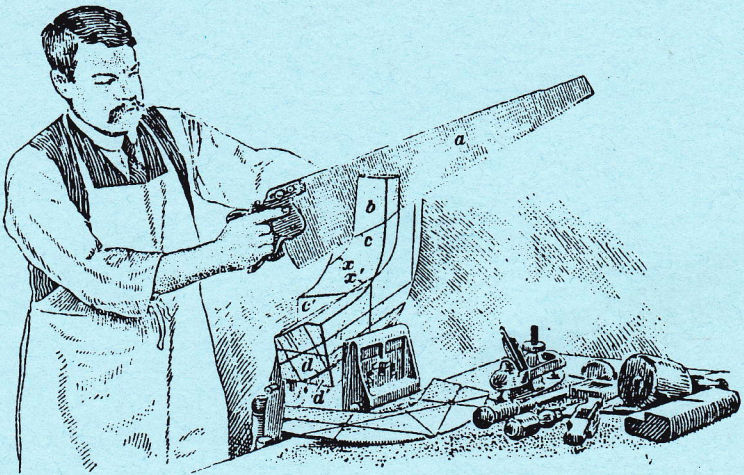


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Newsletter 63
February 2002
The Traditional Tools Group Inc

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)

TTTG Newsletter No. 63. February 2002.

Contents.

Editors' Notes.

Meetings.

Correspondence.

Information Wanted / Information Received.

Events.

John's Page.

Viewpoint.

Hardening & Grinding Woodworking Tools.

Ibbotson's Improved Vices.

Eastwood's Improvement in Lathes.

Lester & Lees Improved Oil Cans.

Roberts' Ratchet or Continuous Spanner.

Ferrabee's Universal Spanners or Screw Wrenches.

Library News/ Book Review.

Directory/ TTTG Committee.

Advertisements.

Cover: Squaring and Moulding Wreaths for Staircases

I. C. S. Reference Library. London. undated. (1920 ?)

The cover illustration is the first in the sequence.

The entire sequence will be reproduced in the next newsletter.

2001-2002 Subscriptions are due.

Subscription Rates :

Sydney \$30. Overseas \$30.

Out of Sydney & Other States \$22.50. Australian Pensioners \$22.50.

Postal Address.

The Secretary TTTG (Inc.)

P.O. Box 240 Grosvenor Place

Sydney N.S.W.1220.

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Enquiries: Mike Williams

02 9144 6356

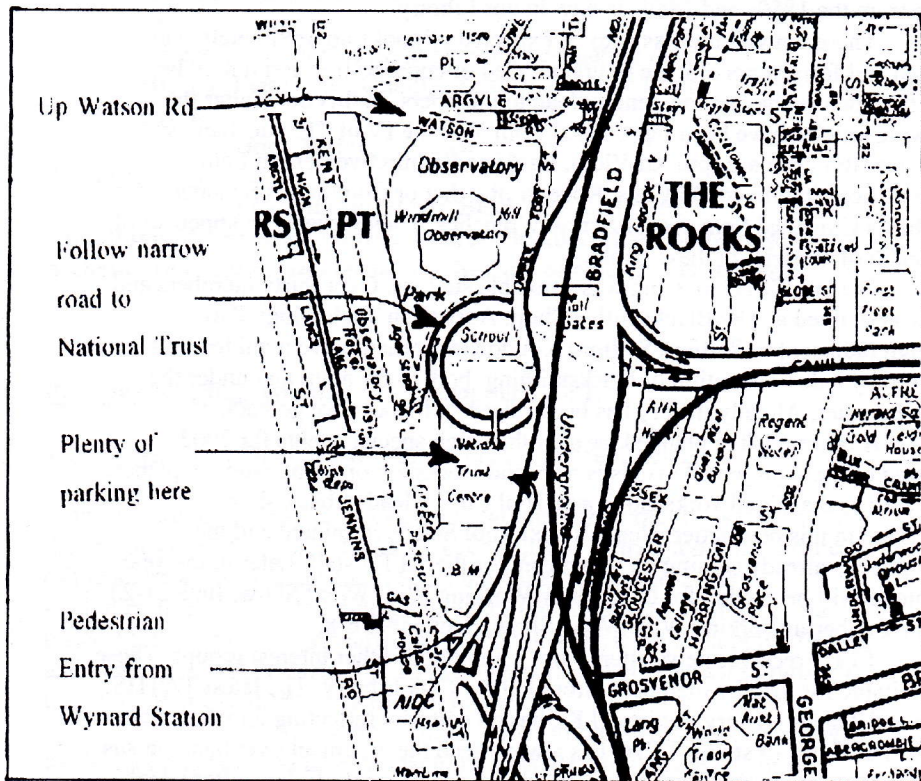
Bob Crosbie

r.crosbie@bigpond.com

Next Meeting
2002

Tuesday 12th February

National Trust Centre, Annie Wyatt Room
Observatory Hill
Commencing at 7:00pm



PROGRAMME

- 1. AUSTRALIAN MADE PLANES 1945-1970. A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH BOB CROSBIE, FRED MURRELL, HENRY BLACK AND JOHN BATES. THERE WILL BE TABLES GROANING WITH EXAMPLES AND LOTS OF LIVELY DISCUSSION. BE THERE!**
- 2. FRED'S WOTSIT.**
- 3. REGULAR CLUB FUN AUCTION.**
- 4. SUPPER BY MARIO DATO.**

Editors' Notes.

The Traditional Tools Group Inc has, over the last ten years, acquired a reasonable Library. This has created some difficulty as we do not have a central place to store these books and papers, this situation will be solved one day! The Library is a great asset. Donations are always well received and acknowledged. Recently Henry Black provided the Committee with an opportunity to acquire several invaluable books at little cost. A full set of The Mechanics' Magazine dating from the 1850s and 1860s is now in our Library.

These ten volumes, as is to be expected of books approximately one hundred and forty years old, are in urgent need of conservation and it may be some time before they are on general loan to members. In this newsletter the following articles have been reproduced from Volume IV of The Mechanics' Magazine; Ibbotson's Improved Vices, Eastwood's Improvement in Lathes, Lester & Lees Improved Oil Cans, Roberts' Ratchet or Continuous Spanner, Ferrabee's Universal Spanners or Screw Wrenches. They serve as an appetiser of the wealth of material in these books.

The last TTTG meeting was a notable success. Over thirty members and guests assembled at The Blacksmith's Shop, Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh (adjacent to Redfern Station). Guido Gouverneur gave a guided tour followed by a demonstration of blacksmithing, both at the anvil and under the power hammer. Already the cry has been raised "when can we go back?"

