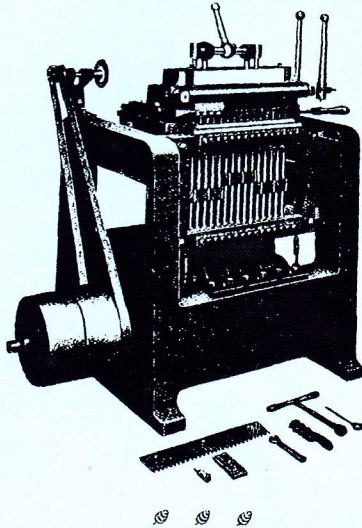


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TGT

# Dodds' Dovetailer,

1911 MODEL.



SOLE AGENTS:

**THE OLIVER MACHINERY CO., LTD.,**  
201 & 203, Deansgate, MANCHESTER.

Newsletter 48

August 1999

The Traditional Tools Group Inc

TTTG Inc.  
**THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP**

**TTTG NEWSLETTER**  
**August 1999 No. 48.**

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*1998-99 Subscriptions are due*

**Cover:** Advertisement from **The Cabinet Maker and Complete House Furnisher. July 22nd 1911.**

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Any opinions expressed are those of the contributor.

**Postal Address**

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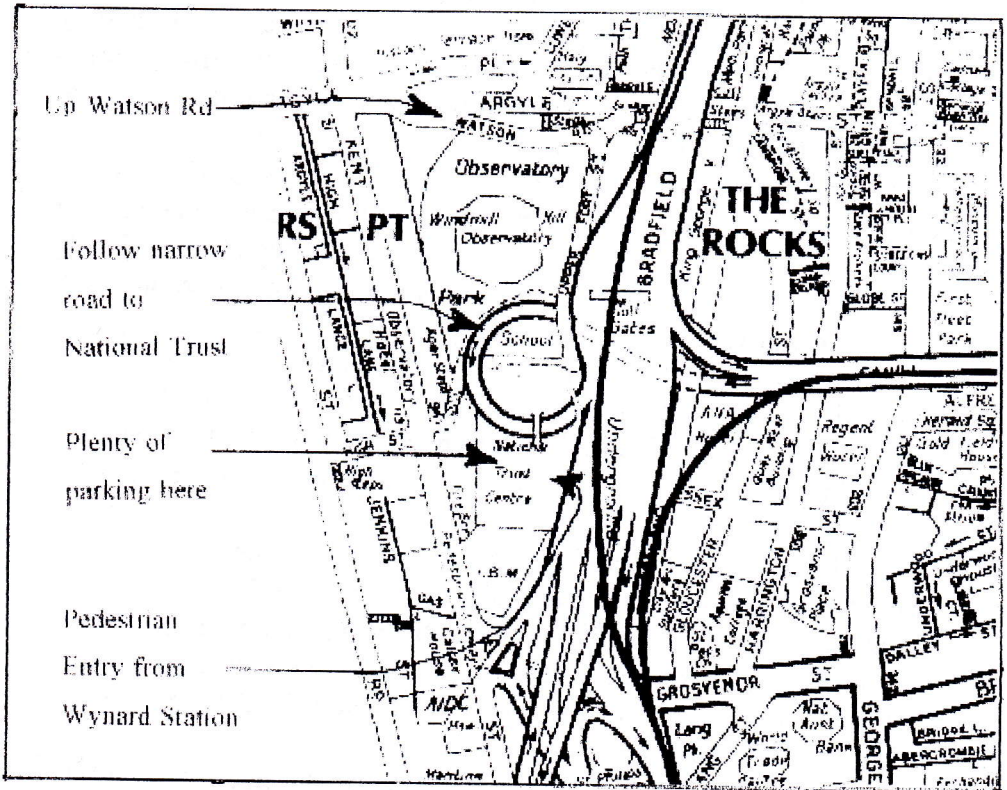
**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 10th August 1999**

**National Trust Centre**

**Observatory Hill**

**Commencing at 7:00pm**



### **PROGRAMME**

**1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2. TTTG RESTORATION.** BOB CROSBIE AND RICK MITCHELL WILL BE GIVING A TALK ON THE RESTORATION OF TRADITIONAL MACHINES WHICH HAVE BEEN DONATED TO TTTG AND ARE INDEED IN NEED OF TENDER LOVING CARE. THE TALK WILL BE ILLUSTRATED WITH SLIDES OF PROGRESS TO DATE. DON'T MISS IT!

