NEWS 73.

Newsletter Number 73.
October 2003.
The Traditional Tools Group (Inc.)
www.tttg.org.au

TTTG Inc.

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)

TTTG Newsletter Number 73. October 2003.

Contents. Page

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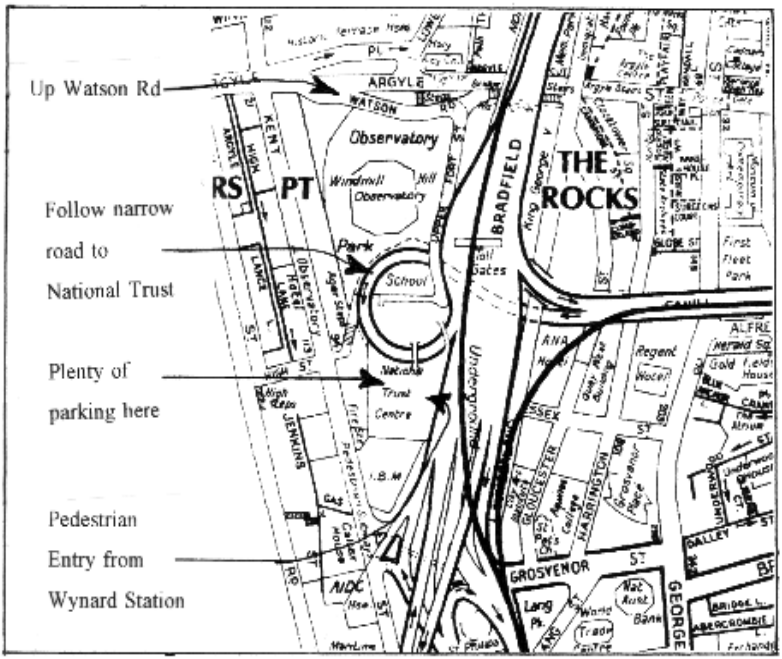
<u>Next Meeting</u> **Tuesday 14th October 2003**
National Trust Centre, Annie Wyatt Room
Observatory Hill. Commencing at 7:00pm



PROGRAMME

1. **COACH AND CARRIAGE MAKING TOOLS. THE TTTG COLLECTION OF TOOLS FOR THIS TRADE WILL BE ON SHOW AND THE VARIOUS ITEMS WILL BE EXAMINED AND DISCUSSED.**
2. **THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY FRED'S WOTSIT.**
3. **THEN OUR FUN AUCTION.**
4. **SUPPER BY MARIO DATO.**

Next Meeting.

Topic:	**Coach and Carriage Making Tools:** The TTTG Collection.
Time:	Tuesday evening 14 October 2003.
Location:	**National Trust Centre.** Annie Wyatt Room. Observatory Hill. The Rocks. Commencing at **7:00 pm.**

The interest in the Pattern maker's Toolbox from the TTTG Collection suggests the time is right to present other tools from the collection. The TTTG Coach Makers Tool Box, and other related tools of this trade, will be on display at the next meeting.

The audience will then have the opportunity to bid at the **TTTG Auction**.
Please note:
The items are sold at such low prices that the auctioneer strongly rejects the criticism that he will go to any lengths to secure the highest price.
For bargains do not miss this auction.

Previous Meeting.
Pattern Making Tools: The TTTG Tool Box.
Tuesday Evening Tuesday 12th August 2003.
Henry Black's display and talk entertained an audience of fifty members. The questions were many and varied and all were well fielded by Henry. The TTTG tools were supplemented by tools from Fred's collection. David Chee shared a few of his latest replica planes with the audience. Jim Davey showed the latest blades made by Paul Williams. A long but successful auction concluded the evening.

GENERAL ELECTION RETURNS.
TTTG Committee 2003/2004

John Bates & Henry Black	Events Sub Committee
Bob Crosbie	President & Editor
Mario Dato	Catering.
Peter Evans.	Public Relations.
Ray Gurney	Newsletter Sub Committee
Darcy Hourd	Web Master
Rick Mitchell	Librarian
Fred Murrell	
Clynt Sheehy	Treasurer
Mike Williams	Secretary & Newsletter Sub Committee

Editors Notes.