A return visit is planned, as are other such special events for 2002. Not least of these projected events is a special workshop on using wooden planes. The venue is the Woodworks Book and Tool Co.'s Meadowbank shop. Details are in this newsletter. Henry's next Tool Sale is imminent and the Committee is already signing up volunteers for the TTTG stall. Later in the year volunteers will be needed for the Sydney Working With Wood Show, June 21-23 and the Canberra Working With Wood Show, September 6-8.

TTTG receives newsletters from a number of other interest groups. These are available for loan by members through the TTTG Library. The latest TATHS, Tools and Trades History Society U.K., has an editorial reflecting on what are the appropriate fields of study. TTTG has always seen the argument over hand versus machine tools as spurious and has rejected the idea of a cut off date, after which nothing worthwhile happens! Traditional tools are still being made and indeed some of the best are Australian made.

Tools and machines can be seen as artifacts and indeed many TTTG members are collectors. However TTTG seeks to preserve the traditional skills as well as traditional tools and machines.

The response to the Workshops we are offering in 2002 may go some way to answering the often asked question "is there an interest in real skills?"

The next meeting is a chance to see, examine and to discuss examples of Australian made planes.

Next Meeting.

Tuesday 12 February 2002.

National Trust Centre, Annie Wyatt Room.

Observatory Hill. The Rocks. Commencing at 7:15 pm.

Topic: Australian made Planes 1945-1970

A comprehensive display of Australian made planes
and

a panel discussion of these planes investigating their
History, Innovation, Quality, Performance and Rarity.

Panel Convener:

Bob Crosbie, President TTTG

Panel Members:

Fred Murrell, Henry Black and John Bates.

Something for everyone with an interest in Australian made planes.

A chance to examine an extensive collection of classic Aussie tools.

Previous Meeting. Tuesday 11th December 2001.

The Blacksmith's Shop, Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh

Entering through a small door into semi darkness prepared the participant for the evenings' performance. Once the eyes adjusted to the gloom the vastness of the location became apparent. Huge machines came into focus in all directions and to the right the glow of the large smiths' forge. In the reflected light of the forge Mario had laid out his usual ample supply of food and beverages. About thirty five TTTG members and guests passed through the small door to experience a memorable event.

Guido Gouverneur gave a guided tour of his workshop explaining the history and function of each machine. This was followed by a "hands on" demonstration of power and hand blacksmithing. Everyone was awed by the way Guido used the power hammer!

The evening whetted everyone's appetite for more. The universal question was "when can we come back?" The Committee is attempting to persuade Guido to again extend his generosity to TTTG.

PLEASE REMEMBER :

2001/2002 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

PROMPT PAYMENT IS REQUESTED.

Correspondence.

The page where you can have your say.

Bob

Copy of correspondence from Robert Firth and my response.

I have also seen lots of adverts recently for Piper Tools - a brand you wrote up in TTTG journal not so long ago.

I presume it is the same crowd?

I have attached one of the adverts for Piper and Ludowici

Some observations;

1. Thanks for the great coverage in TTTG # 62 - I have only just opened it and have not completed reading, just responding to Robert's email which I saw before the Journal

If anything else comes up, I will get back to you.

2. Rod Thomas has given me your extracts from Hardware journal and Year book to copy. There is a wealth of info there, eg. I saw a N.I.P. Grinder at a Sunday market recently but as there were no origin markings, I didn't bother getting it - Now I see it is an Aussie from the HW Journal. There are lots of others - eg Stewart Tap wrench.

Regards

George Radion

Copy

Hello Robert

Thanks for responding about Ludowici hammers etc

I have found more info - an ad in FEN - Factory Equipment News - a trade magazine which gets sent to me at work for some reason.

It appears that Ludowici are into seals of all description too.

Ludowici are listed on the Sydney Stock Exchange and are most probably the company or the successors of the company that manufactured the hammer.

The Ludowici family have been prominent in Sydney engineering for a number of generations.

I have a No 2 fitted with rawhide faces, purchased at a local market about 18 months ago.

Regards

Robert Firth

EMAIL THE EDITOR ON r.crosbie@bigpond.com

News 64.

More Australian made tools.

Extracts from Work Magazine, 1900's.

"Job Sheets" for user made tools

Information Wanted.

Power Tool Mounting.

The editor has found, yes it was in a waste skip, a device for mounting a portable power tool, probably a circular saw.

Embossed on the main column is: TRUECUT.

On the mounting bracket is: TEKNATOOL AEG 825 725

A metal label on the base reads: J R SMYTHE & Sons. (1969) Ltd.
P.O. Box 2770. Auckland N.Z.

The editor contacted Rod Thomas as the Directory of Australian Tool Manufacturers has a listing under TRUCUT; Trucut Tool Service, Victoria, Rod's reply was diplomatic.

"Not much help on this one, I have no information on the specific item, nor maker "TRUECUT".

The Directory of Australian Tool Manufacturers doesn't have a listing under TRUECUT, have to watch that E.

Teknatool and AEG, almost suggest a German connection.

Perhaps Mr Smythe of New Zealand was an agent.

At this stage we can fairly safely assume it is not an Australian made item."

Any additional information would be appreciated.

Information Received.

Dear Bob,

Regarding "Information Wanted" in newsletter 62.

Bentley Mfg. Co. of 713 Nepean Highway. Brighton. Victoria. (1964 at least) Known period of operation <1950 - 1964>

Apart from Fibro cutters, they also made floor cramps and a belt sanding attachment as depicted in The Australian Hardware Journal May 1, 1964.

And whatever else we are not aware of at this stage.

The advert for the Fibro cutters is from the 1955 Goodall Catalogue.

Regards Rod Thomas.

H325—Bentley Fibro Cutters



Kwik-Rip rapidly and easily cuts a clean straight edge, a faster cut can be made without taking a full stroke, but lever must always be taken to top of stroke, so that blade will not drag in cut while tool is moved on for next stroke.

Kwik-Rip will not cut fibrous plaster, hoop iron or sheet metal. To cut a circle—after each stroke, and while the lever is up and the blade clear of sheet, bear to the left with the cutter, and note the result.

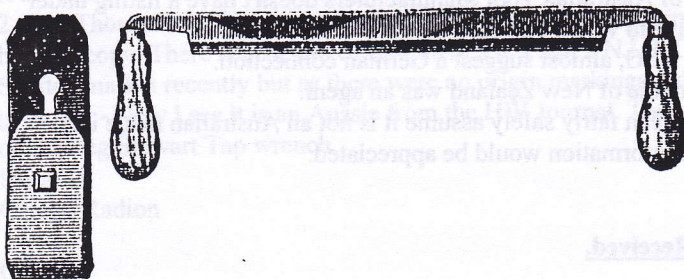
No. 1.—14in. blade, weighs 1½ lb. Length, 14in. Cuts up to ¼in. thick.

