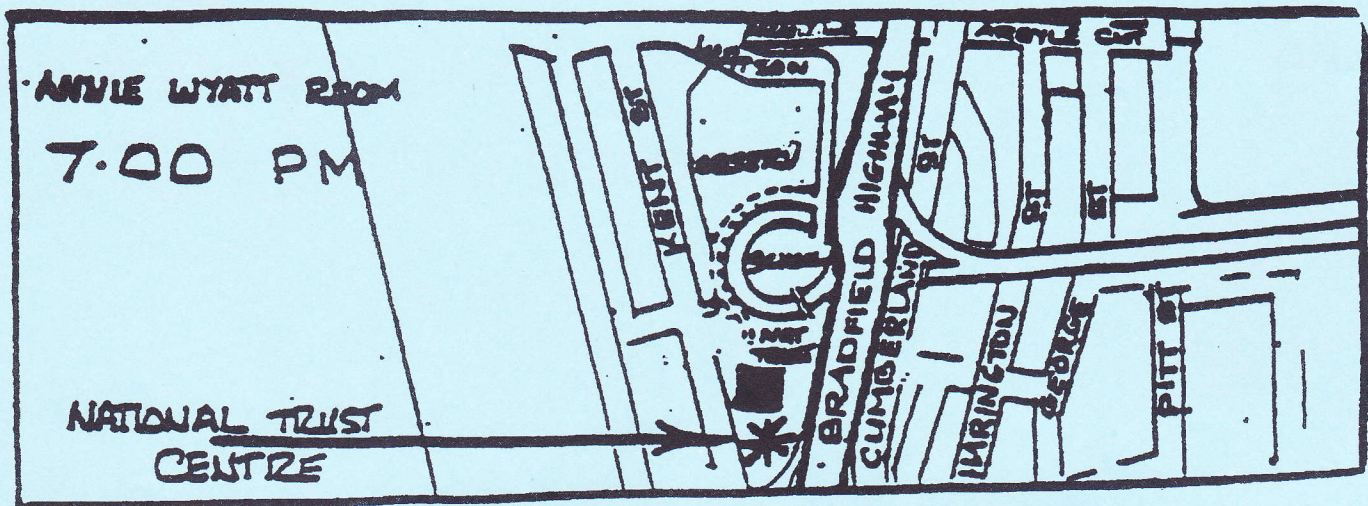


# THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP INC.



TTTG NEWSLETTER NO. 40  
APRIL 1998





### OUR NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

The Secretary  
T.T.T.G. Inc.  
P.O. Box 240  
GROSVENOR PLACE  
SYDNEY N.S.W. 1220

### NEXT MEETING- TUESDAY 14TH APRIL

IN THE ANNIE WYATT ROOM, NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE, OBSERVATORY HILL  
COMMENCING AT 7.00PM SHARP

#### PROGRAMME

1. **SHOEMAKING.** IS IT STILL POSSIBLE TO HAVE SHOES MADE TO FIT YOUR FOOT EXACTLY? **MARIO DATO** MAKES HIS LIVING MANUFACTURING HIGH FASHION HANDMADE SHOES BY TRADITIONAL MEANS. IF YOU ENJOY STEPPING OUT IN STYLE DON'T MISS THIS FASCINATING TALK.
2. **SHOW AND TELL.** BRING ALONG YOUR ANTIQUE SHOEMAKING AND LEATHERWORKING TOOLS.
3. **FRED MURRELL'S "WOTSIT"** IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
4. **BROWSE THROUGH THE TTTG LIBRARY.** WE HAVE SOME INTERESTING ADDITIONS SINCE LAST MEETING.
5. **SUPPER BY MARIO DATO** (HE'S GOING TO BE BUSY!).

TTTG Inc.  
THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP

TTTG NEWSLETTER No. 40  
April 1998.

Editor's Notes

Letters to the Editor

Next Meeting / Previous Meeting

In Committee/ Library News

Collector's Page  
Rust removal and an improved tool handle.

War-Time Tools.  
Smoothing Plane, Chamfer Plane, Edge Plane

War-Time Tool Repairs.

Book Review. Christopher Gabriel.

**Cover Illustration:** Engraved plate from "Mathematics made Easie or a Mathematical Dictionary Explaining the Terms of Art and difficult Phrases used in Arithmetick, Geometry, Astronomy, Astrology, and other Mathematical Sciences, wherein the true meaning of the Word is rendered, the Nature of the thing discussed, and (where need requires) illustrated with apt figures and diagrams."

Thomas Tuttell and Joseph Moxon. 4th Edition 1705.

(C) Copyright 1998.

Any opinions expressed are those of the contributor.

## EDITOR'S NOTES

This is the last issue of the TTTG Newsletter.

Newsletter No 41 will be published in a different format. 210mm X 150mm has been selected a suitable format for the newsletter. This will provide an attractive and manageable publication. Despite the increase in production costs there will be no increase in membership fees.

The existing newsletter format has served TTTG well. TTTG is capable of publishing a superior Australian journal to cater for the growing interest in traditional technology. Local writers who have previously published in interstate or overseas publications are urged to consider TTTG first.

It is anticipated that the new TTTG newsletter will coincide with the establishment of the TTTG Web-site. By going on-line TTTG will be able to reach more people interested in old tools. The web-site should put TTTG in touch with the global community.

If I only serve one term as President the improved newsletter format, the web-site and the closer association with TATHS in the United Kingdom would be sufficient achievement.

In this issue of the newsletter a World War 2 theme seems to have taken over. There is a wealth of information on traditional technology in old journals. In the United Kingdom English Mechanics and Woodworker are defacto compendiums of a cultures' technology.

The issues from the Depression and the war years reflect the depth of traditional technology. Even if you are not interested in the wider issues the extracts in this issue may help you to recognize some home made tools.