**3. TOOL AUCTION.** BARGAINS TO BE HAD. BRING YOUR MONEY!

**4. SUPPER BY MARIO DATO**

## Editors Notes.

Bob Crosbie

The Working With Wood Show is behind us for another Year. The genuine big event of 1999 is the TTTG Annual Election. The Committee has dusted off the Minutes and prepared the accounts for audit. If you want to get rid of them this is the once a year chance.

A number of members have indicated a willingness to stand for election. They obviously have heard of the enormous benefits of being on the TTTG Committee. Why not throw you hat in the ring and seek such high office?

This issue of the newsletter has a number of innovative articles. John Daniels showed an interest in writing regularly for the newsletter. Without hesitation I gave him the job with only one condition, namely "You write it and we will print it". **John's Page** is sure to become a popular feature with our readers.

Ray Gurney had a revelation "Why not reprint some of the old how to do it stuff". At this very moment the editorial committee is searching the world's libraries, well to begin with the TTTG Library, for reprintable, out of copyright, how to do it articles. **How to** may be another TTTG first.

Then I had the idea that I had better write something myself. This coincided with the need to make the next General Meeting Talk sound really good. Rick Mitchell was a bit sceptical about the topic. But I argued that members would be interested to know about what is happening with the TTTG donated items. Besides Rick has pictures and slides of the lathe he is restoring.

We agreed to keep it clean in the newsletter but to be candid on the night of the talk. Still there is enough in "**Strange doings**" to whet your appetite. To hear the full story you must attend the meeting.

I have mixed feelings every year about the Working With Wood Show. These are to do with the human condition. Some insight into my twisted mental state can be gained from "**Shockers**".

## Letters to the Editor.



### **C.R. Miller Planes**

ESTABLISHED ELTHAM VICTORIA 1989

1. The current business address is still 125 Sweeneys Lane, Eltham, Vic 3095. This may change in the future, however, to either the new factory address in Preston or my residential address in Wonga Park. I'll notify you when this happens - which will probably be when the new catalogue is ready.
  
2. All prices in the 1997 catalogue are still current. There will be some price rises in the next catalogue as you would expect, but until that comes out (you're on the mailing list so I'll send it to you when it's done) all prices remain the same.
  - A. I am looking into the possibility of making replacement cutters for Stanley type planes. These will be slightly thicker and of much better quality steel. I'm not sure if they'll be ready in time for the next catalogue, but I'll keep you posted.
  - B. Likewise as in answer A. these are under consideration.
  - C. The next catalogue will contain some sundry items such as handles and lever caps and possibly even Norris style adjusters. The replacement handles and knobs will also include Stanley or Bailey types. Pre-dovetailed bodies or kits may also be a possibility in the future, but I'll have to look into it and do the sums.

Of course having said all of this I will custom make virtually anything - or at least have a go at it - however custom made items do tend to have a higher price compared with production made ones. If anyone has any enquiries all they need to do is contact me and I will do my best to answer them.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cameron Miller'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cameron Miller

P.S. The website is almost ready to go. I'll keep you posted.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**TUESDAY 10 August 1999**

**THE ANNIE WYATT ROOM**  
**NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE**  
**OBSERVATORY HILL.**  
**Commencing at 7.00 Sharp.**

**Programme**

**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Rick Mitchell and Bob Crosbie are restoring two vintage machines. Both machines were donated to TTTG. Both machines are large! Both men have interesting stories to tell about these machines. You can read some of the stories in;

**"Strange doings"** TTTG Machine Collection

**BUT for the full uncensored off the cuff no holds barred version**  
you must attend the August 10 meeting.

It is pure coincidence that the current Committee will be standing for re-election at this meeting.

**Find out what we go through on your behalf.**

As usual refreshments are available for a modest donation.

The confessions will be preceded by the Annual General Election.

The current TTTG Committee are all willing to stand for re election!

To conclude the evening Bob Crosbie will auction some old tools.

Numerous rare and desirable items will be placed under the hammer.

So bring your money, or cheque book.