No. 2.—3in. blade, weighs 3½ lb. Length, 21in. Cuts up to ¼in. thick. Cuts mitres in cover strips.

Events.

Henry Black's Tool Sale

Henry has just returned from a touring holiday in Tasmania and hasn't quite settled on a date for his tool sale yet, However he has had so many enquiries that he would like it known that it is **soon** and will probably be within the next few weeks. If you can make it along to the next meeting, Henry will narrow down the date (possibly to the day!) to put all you would-be tool purchasers out of your misery. Yet another reason not to miss the next meeting



Tool Conference Melbourne Victoria.

HTPAA Third Biennial Tool Conference.

March 16th 2002.

For details contact Frank Ham

on 03 981768 or write to P.O. Box 1163 Carlton Victoria 3053.

TTTG Workshop: Using and Restoring Wooden Planes.

10am to 4.30pm, Saturday 2nd March 2002.

The Woodworks Book & Tool Co.

8 Railway Road, Meadowbank, NSW 2114

(right at the Railway Station)

Peter Evans 0419 245 699

peterrevans@optushome.com.au,

Bob Crosbie 02 98697487

r.crosbie@bigpond.com

3 dozen screws, 3 pieces of Red Gum & some sheet steel to drop it in.

When a woodworker picks up a plane he/she knows by the feel that it's either just another plane or that there is something special about it. It was the case with this plane- no, it wasn't the \$2 price tag, although that helped, it was the positive message conveyed through the hands. Its weight was right, the handle and the knob were comfortable and the overall balance of the tool was spot on. A fellow "market forager" couldn't understand my enthusiasm, for all he could see was a rusted relic, completely unconvinced that I had made a wise investment, completely blind to the simple graceful lines of the plane's profile.

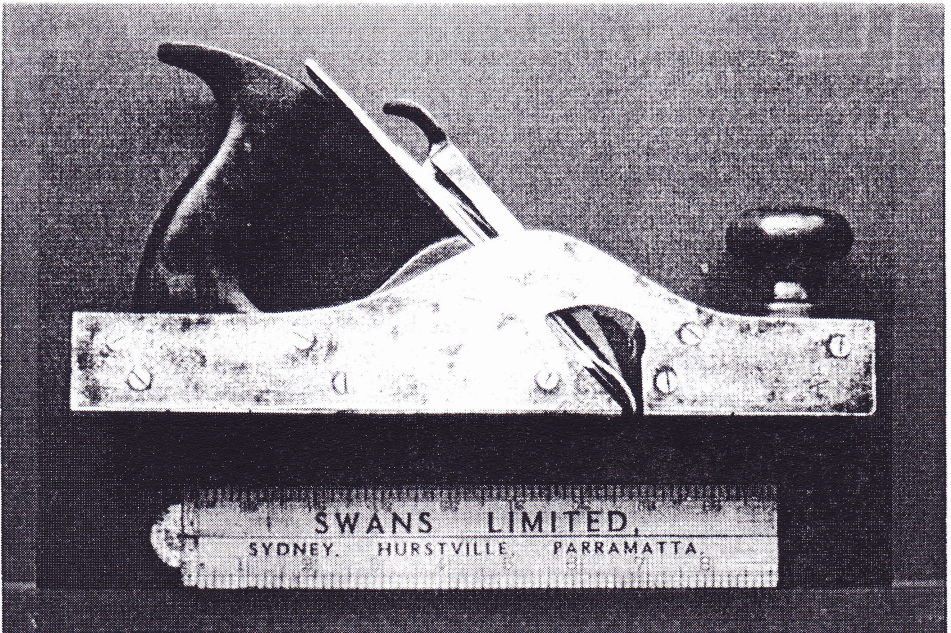
To cut a long story short, I gave the purchase a good clean. This revealed 36 screws, 10 on each side, and 16 to attach the steel sole. The sheet steel used is approximately 3/32 inch thick. The sides had been pinned together when shaping as the file nicks match for both sides. The timber infill most likely is Red Gum, although it has faded to a walnut brown. The front knob is nicely shaped and is held in place with a heavy gauge brass countersunk screw.

The handle is let into the back infill. The blade used was made by F.G.Pearson and Co., reshaped to extend to the full width of the sole.

Just another example of a user made tool from a by-gone era.

Must be lots of them out there rusting away forgotten and unappreciated.

I'm amazed how they keep surfacing.



Viewpoint.

Buying old planes to use.

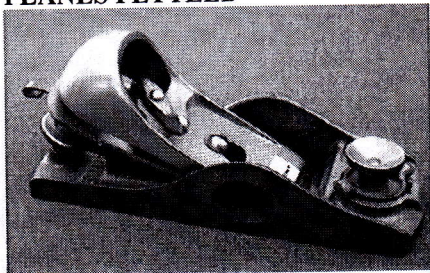
Some people buy tools to use. This may be a shock to the collectors but it does happen. How does someone who is just starting out know how to go about buying a good useable plane? With deep pockets, and advice from the American magazines, it is possible to throw money at the problem. However the fact is not all beginning plane users are affluent, or cavalier in emptying their wallets.

The best advice any potential plane owner can be given is to buy an older plane. With luck it will be useable but more likely it will need tuning. There is a great deal in print on tuning old planes. Given the skill and time that may be involved in tuning a second hand plane is it reasonable to expect a beginner to follow this path?

My advice to the potential plane user is to buy a tuned plane from someone who knows what they are doing. Of course it will cost more than an unrestored plane but it will be cheaper than a top line new plane.

This is where the advertisement below comes into the picture. The editor recommends Jim's work with out reservation. If a beginner asks you how to get a good plane, which is ready to use, give him or her a copy of this advertisement.

PLANES FETTLED



Finely turned Bench Planes. Old Stanleys that have been finely tuned, (fettled) with honed irons ready to produce shavings less than 0.001 inch / 25 micron thick, (or should I say thin).

These planes are better than most new planes available today, except for the likes of Lee Nielson etc. but without the high price tag of the L.N.

Sizes available at present: #3, #4, #4 1/2, #5, #5 1/2, #7

Contact: Jim Davey 4447 8822 (work) or 4447 8790 (home).

email: JDAVEY@bigpond.com

Oztoolclub Mail

Here are two examples of Oztoolclub Mail.