Henry's Annual Tool Sale is now over. The success of the new venue promises "a bigger and better" sale next year.

The TTTG Annual General Election is also over and the new Committee is now planning the year ahead. TTTG grew significantly in the previous year; there were many factors contributing to this growth, however two stand out. These are the Web Page and the TTTG Workshops.

TTTG finances are healthy and membership is steadily growing.
Is this the time for consolidation? The Committee will continue to improve the Web Page and continue to offer Workshops. For both to succeed we need to know what the members want.
Any advice and criticism from our members will be considered.

TTTG has made a start on a series of publications. We are moving slowly but this does not mean that progress is not being made. It is a balancing act between the cost of printing and the opportunity to recover costs. Production of the Newsletter is making increasing demands on the editor's committee. Moves are underway to improve News. This will involve greater production costs but an improved journal which should attract more members.

There were a few "errors" in News 72. They were not obvious but need to be acknowledged. The editor's committee were all under a bit of stress during the production of News 72 and a few mistakes slipped through. Such minor problems can only be avoided by higher quality control. This means spending more time and money on News. Any volunteers willing to help?

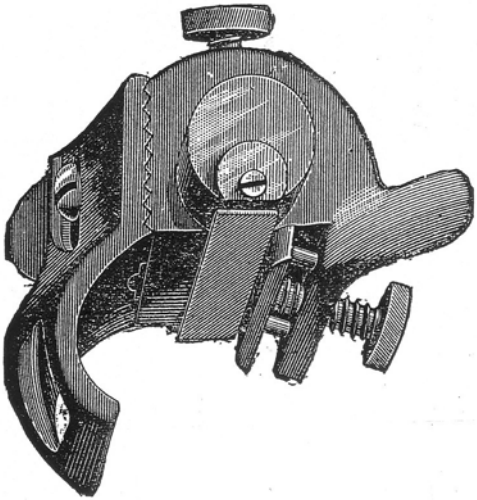
Articles are always welcome as are any illustrations from old publications.
The editor will "polish up" whatever you write so why not give it a go?

Look forward to a quality newsletter and a few free inserts in the next year.

What is it?
News 72.

The tool illustrated in News 72 is a Falling Compass.
It is used to set out circle on circle work.

This one is also a bit harder.



Web News. Darcy Hourd

This time a few interesting web sites for the metal workers.

http://www.lathes.co.uk
A good source of information on lathes.
http://www.americanartifacts.com
A good source for American machinery, especially foot and treadle powered.

Correspondence.

Axes.

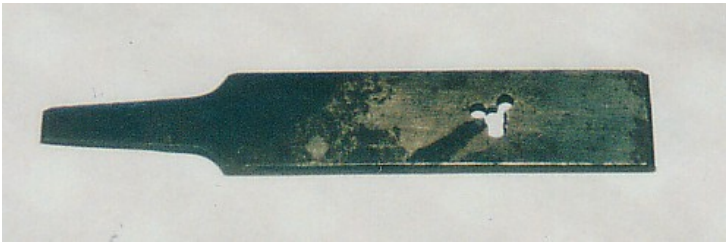
The Editor,

Just a short note to Robert Firth regarding axes. As I have been collecting for many years, I have not heard of the Bushman's Choice. But the Aussie Speed Racing Axe is, or was, made by Keech Axes in Bendigo Victoria. It was quite popular with the axemen!
Also I would like to know if anybody would have any information on the history of axes. Very hard to find books and pamphlets on them.
Looking forward to hearing from somebody.
Bob Wood.

Tools made from files.

The Editor,

Here are two of my latest finds. A screwdriver 18" long and a threading die 1/8" BSW, a bit difficult to see as the die is not central but it works. I have more examples of tools made from old files. Including a number I made during my apprenticeship, some fifty four years ago from triangular files into scrapers. I'm still using them! Three scrapers altogether and some flat scrapers. When retempering them one can make them harder than the original file by quenching into brine while the colour is straw. Blue the shank but just a speck of colour to the cutting edge, the lip will cut glass.
Terry Butcher, Tasmania.