Bob Crosbie

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Terry Butcher has written to the TTTG Committee from his island retreat in Tasmania. From the wilds of Van Diemen's Land Terry has sent a rare pamphlet on Masonite for the TTTG Library. This is a valued addition to the TTTG Library's growing collection of Australian material.

The full text of Terrys' letter is available from the TTTG Library. The following is an extract from Terrys' letter.

TTTG Committee. Report from Tasmania. 21/2/98

Not a lot to report, very busy getting our house built.....

As you know HTPAA are having a convention and tool sale in April and hope to be going and hope to see some NSW faces.....

Garage sales seem to produce nothing , gardening tools and the odd rusty axe head. I did pick up this rather nice oilcan with the scalloped edging.

(Terry then outlines a scheme to recruit Tasmanian members for TTTG.

For details see "In Committee")

Have include a small booklet. Donation to TTTG Library from me.

( 45 Things you can make with Masonite "Shorts".)

Keep up he good work. Would you photocopy the Carter catalogue and send me a copy please. PS. we still have not started to unpack.

Terry

**Editor:** *Terry I have sent your copy of the Carter Catalogue plus a copy of the instruction leaflet for Carter No. 54. If you have not received these it must be due to the remoteness of your villa. Do you have a postal address ?*

## IN COMMITTEE

TTTG Committee Meeting 12 March 1998.

After the minutes of the previous Committee Meeting were tabled the Committee discussed various matters of importance to the future of TTTG.

These included the proposed change of format for the TTTG newsletter and the proposed TTTG web-site.

Preliminary arrangements were made for the proposed week end excursion to The Botanic Gardens.

Correspondence from Rod Thomas was tabled and the copy Rod provided of the Carter Catalogue was given to the Librarian.

(The Editor has sent Rod a copy of the Carter No 54 leaflet and a photocopy of the Hardware Journal from 1954. ) If readers have any information on Australian manufacturers please contact the Editor and the material will be copied for the TTTG Library and made available to researchers such as Rod.

A number of late subscriptions renewals and new membership applications were processed.

Terry Butchers' Letter dated 21-2-98 was read and discussed. The following extract from Terrys' letter was considered by the Committee :

"There are collectors here but are scattered about Tassie and as I live on an island and night ferry to town 7.30 PM last one home night meetings would be out- so a straight correspondence group would be an answer.- I have not decided yet which way to go. A fully independent Tasmanian group or as subsidiary to TTTG called TTTTG and with contributions from here added to the Newsletter would mean a larger circulation for the newsletter- have a discussion and let me know what the Committee feels."

The Committee considered this matter and places on record;

-If Terry Butcher wishes to establish an independent interest group in Tasmania he has the encouragement of the TTTG Committee. Reciprocal arrangements between TTTG and any such Tasmanian group can be established.

-All interested Tasmanians can join TTTG and receive a regular quality newsletter and all the benefits associated with TTTG membership. All membership fees should be payable directly to the TTTG Committee.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Journals/ Newsletters received;

TATHS, HTPAA, HTPSWA

Donations.

Terry Butcher

45 Things you can make from Masonite "Shorts" (original)

Bob Crosbie

Carter 45 Leaflet. (copy)