Replacement handle for Stanley Planes

Question Posted by: Glenn Boxshall

I have a low knob Stanley plane which needs a replacement handle.

I want to make my own but do not know the type of wood to replace it with.

Would somebody please advice me on the type of wood I should choose?

Answer Posted by: Fred Murrell

It is virtually impossible to buy Brazilian rosewood - the next best timber is Cocobolo - very expensive but obtainable - alternatively you can occasionally buy some Indian rosewood - but you will be lucky to find some with any figure. Further down the list is Nara (New Guinea rosewood)a browner timber - should not be as expensive as either of the rosewoods.

Whatever you use, don't forget to bore the hole first.

Question Posted by: Ben Rasalam

Can somebody tell me, who and when was SANDPAPER invented?

Answer Posted by: John Bates

Regarding 'sandpaper' - information I have suggests that some obscure craftsman tried fixing abrasive grains with some crude adhesive around the 13th century in China. This consisted of crushed seashells fixed to parchment using natural gums as the adhesive. But for true coated abrasives we have to go through to the 1700s when the Swiss began coating crushed glass on a paper backing. Glass has neither the strength nor the sharpness to be a good abrasive and was replaced by flint about 100 years ago. Flint Paper and Emery Cloth became the most widely known abrasives. Garnet first appeared around 1870-80 and replaced flint until the discovery of the electric furnace abrasives - silicon carbide, aluminium oxide and zirconia alundum. Hope that helps.

Christmas Cheers John B

How to join:

You have to register with Vicnet first. Registration is free

After registration, you should apply to join the Community called "Oztoolclub" on mc2 (m c squared).

George Radion is the owner of this community and the only requirement current membership of HTPAA, TTTG (or one of the other similar Clubs.)

The vicnet software will send George Radion a message that you have applied for membership of the community and he will process the application.

For more details email George Radion at radion@iprimus.com.au

Full instructions on how to join Oztoolclub Mail were printed in News 62.

Hardening & Grinding Woodworking Tools.

From Woodworker June 1932, pages 156-7.

The following hints may be helpful to readers who have to occasionally to harden or temper woodworking tools and moulding cutters. Overheating or burning tool steel is fatal, and when this unavoidably occurs it may as well be relegated to the scrap heap. It may, of course, be caused by leaving the tool for too long a period on a dry abrasive composition grinding wheel, but this is quite apart from burning it when attempting to harden it with the aid of a fire or open hearth.

Cracks of a somewhat circular or irregular form at the edges or corners of chisels or machine cutters show that the steel has been unevenly heated while being hardened in the first instance and before it was quenched.

When a piece of steel is to be hardened it must not be put into a fire where it comes in direct contact with the blast as this will cause it to become surface burnt, which gives soft places that carry a very inferior cutting edge. The risk of a tool breaking (as for instance when it is laboured with a mallet during the cutting of a mortise) is much greater when it is surface burnt than if it were burnt right through.

A good method of tempering small articles is to heat them to a cherry red and then quench or slake them in oil. A fair amount of oil must be kept in the tin or other receptacle if several cutters are to be treated, because if a small quantity of oil is used it will become heated and nullify your results with the tools which are quenched later on. A good lubricating or machine oil should be used for this purpose and linseed oil should be avoided as a plague.

When the tool has been hardened, polish one side of it with fine emery or other suitable medium and then lay it on a piece of heated metal as shown, so that the heat will draw the temper to the desired shade.

For moulding cutters, scratch stock cutters, etc., the steel should be "run down" or "drawn" to a yellowish brown. Some woodworkers like the tool steel of a brownish cast merging into blue, but this is usually too soft to carry a good cutting edge. When a piece of hot steel is taken out of the fire it must not be gripped by a cold pair of tongs as this will cause surface cracks, especially if the tongs or pliers have wide jaws. The tongs should be heated to a dull red before using them, and the smaller the jaws the better because the portion under the jaws has not the same chance to be cooled as quickly as the exposed part.

To summarise, heat your steel, quench it, then polish one portion so that you will be able to see the temper drawn. Place it on the heated steel bar, watch the temper go down until the required hue is obtained and then quickly quench.

Hardening & Grinding Woodworking Tools. (continued.)

With regard to quenching, many fads have sprung up in recent years such as special oil and patent quenching paste, the latter having the appearance of thin putty. Some prefer cold water, others rain water, and others water in which some rusty iron has stood. Again other swear by water with a layer of machine oil on it. In spite of all these fads good machine oil answers all ordinary requirements, and if a little sal ammoniac is added to the oil it will prevent the oil sticking to the tool steel.

When polishing and grinding do not draw the temper. Use plenty of water on your grindstone and if buffing or using an emery wheel lay the steel lightly on the wheel and do not keep it there too long. Dry grinding is a dangerous proposition in inexperienced hands and the writer has seen many tools and planing machine knives and cutters ruined from this cause.

Editors comment.

The above article contains excellent instructions. However the reader should be aware of the following facts.

- The article discusses the heat treatment of Cast Steel (Crucible steel). Modern alloy steels can be heat treated by this process but if the makers' heat treatment instructions are available these should be followed.
- Dry grinding is safe if the grinder knows how to use a pedestal grinder. Four rules should be followed:-

- Keep the wheel sharp by dressing.
- Use the correct wheel. (For woodworking tools use Aluminium Oxide 38A46*.)
- Use a light traversing cutting action.
- Do not quench in water. (Quenching can cause surface cracks and fouls the wheel.)

*Available from Woodworks Book and Tool Co.

HNT Gordon Planes. 15% Discount to TTTG Members.

A 15% discount is available to TTTG members.

Why not contact HNT Gordon Planes for a information sheet/price list?

HNT Gordon & Co.

Classic Plane Makers.

1/1 Robb Street. Russelton Industrial Park. Alstonville N.S.W. 2477.

Phone 02 66228722. Fax. 02 66287522. E-mail: hntgord@one.net.au

Ibbotson's Improved Vices.

IBBOTSON'S IMPROVEMENTS IN VICES.

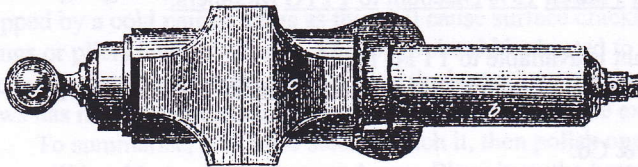
MR. A. B. IBBOTSON, steel and file manufacturer, of Sheffield, has patented certain improvements in vices, parts of which are applicable to screw wrenches, spanners, lathes, &c. His invention consists, first, in making the front jaw of the vice a fixture to the bench and the back jaw the traveller, or *vice versa*, in manners as hereafter stated. A barrel or tube is forged solid to the front jaw and turned parallel on the outer surface, and bored parallel on the under surface. The back jaw is bored out and well fitted over the outer surface of the tube. On the under side of the tube a slot or groove is made to admit the nut or box which forms part of the travelling or sliding jaw. This nut or box also serves as a guide or conductor for the travelling jaw, thereby adding much to its strength, firmness, and neatness. A screw passes through the barrel or tube, and the washers at each end are recessed into the solid of the barrel, so that the whole of the working parts are quite protected from any filings or grit.