There is always interest in locally made tools. If I can find enough material **Great Aussie Tools** will become a regular feature. Many of us have old coachwood masonite slitters and bevellers but does anyone have the tools Masonite were advertising? Did Burnie market similar tools?

Wood Trimmers are back on the market so the article on these machines should be of some interest.

I have had a number of inquiries about Miller Planes. The letter from C R Miller should answer all these questions.(see **Letters** )

Enjoy the newsletter and if you can come to the next meeting

## Previous Meeting.    **THE SHARP EDGE**

This proved to be a very stimulating evening with members from the floor discussing their favourite sharpening methods. Clynt gave us a convincing demonstration of sharpening blades on progressively finer pieces of carborundum paper which were taped around the periphery of a sheet of plate glass. Henry Black noted that the popular hook-and-loop paper replacement scheme for disc sanders significantly impaired the sanding accuracy due to the increased compliance of the paper surface. The meeting was about evenly divided on the use or not of honing guides. I'm sure that everyone left the meeting with some new tip or hint in this basic but important area of tool use.

### In Committee.

#### TTTG Committee Meeting

The last TTTG Committee meeting's time was monopolised by the urgent need to organise the TTTG stand at the Working With Wood Show.

The Committee was encouraged by the positive and generous support given to TTTG by Patrick O'Reilly of Riddell Promotions.

Next year's Show is an event to look forward to and the 2001 show should witness a vibrant TTTG motivated by the challenge of the new millennium. You can be part of both events, volunteer now!

On a mundane note the Committee discussed the urgent need to extract late subscription dues from delinquent members.

Routine matters of business were dutifully processed.

**The Committee resolved to hold the annual General Election at the General Meeting on 10 August 1999**

### Library News.

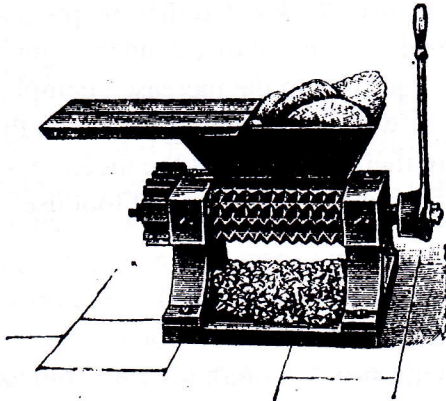
#### **Recent Acquisitions;**

#### **Journals/ Newsletters received;**

TATHS, HTPAA, HTPSWA

**WILLIAM COOPER, Ltd, 751, Old Kent Rd, London, S.E.**  
**HORTICULTURAL PROVIDERS.**

**Patent Poultry Grit Crusher.**



No. 656.

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Do you wish to  
keep your Poultry  
in perfect health?  
Then use the  
Novelty of the age!  
\*

Saves time. Saves trouble. Saves annoyance. Saves expense.  
Crushes fine or coarse. Everlasting wear. Child labour only.  
Entire absence of danger to the eyes from flying chippings.  
The labour a pleasure.

Crush your own grit from your old crockery, glass, shell,  
and other refuse. The best of grit.

Why buy grit when a child can crush in a few minutes all  
that is required—thereby keeping your poultry in health and  
increasing your egg supply? Why throw away your breakage  
refuse when you can put it to good account—thereby saving  
labour in disposing of it?

PRICE 16s. each.

Order at once! Don't delay! And so save disappointment.

**Editors Note:** We wonder how many poor fowls  
died of glass poisoning after consuming grit  
produced by this machine!