EMAIL THE EDITOR ON r.crosbie@bigpond.com

Information Wanted.

History of Axes.

Bob Woods is seeking any publications on this topic. See Correspondence.

Gumleaf Tool Handles.

Another local maker.
Engineer's hammer handle, spotted gum, 505mm long.
Paper label, Gumleaf Brand Handles,
Made in Australia by John Perry Pty Ltd.

Rod Thomas comments,

Yes this is a fresh one. Seems most of the recent fresh sightings have been handles and in one case extending to replacement saw and chisel handles, that being N. R. Armstrong of Ashfield. I remember in the early days of building the data base I didn't consider handles to be tools as such. Our horizons have expanded both in paper record and the physical, for instance adding a meat mincer to the collection recently because it was made by Pope Products. I guess it's a hand tool even if it's not much use on a stick of wood.

N. R. Armstrong of Ashfield.

Any information is sought.
Known tools made by N. R. Armstrong of Ashfield include:
Chisel Handles, Mallets, Saw Handles.

Australian Made Machinery.

TTTG intends to compile a Directory of Australian Machine Makers.
At this stage two categories are envisaged,
Wood Working Machinery and **Metal Working Machinery.**
At this stage we need a volunteer to start recording the known makers.
Anyone willing to format the Directory and start typing in information?

EMAIL THE EDITOR ON r.crosbie@bigpond.com

Events and Publications.

Australian Heritage Fleet Workshop Visit.

Details to be announced at next meeting and on the Web Page,
www.tttg.org.au

Metal Working Skills Workshop.

Expressions of interest are called from TTTG members interested in attending this proposed workshop.

For full details see the Web Page.

www.tttg.org.au

Carter Plane Leaflet.
The Reprint of an undated Carter Tools colour Leaflet is now available. Cost is $5 each, post extra.

Johns Pages.
Work is currently in hand on a compilation of articles by John Daniels. The illustrations are being scanned and the layout was presented to the Publications Committee at the September Meeting.

Anthony Hordens Catalogue.
Work is also currently in hand on a series of Extracts from an early Anthony Hordens' Catalogue.
The quality of the original presents significant technical problems.

"The Illustrated Guide to Australian Tool Manufacturers"
"The Illustrated Guide to Australian Tool Manufacturers" will be offered in printed form, probably late in 2003.

TTTG Tool Makers.
The editor has a number of photographs of tools made by TTTG members This publication seems feasible. Photos of members work are requested.

Buck Tool Catalogue.
Reprint by HTPAA.
A limited number of copies are available from TTTG.

To Preserve or rebuild

Tools, when found, appear in all stages of wear and tear. The years of use are not always kind. Although most tools are restorable, many are suited only for parts, while others could be classified as relics, most suited for an exhibit in a "folk museum".

When finding such a relic as in Photo 1, what does a person do? The oxidation could be arrested and the tool left "as-is", or fully rebuilt to once again be a functional tool. No doubt there are differing opinions on this question. However, with this relic, a Spiers coffin-shaped smoothing plane, I chose to rebuild it.

I don't intend relating a step-by-step "how to restore an infill", however, I've taken a few photos to give some appreciation of some of the stages that I followed and a few solutions that I used to solve a couple of challenges.

As you can see in Photo 1, the plane was badly corroded with much rust holding the pins securely in place. The first challenge was to remove the pins and the screw lever without loosening the dovetailed construction of the body. This was achieved by cutting through the middle of the pins before working them out through each side. Driving the pins through from one side could cause damage due to their thickened ends.

Electrolysis was used to remove the rust. The majority of the pitting was only shallow (Photo 2) and was linished out on a flat surface. Care needed to be taken when cleaning the screw lever as there was a risk of removing the maker's name.

Cleaning reveals many things. The number 42 was struck on each member so I assume that this plane was the forty-second plane in a run.