The invention consists, secondly, in the mode of fixing the vice to the bench. A bracket, through which a vertical hole is bored, is screwed to the bench; into this hole the shank of the vice is dropped, and by this means the vice can be fixed at any angle with the bench, and can be readily adjusted by a screw or otherwise.

The screw working through a barrel or tube of a similar construction to that before described, is equally applicable to screw wrenches, spanners, turning lathes, and other tools and machines.

Fig. 1 of the accompanying engravings shows in side elevation, Fig. 2 in sectional elevation, and Fig. 3 in plan a vice in which both parts of this invention are embodied; *a* is the front jaw of the vice forged or cast in a piece with the barrel *b*; *c* is the back jaw fitting the barrel *b*; *d* is a screw passing through the barrel *b* and through the nut or box *e*, which is formed in a piece with the back jaw *c*, as seen in the face view of the travelling jaw. In Fig. 4 is a slot made along the under part of the barrel *b*; *f* is the handle for screwing up the vice. When the handle is turned the back jaw *c* is caused to travel along the barrel *b* by means of the nut *e*, through which the screw *d* passes; *g* *g'* is a bracket for attaching the vice to a bench or other support. A pinching screw *h* passes through the lower flange *g'*, and pinches the under side of the bench. The front part *g* of the bracket has a vertical hole bored in it, into which the shank *k* of the front jaw *a* is dropped. lower part of the shank is screw-threaded, carries a tightening nut *i*, which when the is placed in any desired position is screwed against the underpart of the flange *g*, as shown in gs. 1 and 2, to retain it.

FIG. 3.



Ibbotson's Improved Vices. (continued)

FIG. 1.

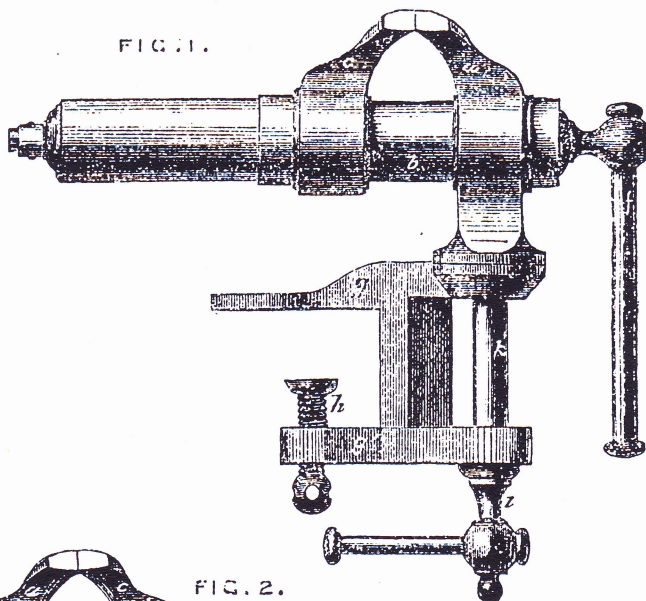


FIG. 2.

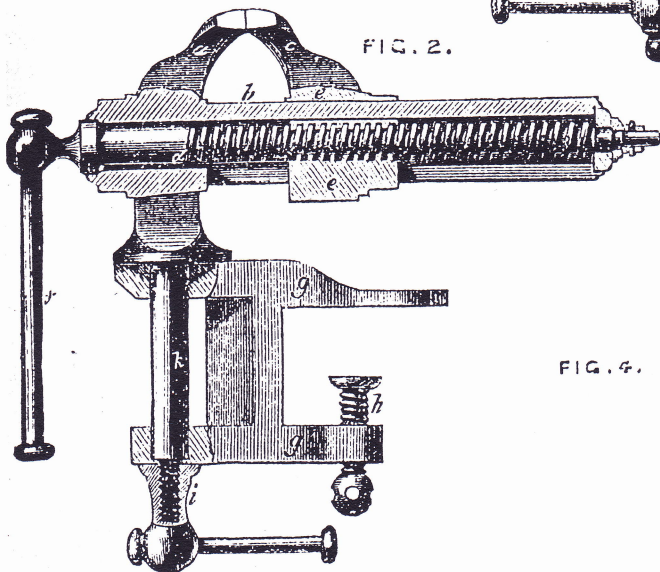
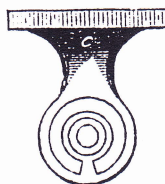


FIG. 4.



from Volume IV of The Mechanics' Magazine, July to December 1860.

Eastwood's Improvement in Lathes.

EASTWOOD'S IMPROVEMENTS IN LATHES.

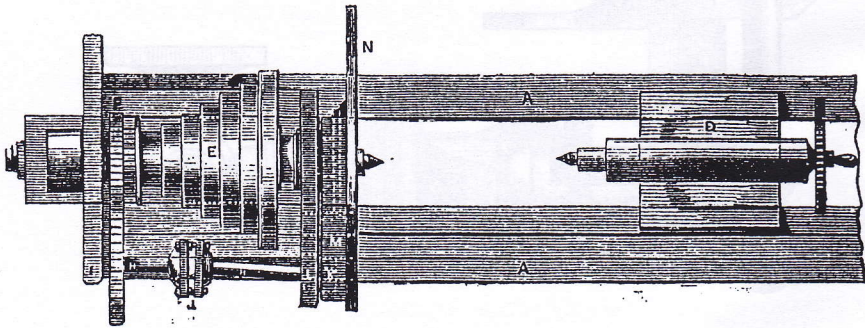
MR. JAMES EASTWOOD, engineer, of the railway iron works, Litchurch, Derby, has patented an invention which relates to lathes for turning parts or segments of circles, and consists in having on the back of the face-plate of an ordinary lathe an internal toothed segment into which gears a pinion carried by a shaft, so as to work or turn the face-plate a certain distance, and then to turn

it back again, the shaft of the pinion being carried by a sliding bearing, and one end is supported in a groove in the segment on the face-plate, whilst the other end is connected to the driving-shaft by a universal joint.