## A Crude Plane.

John Daniel

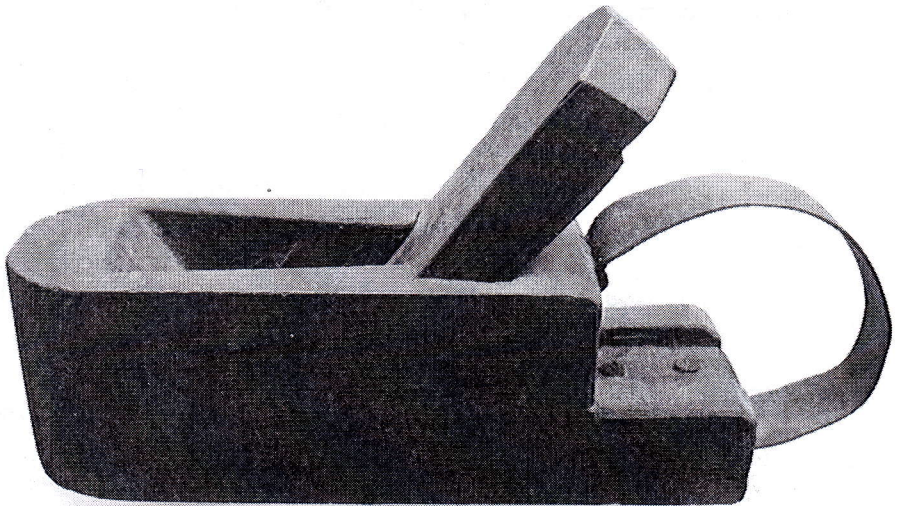
Only a dollar at a local market, I couldn't resist it at that price. Perhaps I was its last chance before it ended up as firewood ("possibly where it belongs" I can almost hear some of you thinking).

I venture to suggest that this plane was made by a "true blue Aussie battler - a 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " length of 3" x 3" hardwood fitted with a 2" x  $\frac{3}{16}$ "

parallel blade (possibly made from a piece of early car spring) held in place with a rough hardwood wedge. The handle is fashioned from a piece of 1" x 16 gauge hoop iron secured in place with 4 wood screws.

I suggest an "Aussie battler" for he obviously was short of cash, obviously battled to construct it and obviously battled to use it, for it qualifies as the most uncomfortable plane that I have ever pushed. I would say that this hand tool has heard many a choice "true blue" word.

I may be a little sentimental but I feel that tools such as these reflect on the determination and independence of many of those citizens that have gone before us and although these tools may have little monetary value, there is a far greater value in their social comment of the past.



## "Shockers" from the 1999 Sydney Wood Show

Question : *When did the first saw arrive in Australia ?*

Answer : *Five minutes after the first boat arrived.*

So I can be a little sarcastic but it had been a long two days. Sunday afternoon always seems to bring the real shocker questions for TTTG. *The secret of course is not to react or to pretend deafness.*

Here are two gems from previous years

-Planes are made from coconut wood and

- Grandfather built a house from one tree using only an axe

The first is never repeated but the second comes back every year.

And then there are the predicable ones

- My 55 must be really rare and valuable

- I want my tools to go to a good home so how much will you pay me.

Every year I get offered at least three hand operated mortising machines. I even get shown pictures. Sometimes the owners are willing to deliver. I have not heard from any of the machine owners.

Lets not forget the tool pricers, the "what's it worth" brigand. These people can get very irate when told the truth. Sorry Malloch is not a rare Australian plane maker from Perth Western Australia

I am not totally unfeeling. I do commiserate with the fellow who was making a replica 55 only to learn they are common and hard to sell

Why do I spend three days on the TTTG stand each year. The answer is in the question *When did the first saw arrive in Australia ?*

## "Strange doings" TTTG Machine Collection

### Hand Mortising Machine

One of the first items donated to TTTG was a cast iron hand mortising machine. Terry Butcher brought it and gave it to the group.

At this time only one of the chisels TTTG had acquired fitted the machine. Any way it worked and a number of older visitors taught me a great deal apart using the machine.

There were a number of parts missing but for some unknown reason I agreed to take over the machine.

Ray found a set of machine chisels in his workshop and passed them on to me. They were not the right taper but I decided they were too good not to use. So I designed and machined an adaptor sleeve.

Straight forward job to turn a non standard external taper but a small bore internal taper is another story. The task was made easier by my having an old damaged brass reamer of similar taper. The reamer was ruined but most of the metal was got out of the way.

The roughly reamed blank was then cleaned up by using a round file while the blank was in the three jaw chuck. Next one of the mortise chisels was used as a mandrel. By repeated heatings of the blank and hammering onto the chisels tang a good fit was achieved.

The rest was easy. The blank was driven on to a chisel. The chisel was set up in a four jaw chuck and the external taper turned using the compound slide. Hex. facets were filed on the bottom of the adaptor and finally it was case hardened and polished.

Suddenly the machine became a viable piece of equipment. Next I made a stand and single handed lifted the cast iron monster onto the stand. For the hair raising details you have to come to the next meeting.