Glenister, S. H. Contemporary Design in Woodwork. Volumes 1& 2

John Murray London 1961

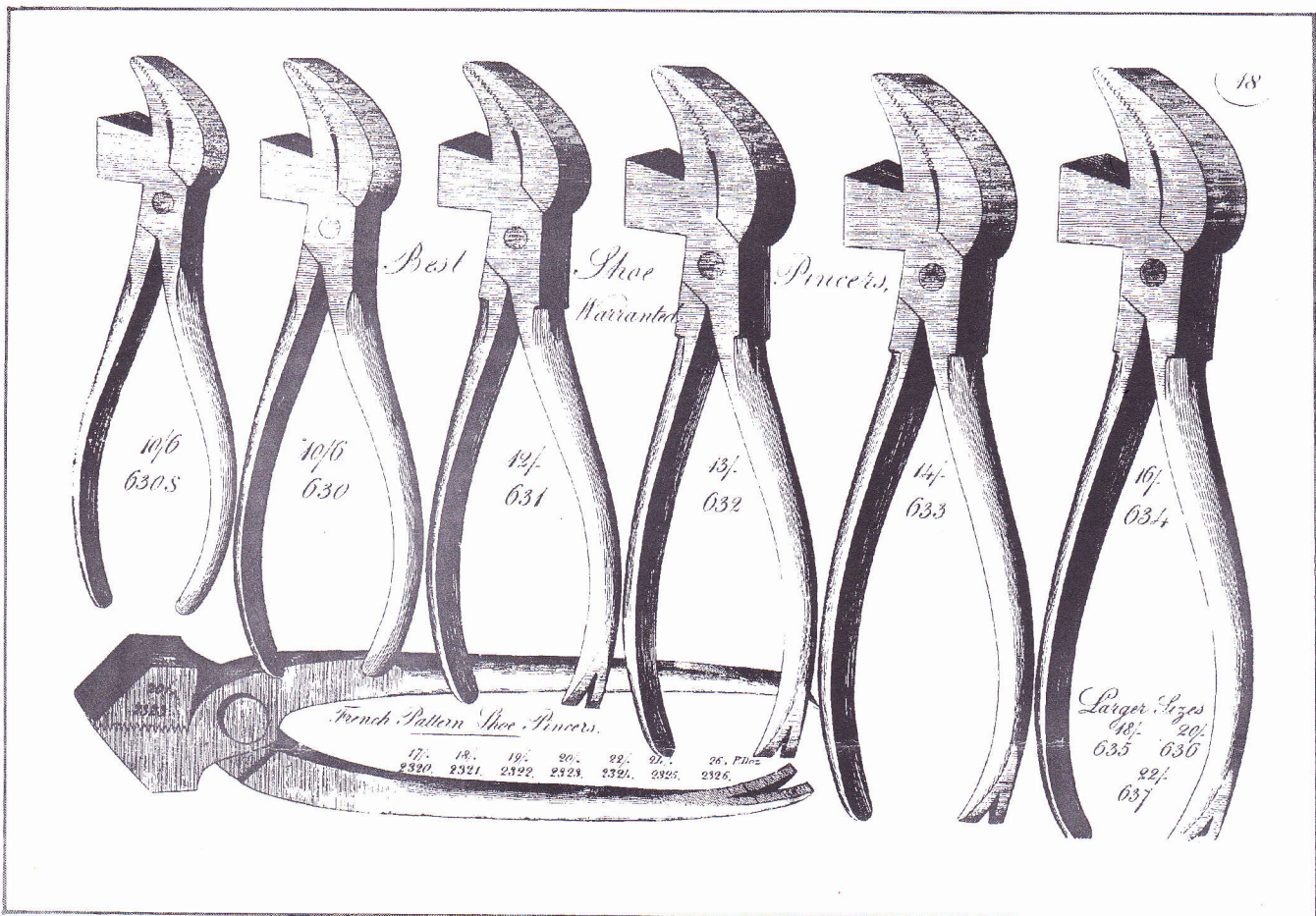
## NEXT MEETING

### Handmade Shoes

Most of you know that our esteemed catering officer Mario Dato makes his living manufacturing high fashion handmade shoes. At a previous meeting several years ago, Mario gave us a short talk on his trade. His presentation created a great deal of interest and he has agreed to address us on the same topic once more.

Mario makes his shoes on traditional lasts using tradition tools but the results are anything but traditional. He will bring along many of his specialist tools and demonstrate their use at the meeting.

Members are encouraged to bring along any rare or unusual tools associated with the shoemaking trade.



## PREVIOUS MEETING

Ray Gurney gave us a very interesting talk, based on his conservation experience of various types of adhesives. He covered the entire range from animal glues through caseins, urea-formaldehydes, epoxys, PVAs, modified PVAs to super glue. When all was said and done animal glue despite its smell and mild preparation inconvenience is still the glue of preference for conservators and serious traditional woodworkers. We will try to encapsulate at least some of Ray's talk in a future newsletter.

## COLLECTORS PAGE

### REMOVING RUST FROM TOOLS, ETC.

(72A).—One of the best rust-removing solutions which the writer has ever tried is a solution of ammonium citrate. A teaspoonful of this white chemical dissolved in about a glass of water make an ideal rust-removing solution. If used cold, articles immersed in the solution will be freed from rust in about eight or ten hours, while if the solution is used hot, then about twenty minutes is all that is necessary to lay bare the shiny surface.

Photographic trays or shallow dishes are best for the containing receptacle, as with this form of vessel a minimum of solution is required.

Drawing instruments, iron and steel parts, are quickly freed from rust when treated with this substance.

After the rust has been removed, the object should be rinsed with water and dried. On some steels, the return of rust can be prevented by immersing the object in a solution of potassium dichromate or sodium dichromate, then washing and drying. The action of the dichromate here seems to be that of an agent causing passivity, or rendering the iron or steel inert to the influence of oxidising agents. However, the results are well worth trying, for with a dichromate bath of the same strength as the ammonium citrate solution, one's pocket-book will not be measurably dented.

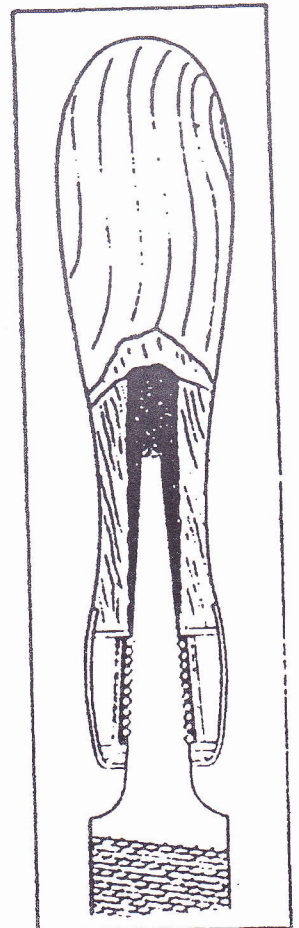
Both ammonium citrate and the dichromate solutions can be used until they have been exhausted of their active ingredient. O. M.

Mechanics 16 June 1944

### IMPROVED TOOL HANDLE.

Most users of files know that the method of forcing the tang into a wooden handle is not good since the tang frequently works loose when being used. To overcome this difficulty a new type of file handle, known as the "Shur-Grip," which has been placed on the market has a hardened flexible steel die firmly screwed into it. This die actually cuts a thread on the tang of the file as the latter is screwed into it, thus affording a firm grip such that the file can only come out of the handle when it is unscrewed. These handles are made in four sizes, viz. 4-in., 4½-in., 5-in. and 5½-in., for files ranging from 3-in. to 18-in. in length. They are marketed by Guest, Keen and Nettlefold's, of Birmingham.

Mechanics 11 Jan. 1938



*A Self-Fastening Tool Handle.*

A 1959 Design Centre Award presented by  
H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh

**WARD'S**  
**"ANVIL" BRAND**  
**ARISTOCRAT**

**CHISEL**

Patent No 808614



Especially designed for the  
Craftsman and serious Amateur.  
Well balanced.  
Machine Ground face.  
True to Width  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\frac{3}{4}$ "  $1$ "

A screwed steel shaft  
with a steel cap is fitted  
through the handle into the  
socket. This absorbs shock and  
prevents damage to the handle.