Fig. 1 of the accompanying engravings is an elevation of an ordinary lathe fitted with these improvements; Fig. 2 is a plan of the same; Fig. 3 is a detached view of the back of the face-plate showing the toothed segment, pinion, and grooves in detail; and Fig. 4 is a detailed plan of the universal joint. *A* is the bed-plate of the lathe resting on the stone blocks *B*, and provided with the ordinary fast and loose heads *C* and *D*. Motion is imparted from any prime mover by means of a belt to the cone pulley *E*, on which is keyed the wheel *F*; this wheel gears into the wheel *G* keyed on the shaft *H*, which works at one end in the fixed bearing *I*, and is provided with a universal joint *J* midway in its length to allow of the lateral motion of the pinion *K* in its sliding bearing *L* when passing round the end of the toothed segment *M* formed on the back of the face-plate *N*. The feed motion for the cutters is driven by the wheel *O* keyed on the end of the

lathe spindle, and gearing into a wheel *P* fixed to the cone pulley *Q*, which drives by the aid of the strap *R* a pulley *S* moving loosely, and having a pall *T* attached to its side by the pin *U*, and taking into a ratched wheel *V* keyed fast on the traverse shaft *W*. A continual advancing motion is thus imparted to the cutter. In Fig. 3 *N* is the back of the face-plate, with the segment *M* attached, showing the pinion *K* passing round the end of the segment, being guided in its course by the projecting end of the shaft *H* moving in the groove *X*. The cut, being made whilst the pinion is traversing the outer and longer portion of the segment, it is obvious that a "quick return motion" will be given to the face-plate in consequence of the pinion having a less distance to traverse along the inner and shorter portion of the segment.

When it is desired to work the lathe for ordinary purposes, the shaft *H* is moved sufficiently far endwise to keep the wheels *F* and *G* and the pinion *K* out of gear. Fig. 4 shows a universal joint consisting of a ball *a* having a pin *b* through its centre, and on its projecting ends the joint *c* works. At right angles to this pin are the two screws *d* for connecting the joint *e*, thus forming a universal joint, which may be used in place of the one shown in Figs. 1 and 2.



Eastwood's Improvement in Lathes. (continued)

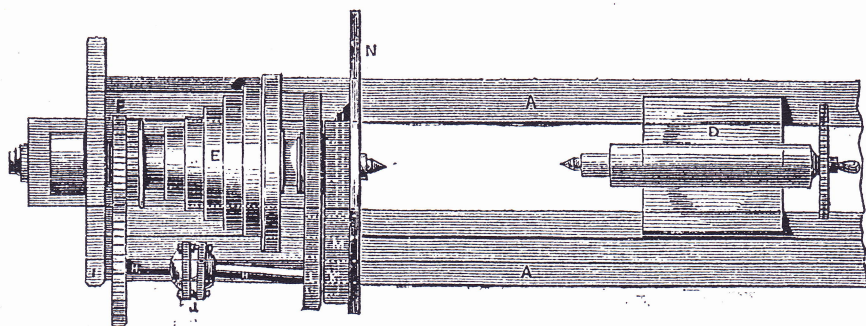


FIG. 1.

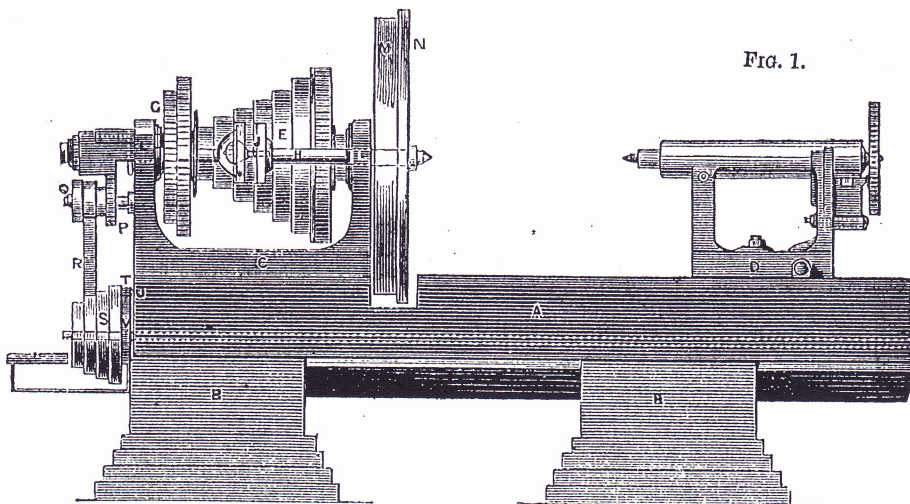
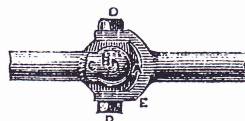
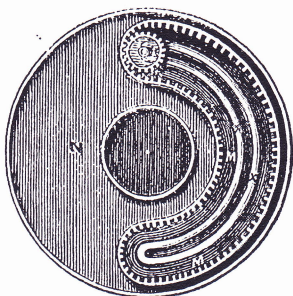


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.



from Volume IV of The Mechanics' Magazine, July to December 1860

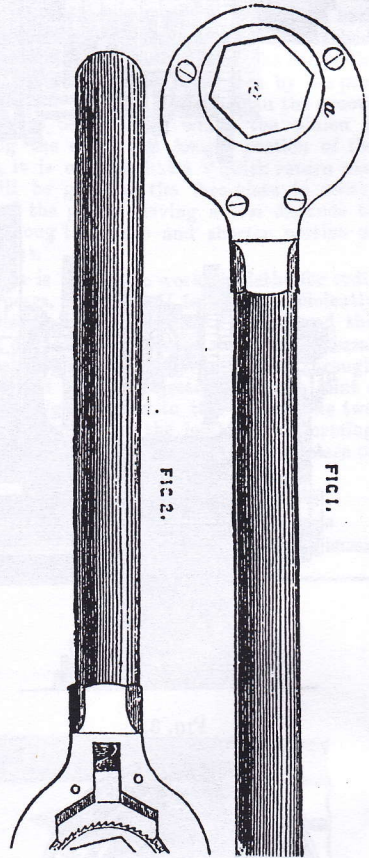
Roberts' Ratchet or Continuous Spanner.

ROBERTS' RATCHET OR CONTINUOUS SPANNER.

MR. JOSEPH ROBERTS, C.E., of the Old Jewry, London, has introduced the form of "spanner" illustrated in the annexed engravings, Figs. 1 and 2, the former fig. being an external, and the latter an internal view. A ring *a*, Fig. 1, and *b*, Fig. 2, is carried in the brace to which the lever or handle is attached, and the brace is free to turn about the ring in one direction, but is prevented from turning in the other by the click or pawl shown in Fig. 2. By turning the spanner over, a nut or bolt may be screwed on or off.