### Lee and Hunt Back Geared Engine Lathe

This recent acquisition is part of the Sydney Teachers College Collection. At the next meeting Rick Mitchell and myself are going to tell how we collected this and other machines. Rick will then give an illustrated account of the restoration work which is in progress.

The lathe seems to be mid 1800s and will be compared to the Barnes Lathe also acquired by TTTG.

Apart from the engineering there is human interest in this story.

## THE TENON SAW

This saw differs from the handsaws previously described in that its blade is shorter and thinner, and its teeth much smaller. It is thus more suited to do its job of fine accurate work. The most obvious difference however, is the "back"—the fold of heavy steel or brass which grips the whole length of the blade. It is this back which keeps the very thin blade stiff and rigid, so preventing it from bending while in use, as it undoubtedly would were it not supported in this way.

This is the saw for general work on the bench, and it is required to cut both with and across the grain. For this reason its teeth are sharpened with a bevel, like cross-cut teeth, for whereas cross-cut teeth will rip—(though not so well as rip teeth)—rip teeth will not cross-cut cleanly.

Tenon saw teeth are pitched at an angle of  $16^\circ$  as shown in fig. 23.

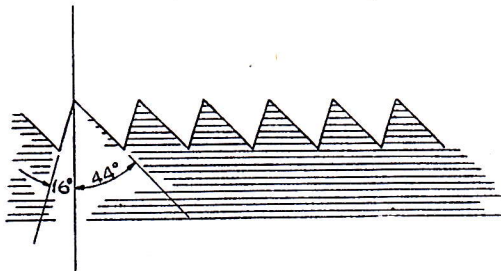


Fig. 23

## SHARPENING

Sharpening of the tenon saw is carried out exactly as described for a cross-cut saw, but because the teeth are smaller greater care is needed to keep them perfectly even in size.

For 14—16 points use a 4"— $4\frac{1}{2}$ " slim taper file.

12	·	·	·	5"	·	·
11	·	·	·	6"	·	·

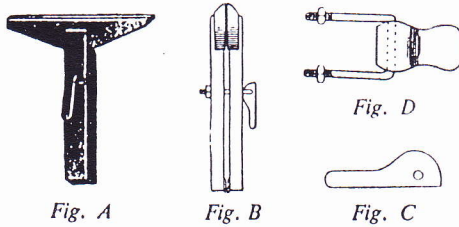
**HOME MADE SAW VICE**

Fig. A shows the vice complete; Fig. B a side view; Fig. C the lever, and Fig. D the lever on an iron staple.

The vice is made throughout from wood 3 in. wide  $\times$  1 in. thick; the jaws are 12 in. long and the uprights 14 in. The staple is made from  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. round iron bar, and is tapped to take the two nuts. Any smith will supply the bar and bend and tap it for you. The hinge at the bottom of the uprights is an ordinary 2 in. butt hinge. Pieces of leather or vulcanised rubber fastened inside the jaws will make the vice grip better.

As will be seen from the illustration, fig. C. the lever is eccentric in shape, so that when it is raised the jaws of the vice open sufficiently to admit the saw blade easily, whilst by forcing the lever into position as shown in figs. A and B, the jaws are made to grip the saw tightly.

A simple bolt with a wing nut could be used as a substitute for the lever and staple shown above.

# THE WOOD TRIMMER AND ITS USES

**A**S a labour-saving tool, giving positive results, no hand-driven appliance can compare with the wood trimming machine. Even the professional woodworker often loses valuable time in squaring up the ends of various pieces of stock previous to dowelling, and the same remark applies to the planing of mitred and similar angle joints.

What a bugbear, for instance, it is to plane up the ends of a couple of dozen drawer sides with the plane and shooting board, when they can be quickly and

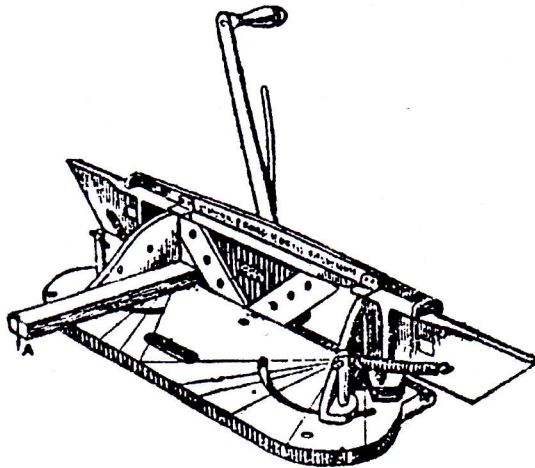


FIG. 277.—THE WOOD TRIMMER, SHOWING HOW END OF RAIL IS TRIMMED PRIOR TO DOWELLING.