Manufactured by the well-known makers of Ward's "Anvil" Brand  
Tools. Obtainable with Plastic or Beech Handle from Quality  
Tool Dealers everywhere

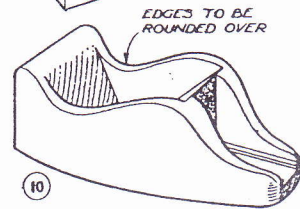
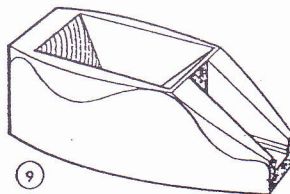
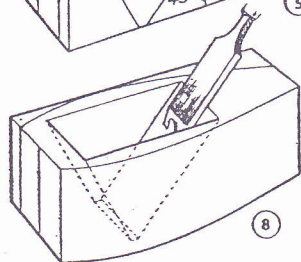
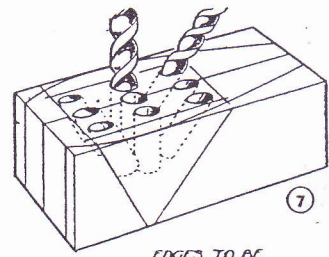
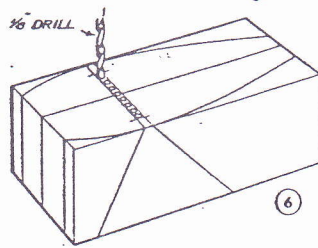
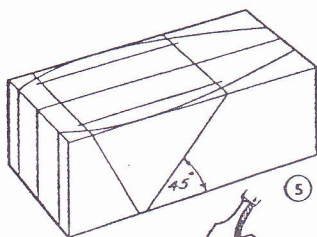
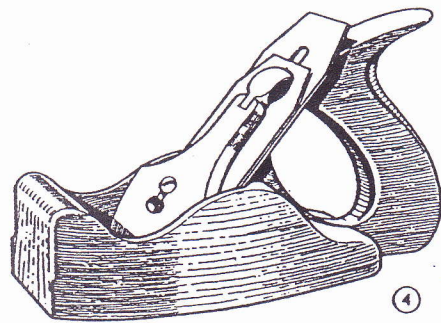
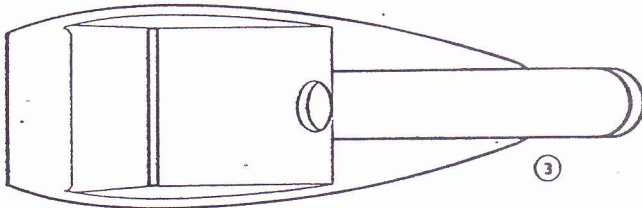
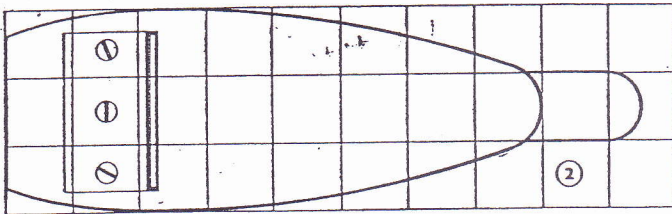
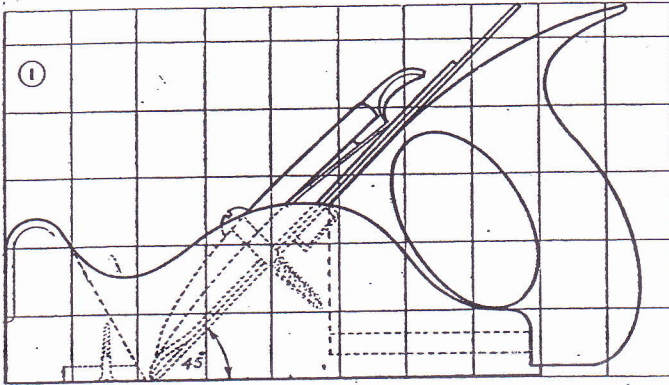
**WARD & PAYNE LTD**

**SHEFFIELD 6**

## HOME-MADE SMOOTHING PLANE

FITTED WITH  $2\frac{1}{2}$  IN. STANLEY or RECORD  
PATTERN CUTTER, BACK IRON, and  
LEVER CAP

*This is cut out of the solid in any close-grained, heavy hardwood. A metal mouth as shown is quite effective and has the advantage that it can be filed from any oddment of mild steel. If preferred an all-metal sole can be fitted. This should be obtained first so that the shape can be followed.*



Cut out main block 8 ins. long, 3 ins. wide,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins. high and mark out as in Fig. 5. Drill holes at mouth (Fig. 6) and bore holes in escapement as Fig. 7. Chisel away waste as in Fig. 8, making frog dead flat, and round over the sides. Cut away rear and chop recess with dovetail at bottom, Fig. 9. Finish off as Fig. 10 and

fit handle. This continues line of frog so that cutter is supported behind top of lever cap. Bore hole to allow for back iron nut, and insert round-head screw for fixing. Adjust with cutter, back iron, and lever cap in position. No adjustment is fitted. Set as ordinary wood smoothing plane.

## The EDGE PLANE

In all probability some readers have never come across this type of plane at all; certainly it is uncommon. Many woodworking trades never use it at all, but there are occasions when it can be very handy. It is used mostly by piano makers for working right up to a corner, and in this connection it can frequently be used where any other type of plane would be impossible.

**T**WO ways in which the plane would come in handy are shown in Fig. 2. In the one the plane is smoothing right up to an internal corner, and in the other is a stopped chamfer in

which the plane could work right up to the stop. Many other uses will suggest themselves—such as trimming a stopped rebate.

It will be realized that it

cannot be used in place of the more normal type of plane; it would dig in and fail to produce a flat surface. Furthermore, it could not be started. It is suitable only for working into a corner after the main surface has been planed. The

great secret of its successful use is to press well down on the handle. Only in this way is it possible to avoid digging in. Then, the cutter must be set fine—sometimes without any projection at all—and gradually fed forwards. It usually happens in this sort of work that the corner is high, and that is why it will sometimes cut when there is no projection to the cutter at all.