The advantages which Mr. Roberts considers this invention to possess over the ordinary spanner are as follows:—“First, a great saving of time is effected by not having to shift the spanner on the bolt or nut, having simply to move the handle backwards and forwards as quickly as possible. Secondly, the corners of the hexagon or other shaped head of the bolts are not disfigured, which is nearly always the case where the ordinary spanners are used, even in the hands of those workmen who constantly use them, unless much time is spent in slowly changing them round the nut or bolt. Thirdly, they may be used where it is impossible to turn an ordinary spanner, as under small archwork, in the centre of pedestal standards, &c., with only about 2 or 3 inches to move the handle in those places, where generally speaking, the nut is turned round by means of a chisel and hammer, which is not only a waste of time, but also disfigures the bolt or nut, besides which, they cannot be screwed up so closely to their facing.”

It will be seen that a nut or bolt may be screwed up in very much less time, especially where the bolt is large, and requires a heavy spanner to turn it, which is a great consideration when we remember that the bolts and nuts of a machine are generally speaking screwed on and off several times in fitting, and an enormous amount of time is spent in screwing up the several parts as compared with that expended upon the actual putting together.



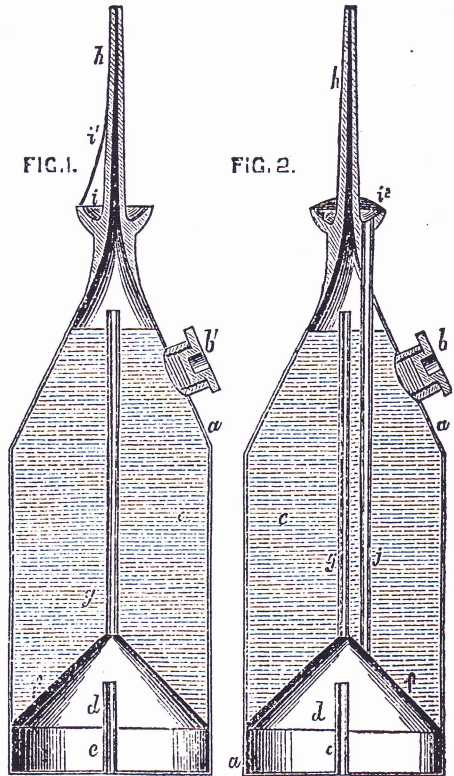
Lester & Lees Improved Oil Cans.

MESSRS. LISTER and LEES, of Oldham, have patented an improved oil can, so constructed that no oil can escape when it is overturned; it is supposed to be easy to clean, and capable of delivering the oil more freely than those now in use.

Fig. 1 is a sectional elevation of this oil can. *a* is the outer casing of the oil can, and *b* the lid, which is removed for supplying the oil to the chamber *c*; *d* is the air chamber into which the air enters through the tube *e*; the air chamber is separated from the oil chamber by the conical partition *f*, in the centre of which is fixed the air tube *g*; the tubes *e* and *g* are in line with each other and with the delivering tube *h*, to which is soldered or otherwise attached the cup *i*, the object of which is to catch any oil that may run down the delivering tube. This cup *i* is made in the usual manner, and to it is attached a piece *i'* to guide the oil on to the outside of the delivering tube. When this oil can is overturned no oil can escape through the delivering tube *h*; but if any oil should escape from the oil chamber through the air tube *g*, it is collected in the air chamber *d*, and when the oil can is used it runs down the tube *g* to the delivering tube *h*. When the tubes require cleaning a wire can easily be passed through the three tubes *d*, *g*, and *h* to remove the impurities.

Fig. 2 is another of the improved oil cans similar to the one above described, but furnished with a tube *j*, the object of which is to convey the oil that runs down the delivering tube *h* into the cup *i* from the said cup to the air chamber *d*, the cover *i²* is to protect the cup *i* from dust or other impurities.

LISTER AND LEES' IMPROVED OIL CANS.



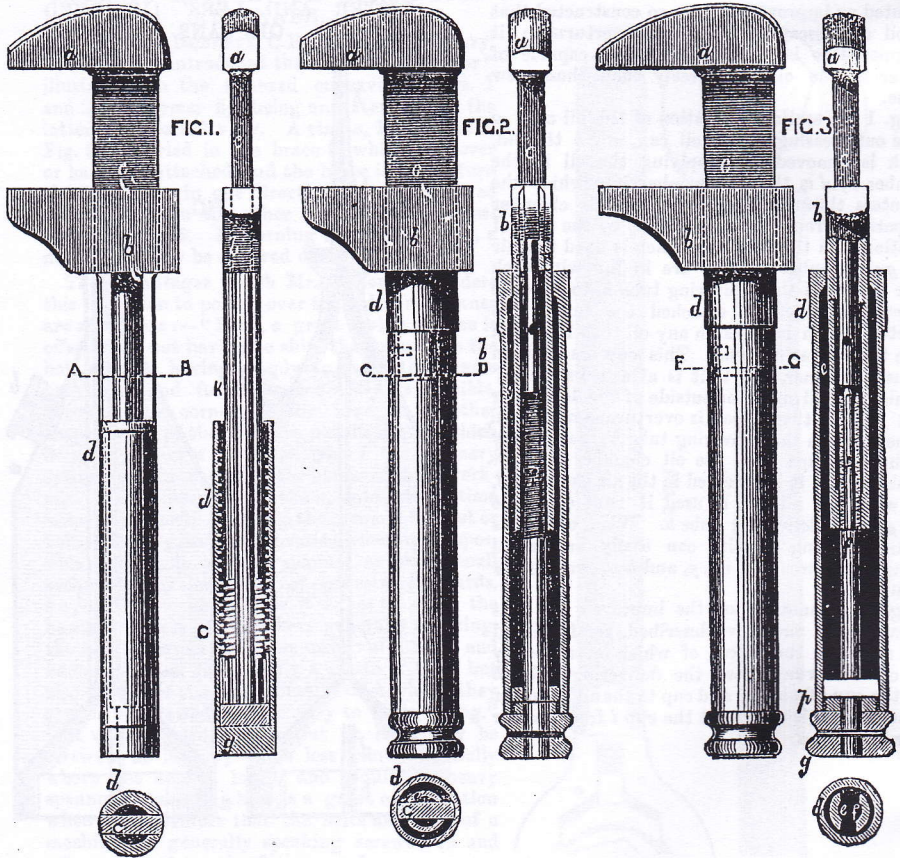
from Volume IV of The Mechanics' Magazine, July to December 1860.