"BOWLING" was also struck in bold upper case letters on the inside surface of the side. I feel that Mr. Bowling may have been a plane maker employed by the Spiers factory at the time. A centre line was scribed and punched down the axis of the body. This proved useful when marking out the infill members.

Photo 1

The Spiers plane in “as found” condition.

Photo 2.

The body and screw lever after preliminary cleaning.

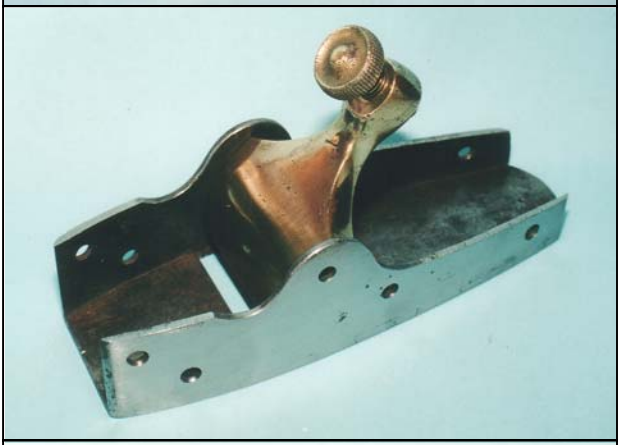


Photo 3.

The Brazilian Rosewood infill prior to shaping.

John's Page.

The next challenge was the infilling. The choice of timber, Brazilian Rosewood being the obvious, was expensive and much thought had to be given to grain direction coupled with economical cutting. The less off-cut the better balanced against the appearance of the finished job. The latter won out, the pieces were left oversize (See Photo 3) to be dressed down after preliminary fitting.

Note the commencement of the cutting-in of the frog block and the front wood, also the waste left on the bottom of the handle. The screw holes allowed the handle to be screwed down when using the router, also to be secured to an off-cut for final shaping. The metalwork vice gave me more freedom of movement and was also at a much better height for working (Not recommended for standard woodworking projects).

Aligning the holes for the pins needed a little thought.

A simple jig (Photo 5) was the answer. A base piece of timber was cut to match the profile of the side of the body while the axis of the plane was at right angles to the axis of the drill. A bed of felt was placed between the jig and the body to stop any movement. A stop was fixed at the front of the jig to locate the plane. The drilling of the holes was then straight forward, firstly drilling part way through from one side, then turning the plane over to drill from the other. Any slight misalignment was corrected by the flexibility of the pins. Actually, with this particular plane I was pleasantly surprised as the original maker had been an accurate worker.

Shellac was used for the finish, although there are many plastics, waxes and oils out there in the market place that may do the job just as well (Photo 6). A good coat of wax was used to protect both the wood and metal to "handle-proof" it.

Many years ago a woodwork student of mine was planing furiously during a practical lesson. My curiosity got the better of me as I noticed his allocated timber fast disappearing. "What are you making?" was my question. "Shavings for my guinea pigs, sir", was the answer accompanied by a great big smile of achievement.

Looking at the beautiful shavings coming out of my "new" Spiers plane, I somehow felt at one with my student. There is something about making shavings, especially when they are the product of a rejuvenated relic. I'm sure that my smile well matched that of my student.

Photo 4.

The handle (tote) secured to an offcut ready for final detailing

Photo 5

The simple jig used to support the plane when drilling

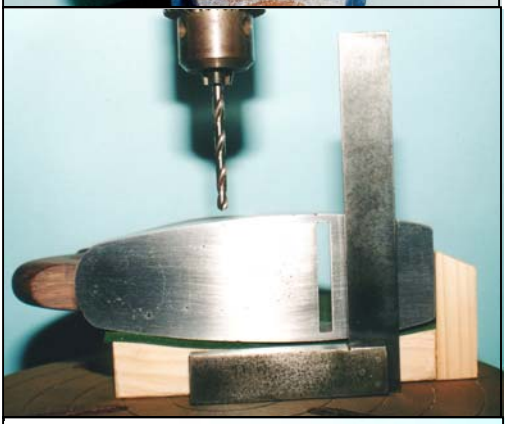


Photo 6

Now a useable plane thanks to the addition of a quality Ward blade.