Fig. 3 shows the plane to scale. The main stock which should be of hardwood finishes 10 ins. by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  ins. square. Allow the width a trifle full for trimming and cut the front to an angle of 20 deg. Also shape the back. Finish neatly with a chamfer. The clamp is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  ins. by

$1\frac{1}{2}$  ins. by  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. It has a hole and slot cut through it to enable it to be slipped over screw head and pushed forward into place. The thumbscrew can be any convenient screw, the hole for it having the thread forced in it. Bore a hole to the narrowest part of the thread and force the screw into it.

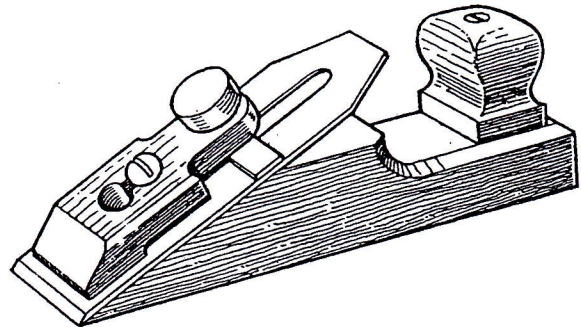


FIG. 1. WHAT THE FINISHED PLANE LOOKS LIKE. The exact length is not important, but it should not be much shorter than 9 ins. as it may be liable to dig in. This plane is 10 ins. long with a  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. cutter.

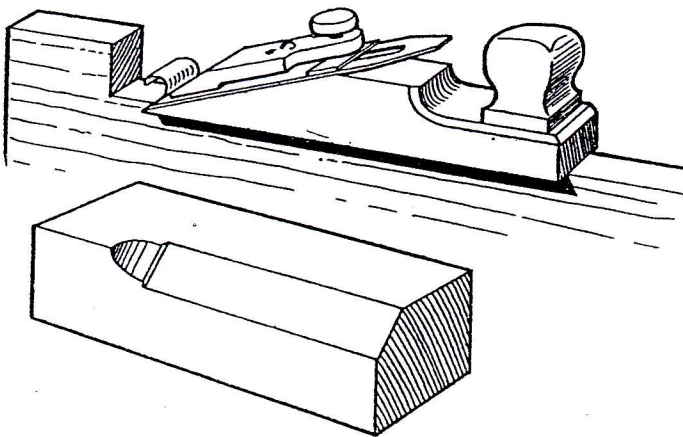


FIG. 2. EXAMPLES OF WORK FOR WHICH PLANE IS SUITABLE. Note that a strip of metal is placed beneath the thumb-screw to cover the slot in the cutter. The knob is either square as shown or it can be turned.

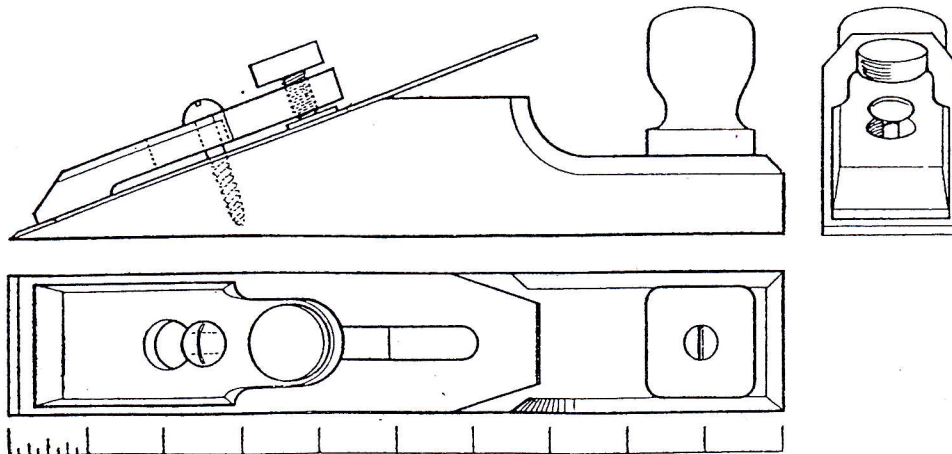


FIG. 3. SIDE AND FRONT ELEVATIONS AND PLAN. SIZES CAN BE TAKEN FROM SCALE.

(929)

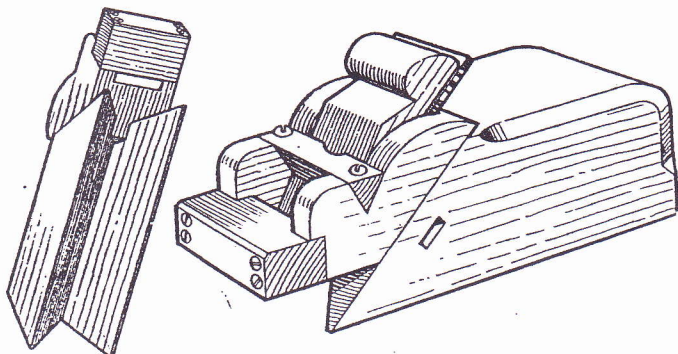


FIG. 1. TWO VIEWS OF THE COMPLETED PLANE. The left-hand drawing shows the plane tilted upwards revealing the sole. It will work any chamfer, at 45 deg., up to the limit of its cutter, 1 1/4 in.

## ADJUSTABLE CHAMFER PLANE

The chief advantage of the chamfer plane is that it enables any number of pieces to be chamfered to exactly the same depth without previous marking out, and all to the same angle. Furthermore it can be used for working stopped chamfers, a special bullnose mouth being fitted for this purpose.