Ferrabee's Universal Spanners or Screw Wrenches.

THE MECHANICS' MAGAZINE.

[August 17, 1860.

UNIVERSAL SPANNERS, OR SCREW-WRENCHES.



from Volume IV of The Mechanics' Magazine, July to December 1860.

Ferrabee's Universal Spanners or Screw Wrenches. (continued)

MESSRS. JAMES FERRABEE & Co, of High Holborn, are manufacturing an exceedingly useful form of spanner or screw-wrench, under O'Neill's patent, dated 26th October, 1853. The invention consists of a peculiar construction and combination of parts by which the jaws of a screw-wrench may be moved to and from each other with great facility, and be set at the desired distance apart. In the following description the same letters refer to the same parts in all the figures :—

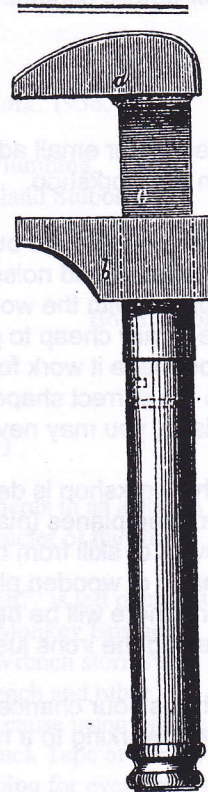
Fig. 1. *a* is the fixed jaw, formed on the bar *c*; *b* is the moveable or adjusting jaw, through which the bar *c* passes. The jaw *b* slides freely on the bar *c*, which is attached to the tubular handle *d*. *e* is a split tube attached to the moveable jaw *b*, and capable of sliding within the tubular handle *d*. The two parts of the split tube *e* receive between them the bar *c* and slide thereon. The interior of the two parts *e* of the split tube have cut thereon screw teeth, corresponding with the screw teeth cut on the spindle *f*, which at its outer end is attached to a milled cap *g*. On turning the cap *g* the spindle *f* will be turned, and there is a stop *h* which prevents the spindle being turned more than a quarter round. The spindle *f* is cut with screw teeth on two sides, the other two sides being flat and plain; hence, when the screwed sides of the spindle are turned towards the split parts of the tube *e* the screw teeth of the spindle will be disengaged from the screw teeth of the split tube *e*, and the split tube *e* with its jaw *b* may be moved to or from the jaw *a*, and then by turning the spindle so that the screw teeth thereon will engage in those cut on the interior of the split tube, and thus lock or retain the parts of the wrench from movement when it is being used.

Fig. 2. This spanner is of similar construction to Fig. 1, but the moveable jaw *b* is moved to or from the fixed jaw *a* by the continuous action in either one direction or the other of the screw threaded spindle *f* working into screw teeth cut

in the split tube *e*, which retains the moveable jaw in any position.

Fig. 3. In this spanner the bar *c* is made to extend the whole length. The split tube *e* has screw teeth cut on the outside of it (instead of the inside as in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2), corresponding with screw teeth cut on the inside of the hollow handle *d*, which is retained in its place by the cap *g* and collar *k*. By turning the handle in one direction or the other the adjustable jaw *b* is moved to or from the fixed jaw *a*.

All the parts of these spanners are case-hardened, and the adjustment being completely closed in, they are not liable to be injured.



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Send your email address and we will forward comprehensive details on the workshop.

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Bring your wooden planes and learn how to use them. Numbers will be limited, so please send your expression of interest in soon.

Library News.

Rick Mitchell

Periodicals Received.

- Hand Tool Preservation Society of Western Australia. (HTPSWA). Newsletter.
- Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia Inc. (HTPAA).
Tool Chest/Sharp Edge
- TATHS. Tools and Trades History Society. Newsletter 75. Winter 2001.

Acquisitions.

- The Mechanics' Magazine, Volumes 1-10.
Journal of Engineering, Agricultural Machinery, Manufactures & Shipbuilding.
Edited by R. A. Bloomfield & E. J. Reed.
London, Roberson, Brooman & Co., "Mechanics' Magazine" & Patent Offices,
166 Fleet Street, E.C.

Donations.

- Elements of Diesel Engineering. Orville Adams. New York. 1936.
- Steam and Other Engines. J Duncan. London. 1932.
- The Encyclopedia of Sanitary Engineering, Heating & Plumbing.
Waverley Technical Encyclopedias edited by S G Blaxland Stubbs.
London. Undated. (1940s?)
Volumes 1 and 3.

Book Review.

Bob Crosbie

Did Monkeys Invent The Monkey Wrench?

Hardware Stores and Hardware Stories.

Vince Staten. ISBN 0-684-80132-9, 0-684-83274-7(pbk.)

"I was born to write this book" the author comments in an aside. A bold but arguably true claim, the author may be the chronicler of the small American hardware store.

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This well written and highly amusing publication is recommended to all TTTG members provided they have a sense of humour.

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Mike Williams. The Secretary TTTG

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Enquires: Mike Williams phone 02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie e-mail : r.crosbie@bigpond.com

-Tools and Trades History Society. (TATHS)

Membership Secretary: Jane Rees.

Barrow Mead Cottage. Rush Hill, Bath. United Kingdom.

BA2 2QP 01225 837031 (Office hours only).

-Hand Tool Preservation Association Australia. Inc.(HTPAA).

P.O.Box 1163 Carlton. Victoria. 3053.

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-Woodworker Annuals. Numbers 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57.

Any Woodworker Annuals or loose Woodworkers 1912-1939.

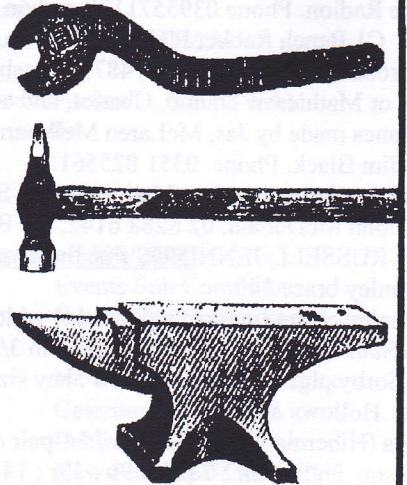
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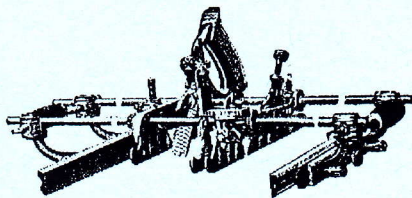
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