accurately trimmed on a hand-driven machine at the rate of 200 per hour, and this by a boy who cannot even handle a plane. Or, take the making of a picture frame of standard pattern of oak moulding, which can be roughly sawn to the required angle and trimmed to a perfect mitre, glued up and sprigged at the corners, in less than seven minutes.

The machine illustrated has two adjustable fences or guides, and it will trim any angle from 40 to 135 degrees. The angles in daily use, such as 45, 60, 67½, 90, 120 and 135 degrees, are lined out on the base of the machine so that the fences may be instantly adjusted without having to requisition the protractor or angle meter. The capacity of the trimmer is such that it will square

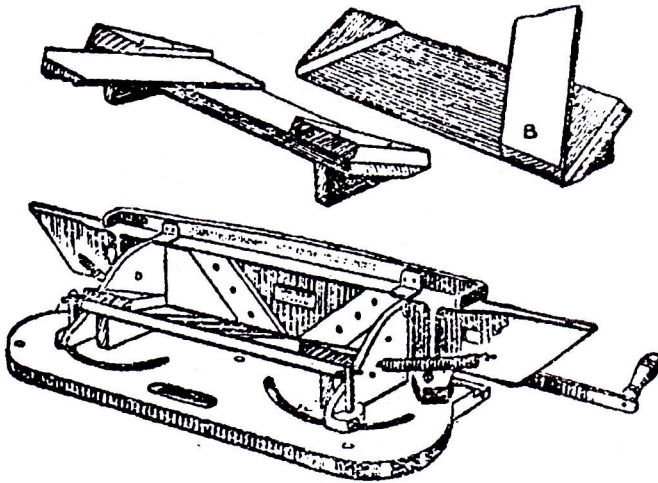


FIG. 278.—TRIMMER WITH JIG FOR MITREING CROWN MOULDINGS. TWO SEPARATE VIEWS OF JIG ARE SHOWN.

the end of a board 11 ins. wide and 1 in. thick or a plank measuring 9 ins. by 3 ins., and it will of course deal with any intermediate size.

The knives, which are approximately  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. thick, are fixed to the side or carrier at an angle of 45 degrees, thereby securing a perfect draw cut; and, by having the adjustable fences close to the knife, a perfect shearing cut is obtained and splintered edges do not appear at the point where the knives leave the stock.

Fig. 277 gives a general view, illustrating the squaring up of the end of a rail which is to be dowel-jointed, and the procedure would be as follows. Trim up all the rails at one end, and then saw them off to approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  of their required length. Knock a nail into the bench at A; place the trimmed or finished end of the rail in contact with this nail, and proceed to trim the sawn end. By adopting this method any number of rails (even if they vary in width) can be suc-

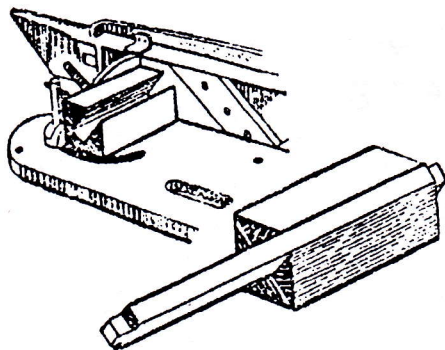


FIG. 279.—TRIMMER WITH JIG FOR CUTTING SHOULDERS OF TENONS.

cessfully cut so as to give a perfect joint, and they will all be of exactly the same length. For constant work the user would of course discard the nail method, and would make a rod of hardwood about  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. square on which he would fix an adjustable shoe, arranged to come in contact with the end of the rails.

**Trimming Shoulders of Tenons.**—Here is another example—trimming the shoulders of tenons (see Fig. 279). Many workers who own a trimmer have never used or seen the machine used for this purpose. A hardwood block is made, a screw from the back of the fence holding it in position. The bearer rail is dropped into the recess, and the shoulder (which has previously been rough sawn to its length) is trimmed exactly to the line which has been marked by the scribing awl or marking knife. The blade of the machine, set at 45 degrees, exactly fits and finishes the cut right up to the internal angle of the shoulder and tenon. An enlarged view of this temporary block with a short length of tenoned stock is shown near the general illustration.