Barnes Lathe. Bob Crosbie.

My New "Old" Lathe.

For a long time I've wanted to add a metal turning lathe to my workshop. The ideal was a second hand Hercus , the lathe I know well. Price was a big consideration so I was always willing to wait for the right circumstance.

A phone call from the wife of a Committee member started things moving. She had seen an old lathe and some metal working tools in a garage which were for sale and thought I might like to have a look. Not expecting a great deal to come from this I arranged to rendezvous and to look at the lathe.

The house was about to be sold, the elderly owners were now in care and the family needed to clear everything out. Add a Real Estate Agent willing to help load everything into a skip and you can imagine that events were about to move rapidly.

When I arrived on the scene the throw out had begun. The lathe was in a poorly lighted garage and almost buried in junk. Ignoring questions about value I examined things closely, stood back, breathed deeply and accepted the offered cup of tea. Yes, of course I would be interested and if my offer was accepted, I would help clear the garage and value any saleable items. So far everything was a guess, I could be buying a good machine or I could have made an offer on scrap metal.

As I began cleaning the junk away from the lathe a clear picture began to emerge. It looked like the lathe was virtually complete and that there was lots of original tooling lying around. Roughly bolted between the lathe legs was a crude red pine box. When I managed to unbolt the box I found a number of well made sheet metal trays. In these were the chucks etc. Best of all the change gears appeared to be all there, lying on oiled felt. I was beginning to feel more confident!

There were many electrical cables running off double adaptors, all about thirty years old. The lathe, although originally pedal powered, had a motor mounted on a back shaft. My guess was that the motor was 1950s but the fellow committee member with me, confidently commented "1930". . We managed to find a light switch so now I could really examine the lathe. No real rust, no real run out, no cracks etc. But without power this

was all pretty superficial. “Turn the motor on”. What, a 1930 motor with a worn cable? I was assured that these old Hoover motors are better than any thing made today. I was the one to flick the switch!

Now I was sure, and I confidently wrote out the cheque. But now I had to find all the rest of the bits scattered the length and breadth of the garage Luckily there were piles of old tins, boxes and buckets lying around. This first clean up saw lots of metal land in these receptacles; tool post, tool holder, chucks, in fact all the ancillaries that I could find.

Everything has a hidden price and this was no exception. Half of this first visit, a Saturday, was taken up with helping clear out this garage. I spent a fair bit of this time bringing back bits of metal from the skip. Of course it was a rare opportunity to see a Real Estate Agent getting his hands dirty!

By the end of the day I arrived home with most of the tooling and the demountable parts of the lathe. Now I had to arrange someone to move the lathe itself. I also planned a return visit to make sure I had everything. Naturally I ended up buying a few other tools but by now I was fairly relaxed about the deal.

From the nameplate, I knew I had purchased a Back Geared Screw Cutting Lathe made by W F & J Barnes. The next step was to look for information so I hit the Internet. After a few hours online, and a few suggestions from a fellow TTTG member, I realised my new old lathe was almost one hundred percent complete, in good original condition and with a significant quantity of early tooling.

On my second visit, my research had armed me with the knowledge of what was still missing and what I had to find. Some of this small stuff was in the skip but a lot was all over the place. This time it was an after dark search so I was glad of the new torch I purchased on the way. The extra hours spent looking were well worthwhile.

Finding a removalist was not too difficult. The Barnes lathe is now in my workshop. Of course everything happens at the wrong time. When I started on this adventure I was cleaning out my garage in preparation for building an extension. A big part of my “new space” suddenly disappeared!