**Description.**—The main chamfer body is V grooved at the bottom, the sides sloping at 45 deg. and thus meeting at 90 deg. These sides act as fences or guides, ensuring the chamfer being worked at 45 deg. The front is cut at 45 deg., and the plane body (cut at the same angle) is free to slide up and down, being held in position by a tongue. A bolt holds the two parts together in the required position. The cutter, a 1 1/4-in. Stanley grooving iron, is held by a wedge.

**Use.**—The plane body is first set so that a chamfer of the required will be produced (it will be realized that the plane ceases to cut automatically when the depth has been reached, since one sloping side of the chamfer body acts as a depth gauge whilst the other forms a fence). The chamfer width is decided by measuring across the plane face the distance between the sloping sides. Having tightened the bolt the cutter is placed in position, sighted, and the wedge knocked in.

When using the plane start at the far end and bring the plane a little farther back at each successive stroke. It is held at an angle, of course, the sloping sides acting as a guide. It is awkward to start a shaving at the near end owing to there being no guide beneath the front of the plane. All you need to do, however, is to reverse the plane and work the opposite way.

In the case of a stopped chamfer a cut about 3/8 in. or 1/2 in. is chiselled immediately against the stop. Then, when the bullnose mouth is substituted (it is only 1/4 in.

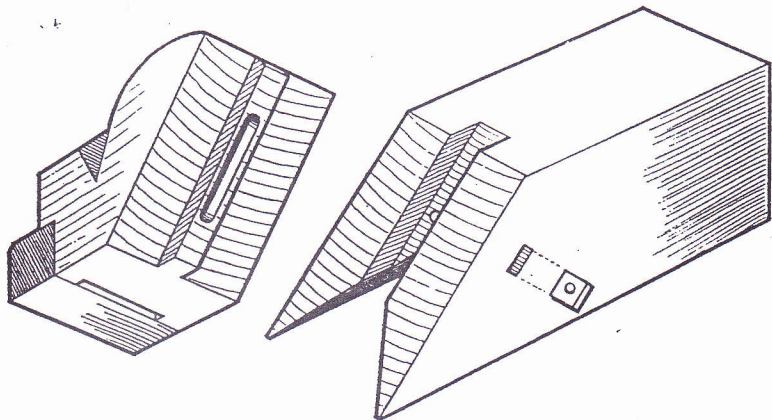


FIG. 2. PLANE BODY.

This shows clearly the two main parts and how they fit together. The position of the plane body on the chamfer body fixes the depth of the chamfer. The normal mouth is used for the general run of work, and the bullnose mouth substituted when stopped chamfers are required.

FIG. 3. MAIN CHAMFER BODY.

wide) the plane can run out into this stop. For general working, however, the normal mouth is preferable as, owing to the narrow mouth, the plane is liable to dip in, especially if the back of the plane is raised.

**Construction.**—Square the block for the chamfer body and work the V groove in the underside. Cut the front at 45 deg., and mark out and cut the groove. Bore the hole for the bolt, and cut in a recess to take the nut at the side.

Prepare squared-up block for plane body, cut end at 45 deg., and work tongue to fit in groove. It should make a hand-tight fit. Mark escapement, saw down sides, and saw away waste as far as possible. Chisel remainder and finish with shoulder plane. Fit the two mouths and shape the sides. Cut slot for bolt and form recess at top for bolt head. A washer should be fitted. (777)

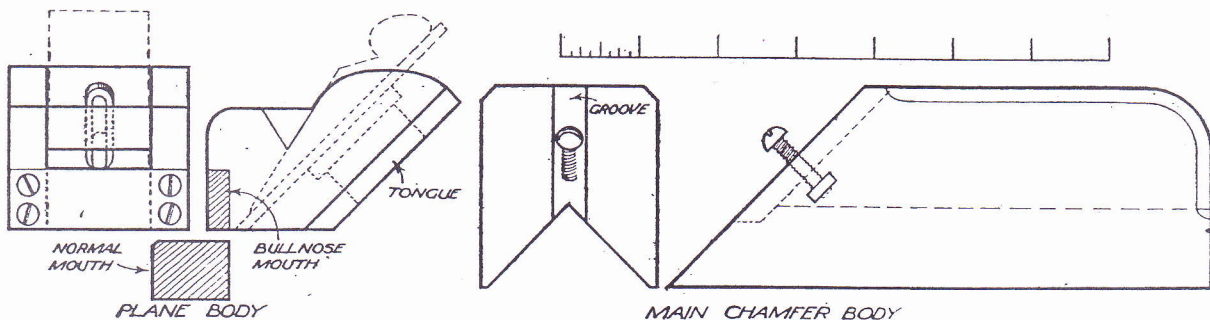
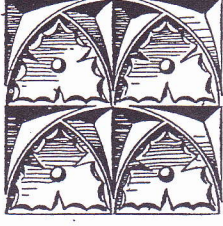


FIG. 4. SCALE ELEVATIONS OF THE PARTS. BEECH OR SOME OTHER RELIABLE HARDWOOD SHOULD BE USED.

VOL. 46      AUGUST, 1942      NO. 585

# WOODWORKER

THIS MONTH'S WOODWORK DETAIL.      Tudor Gothic carved panel with simple conventional leafwork. First half of 16th century.



## MAKE YOUR TOOLS LAST LONGER

**T**HERE are some tools about which you can't do much except take proper and reasonable care in their use. This is generally because continual sharpening wears away their actual substance so that eventually they become practically non-existent. In others, however, wear can often be prevented or made good.