Cutting the shoulder lines on cylindrical blind rollers is another awkward job in the ordinary way ; but, by putting the roller on the machine as at Fig. 277, and revolving it with the left hand whilst applying pressure to the knife, an incision about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. deep can be made and the line so cut will be truly marked around the roller. This simple operation is most difficult to do by hand, because the roller will require to have its end made square before the workman can apply his cutting gauge.

Another gadget that any user can make is a board for the mitreing of crown or sprung mouldings as at B, Fig. 278. The mitreing of this type of moulding is always more difficult than a solid or backed-up mould ; but, by making a simple wooden jig as suggested in the illustrations at Fig. 278, the operation becomes perfectly simple. The tilted jig throws the sprung moulding to the necessary compound angle, and the cut is simplified. The user may of course make a more elaborate board for the purpose and the small wooden fences may be made adjustable.

**To Sharpen the Knives** of a wood trimmer it is necessary to unscrew them from the machine. They may then be laid flat on the bench with their face sides downwards and the cutting edge projecting about *one sixty-fourth* of an inch over the edge of the bench. Sharpen with a medium grade Indian oilslip, measuring about 5 ins. by 1 in. by 1 in., lubricated with paraffin or a mixture of oil and paraffin. The ordinary oilstone is not so handy for sharpening as an oilslip.

Never remove the wire edge from the face of a trimmer knife as you do when sharpening a plane iron. The wire edge will remove itself when the knife is fixed into the machine. Removing the wire edge after sharpening often spoils a trimmer knife, as there is always a tendency to dub the edge off, and some makes of knives are slightly underground on their face sides. It is seldom that trimmer knives require re-grinding, but bear in mind that they require sharpening about as often as your chisel or plane.

**Abuses of the Trimmer.**—Now, a few words on the abuse of the trimmer. It is, generally speaking, an ill-used machine because many expect it to do the work of a saw. Remember that nails are fatal to it, and that you cannot at one operation cut a shaving  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick from off the end of a piece of 2 in. by 2 in. oak with a hand-used chisel. Therefore, do not expect the trimmer to do it! The proper tool for such a purpose is a saw. Use the trimmer with discretion, and limit your cut to a thin shaving just as you would do when paring with a chisel. Do not neglect to oil the moving slides.

Soft spongy woods like American whitewood, satin walnut and pine are apt to be compressed by the machine during the trimming operation, and so the lighter you take the cut the better the finished work. You can quickly take a series of cuts if you have a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. or more to remove, but remember that it is a trimmer and not a saw.

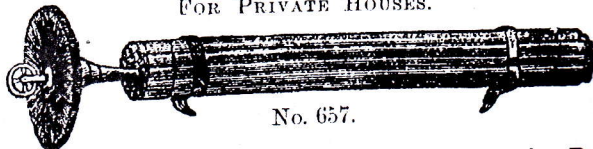
Trimmers are made in a variety of sizes; the smaller types as a rule only allow the fences to be moved between the angles of about 42 degrees to, say, 92 degrees. The larger types are built on a central pillar which stands on the shop floor, and the moving slide which carries the knives is operated by a capstan wheel.

**WILLIAM COOPER, Ltd, 751, Old Kent Rd, London, S.E.**

HORTICULTURAL PROVIDERS.

### The "Household" Chimney and Drain Machine.

FOR PRIVATE HOUSES.



No. 657.

With 30ft. of Best Malacca Canes, in 3ft. lengths, Double Worm Screw, Brass Clearing Wheel, 4in. Indiarubber Plunger, Archimedean Screw, Chimney Sweep's Brush, and pair of Straps. Specially designed for Country Mansions, Hotels, Farms, and Private Houses. The chimney can be swept, or a choked drain cleared by any man employed about the place.

**NOTE:** We have a similar one for sale in our auction at the August meeting.

**Collectors Page**  
**Record 5 1/2 Planes.**

Record planes have been acclaimed for quality since 1930s. A few years ago I was at a Sunday morning market where I noticed a nice clean Record 5 1/2 for sale. The vendor's exceptionally low price came with "its no good its cracked".

The body was broken but every other part was near perfect. So I brought it for parts. Next I advertised in this newsletter for a record 5 1/2 body. From this move I acquired a good 5 1/2 body and frog in filthy condition. Suddenly the story becomes interesting. I tried to swap over the parts. Strangely they did not fit. Rule out for some measurements. The broken plane took a 2 1/4 " iron the other plane a 2 3/8" iron. Looked up all my Record Catalogues etc and the 5 1/2 always is listed as 2 3/8".

I have brought a few more 5 1/2s since but not the odd size. Naturally I start to value the broken plane. Recently a friend was going to the country. Among other things he wanted to sample the work of a local engineer. My broken plane became the test piece. The broken body went off for welding.

The welding job was first rate but only the sole was surface ground. So I set to it and filed up the sides and lapped them. When I assembled the plane the sole was slightly concave.

Soon I will file and lap the sole. The plane will work as well as my other Record 5 1/2s, my 6 and my 7 and my 4. Maybe I have become a little obsessed with Record! I seem to be buying all the Record spare parts I can find.

The story has a number of lessons. The metal working ones are obvious. Of more interest is the question posed by the size of this 5 1/2. Does any reader have information about this odd size Record plane ?



## The Wonder Board of 1000 Uses

By exploding Australian hardwood into tough, lignin-impregnated fibre, then using extreme hydraulic pressure to form the fibre into grainless boards, MASONITE is producing a building essential which has no peer for wearing qualities, versatility, long life and adaptability to modern requirements—no other building boards have the same origin, content and qualities as

MASONITE—truly described as “The Wonder Board of 1000 Uses.”

Masonite is grainless, knotless and splinterless, takes punishment without a wince—It takes paint, lacquer and any type of decorative finish—It can be bent, curved or grooved, and has many uses in wood-working applications.

To assist the user in obtaining the best results from our products, a series of Technical Reports covering some of the many applications for which Masonite Presdwood and Tempered Presdwood can be used are now available. Subjects included are:

1. *Masonite Information*—a paper which gives 120 questions and answers covering a brief survey of all you want to know about Masonite.
2. *Adhesives and their application to Masonite.*
3. *The Staining of Masonite Hardboards.*
4. *Cleaning and Polishing Masonite Floors.*
5. *Cutting of Masonite with Circular Saws.*
6. *Imitation Wood Finishes on Masonite.*
7. *Bending of Hardboards.*
8. *Masonite Painting Specifications*—advising the process of finishing as recommended by famous Paint Manufacturers.

MASONITE can be worked with ordinary carpenter's tools but to assist in obtaining attractive and decorative effects, the Masonite Corporation has produced a series of inexpensive speciality tools which make it possible for the average handyman to obtain exceptional results.

Masonite Technical Services are at all times pleased to advise and give technical assistance to all users of our products and, if there is any doubt concerning a desired process or application in Masonite, we suggest you consult our Technical Office and avail yourself of the free Technical service we desire to extend in the interests of your products fabricated with Masonite.

## Masonite Corporation (Aust.) Limited

### Sales Technical Services

Phone MB 1971-1972

Offices and Showrooms

533 Collins St., MELBOURNE

Early Masonite Advertisement  
mentioning special Masonite tools.

**The Traditional Tools Group Inc.**

**Advertisement Request.**

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

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Cap Iron for above marked Record  
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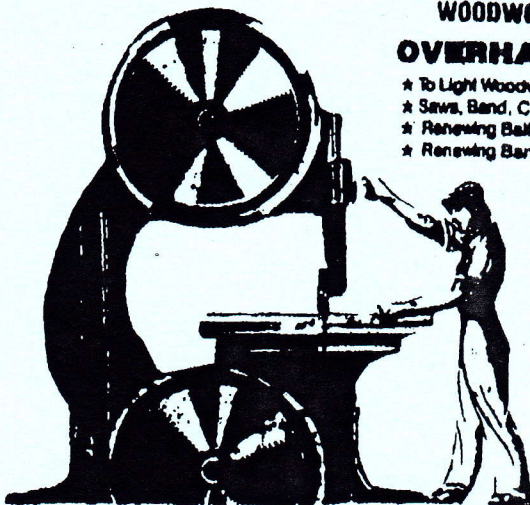
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