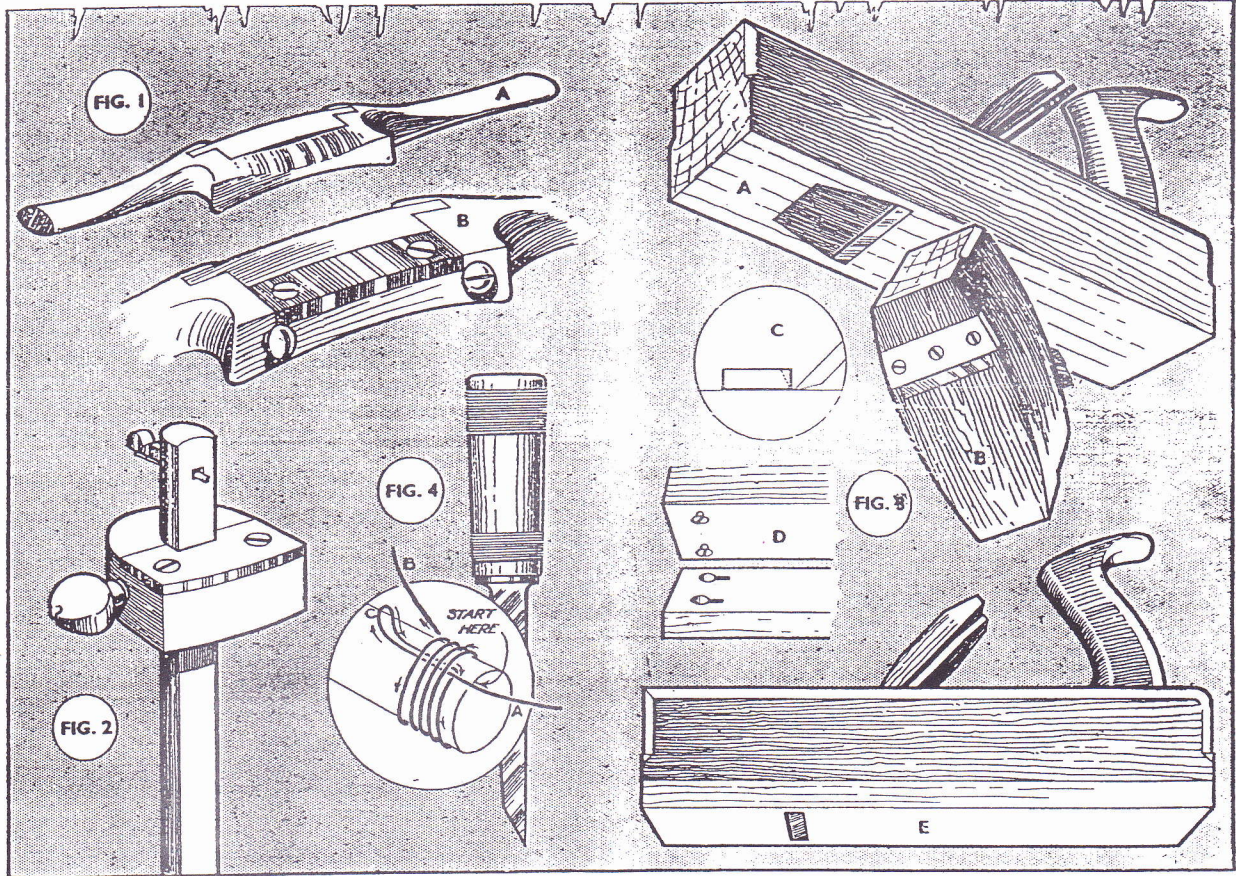
**Spokeshaves.**—The wooden spokeshave comes under the latter heading. After being in use for a long time two things invariably happen; the cutter becomes loose so that you have to wedge it with little pieces of veneer, and the

sole immediately in front of the cutter becomes worn away, eventually making

*When a man has had a tool in use for a number of years he hates to discard it even when it shows signs of being near the end of its useful life, and now that new ones are expensive and scarce he hesitates more than ever before replacing it. In this article we explain how the life of some tools can be prolonged.*

it impossible to remove a fine shaving. This state of affairs is shown at A, Fig. 1.

To tighten the cutter is a quite simple job. Two round-head screws are driven in at the front (see B, Fig. 1), the length being chosen so that the heads stop a trifle short of the wood when the ends of the screws reach the cutter tangs. It is advisable to set the screws well in and arrange them at an angle as otherwise, being near the edge, the grain may split. A method of repairing worn parts is also shown at B. Either the worn portion is cut away flat to the extent of about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. and a fresh piece of hardwood glued in, or a shallow recess is cut to take a strip of  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. full brass.



FOUR EVERYDAY TOOLS, THE LIFE OF WHICH CAN BE PROLONGED BY SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS.  
 FIG. 1. A. Worn Spokeshave. B. New mouth and fixing screws. FIG. 2. Gauge with refaced fence. FIG. 3. A. Jack plane with wood mouth. B. Iron mouth to smoothing plane. C. Section through iron mouth. D. Slot screwing. E. New sole for Jack plane. FIG. 4. Chisel handle. Start at A, form loop C, back to A, wind round handle, pass end B through loop C, and pull end A.

## BOOK REVIEW

Christopher Gabriel and the Tool Trade in 18th Century London.  
Jane and Mark Rees.

If you are a collector of planes there is no need to read this review. All you need do is to read the last sentence. This will tell you where to buy a copy.

Since Goodman mentioned the Gabriel Inventory every serious student of woodworking history has been waiting for this book. The Rees have now made the Inventory available and have attempted some analysis of the Gabriel family.

Australian readers may not be aware of the vast numbers of planes sent to New South Wales during the penal era. There is a reasonable possibility that a sizeable percentage of tools sent to the colony before 1810 were made by, or retailed by, the Gabriel family. Gabriel planes are not uncommon in Australia if we allow for the small population and the attrition of two centuries.

Apart from the reproduction of the inventory this book has some excellent photographs of Gabriel tools. The two Mitre planes on page 53 are my favourites in a well illustrated publication.

The text is well written and the book is a significant contribution to our knowledge of 18th Century tools. The last sentence, this book is available from Tools of Trade who are regular advertisers in this newsletter, my copy cost \$28 plus post and packing.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED.

Woodworker Annuals, pre 1941.

Copy "Modern Cabinet Work"

Wells and Hooper 1909.

Stanley Shute Board Plane No. 51

Plane only, any condition.

Price and details to

Any parts for planes, eg. iron, stops etc.

Bob Crosbie 98697487

or write to The Editor.

### *WOODIES BOOKS*

Woodies Books. Suppliers of the Finest Woodworking Books Available.

Send self-addressed stamped business size envelope for catalogue.

1289 Barkers Lodge Rd. Oakdale 02 4680 9494

**The Traditional Tools Group Inc.  
Advertisement Request**

Newsletter Sub-Committee.  
TTTG Inc.  
P.O. Box 240  
GROSVENOR PLACE  
SYDNEY N.S.W. 1220

Please place the following advertisement in the TTTG Newsletter.

Non -commercial line advertisements are free.

Commercial Rates:

50 cents per line. Quarter Page \$10. Half Page \$15. Full Page \$20

First commercial advertisement is free.

(Terms : book three placements to receive first placement at no cost. Layout and artwork to be supplied by advertiser. Commercial advertisers will be invoiced after first publication of advertisement.)

To place advertisement please fill in format below and mail to address above.

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**DIRECTORY**

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP Inc. (TTTG)

The Secretary

TTTG Inc.

P.O. Box 240

GROSVENOR PLACE

SYDNEY N.S.W. 1220

TOOLS AND TRADES HISTORY SOCIETY. (TATHS.)

The Administrator TATHS

60 Swanley Lane,

Swanley, Kent, BR8 7JG UK

HAND TOOL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA. Inc.(HTPAA).

P.O.Box 1163

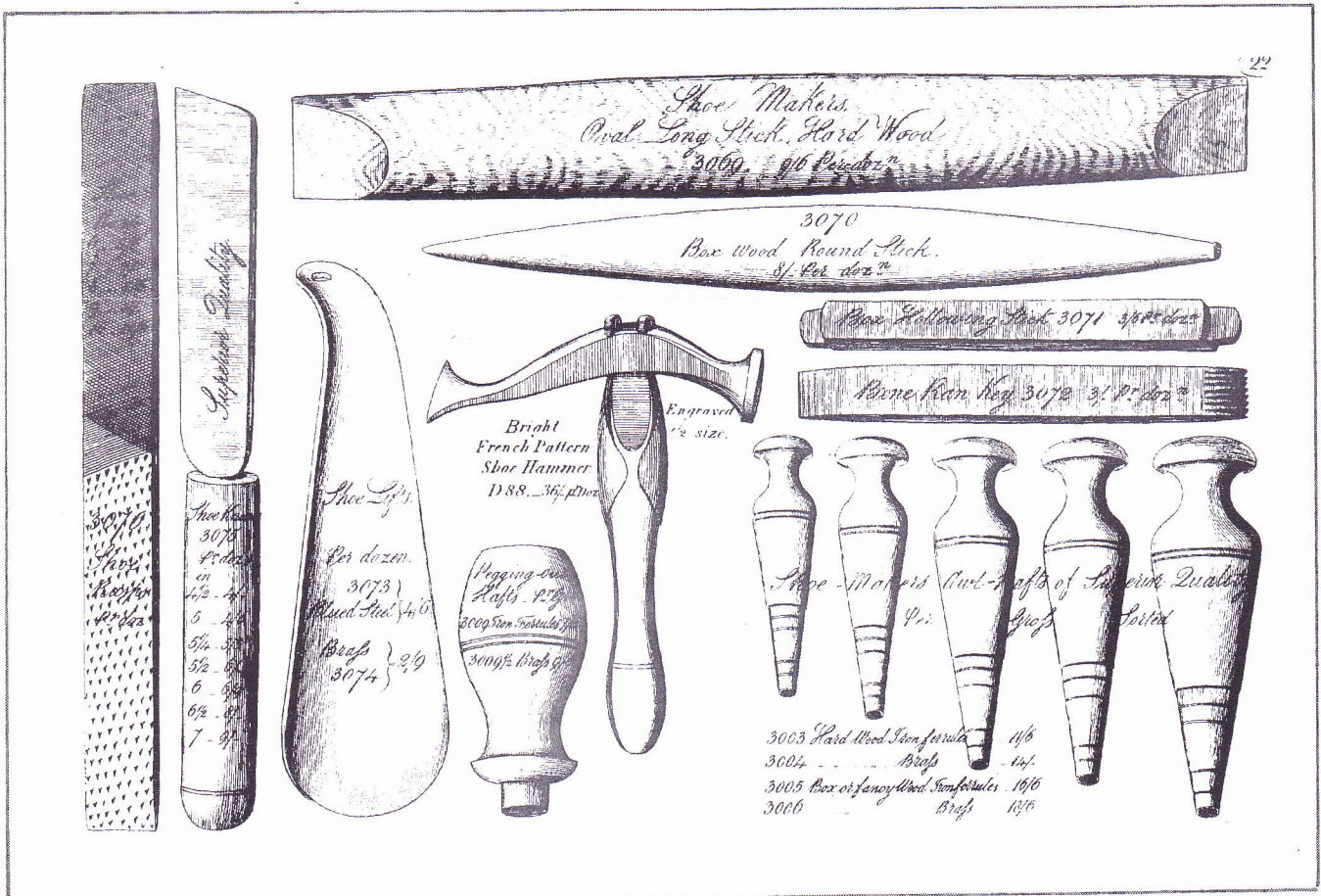
Carlton Victoria 3053

HAND TOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY of WESTERN AUSTRALIA.(HTPSWA)

8 Belham Street,

Bayswater

Western Australia 6053



# Tools of Trade

- Always Buying & Selling Old & Used Handtools
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