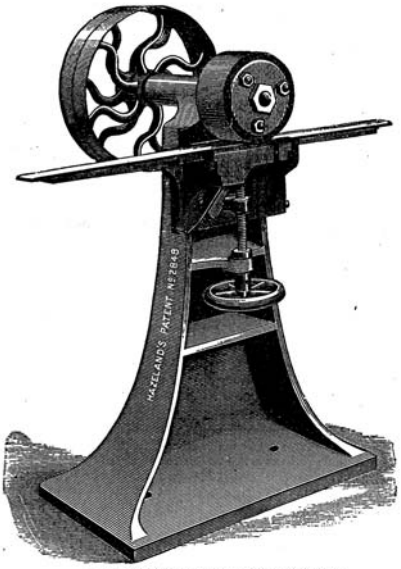
How good is the Barnes Lathe? I am yet to give it a good clean up and oil. The motor is about to have a safe switch box fitted. Even so I have given it

a good test run. After three hours continuous running the motor was barely warm. All basic turning operations performed very well. The twin lead screw automatic feed is very impressive, a three mm. roughing cut in mild steel gives good finish and accuracy! Of course some of the nineteenth century features at first feel a bit strange, but I'm getting used to them. Output is slower than a modern lathe but that silent 1938 Hoover motor and the purr of flat belt and exposed back gears is the best stress reliever I have experienced.

There is another dimension to using such a machine and that is the OH&S issue. Having had some Work Cover training and being a member of an OH&S Committee, I get a thrill out of using such non-complying equipment.

Fixed Knife Planing Machine.

This illustration appears in Amateur Work Illustrated. London 1888. Note how it is essentially an inverted iron plane with an extended sole. The bed length is 38 inches, the timber is fed into the blade by a rubber roller and the roller is driven by power transmitted from line shafting. The machine was manufactured by W B Haigh. Globe Works Oldham. The inventor was Mr Hazeland. Cost was twelve pounds ten shillings "at works".



—SMALL PLANING MACHINE, HAZELAND'S PATENT.

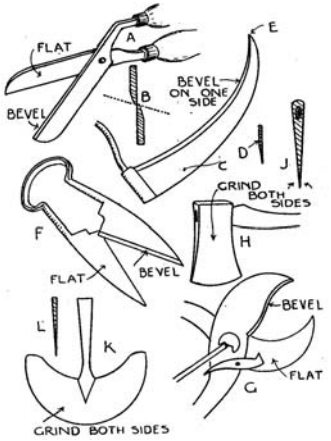
SHARPENING AND ADJUSTING CUTTING TOOLS FOR THE GARDEN.

Cutting tools for garden use should be kept clean and sharp; they are often neglected during the winter and even a slight amount of rust will take the keenness off the cutting edges. At the end of the season, steel tools, including spades, forks, hoes, etc., should be cleaned thoroughly with emery-cloth and coated thickly with vaseline or linseed oil, the latter should also be applied to all wooden handles as a preservative.

Sharpening should be done on the grindstone or with a carborundum hone and every effort should be made to retain the original cutting angles of the blade. In the case of shears as indicated at A, it will be seen that the cutting action is similar to that of scissors and that the blades are bevelled on opposite sides as shown by the enlarged section at B. To obtain effective work, the inner surfaces of the shears must be perfectly flat, the slightest amount of bevel on these surfaces will spoil the cutting action. It will be seen that there are two bevels, the one on the side of the blades slopes considerably and is not considered in sharpening, it is the slight bevel on the edge that is important. If a grindstone or emery wheel is not available, a carborundum stone having a flat surface, can be used similarly to a file.

Cutting tools such as grass and reaping hooks are also sharpened on one side only, the upper surface only being honed. In the case of these cutting tools, there is only one angle and care should be taken to keep it as flat as possible, as indicated in the enlarged section at D. It will be found that the point of the blade is very liable to become blunted, it should be kept sharp and the greatest care is needed when using it.

Spring shears similar to those shown at F have usually only one angle, due to the thinness of the blade. Considerable care is needed when sharpening to see that the hone is rubbed completely along the blade. It is necessary to open out the blades by placing a suitable block of wood just below the spring. Similarly to the shears, one side only of each blade is sharpened. Secateurs or pruning shears are also sharpened similarly to shears.



It is not generally appreciated that the prongs of garden forks and the bottom of the spade are more effective when kept moderately sharp, or that increased efficiency is obtained when the steel surfaces are polished. An hour of two of wintertime devoted to polishing the surfaces of garden tools with emery-cloth before greasing is always worthwhile.

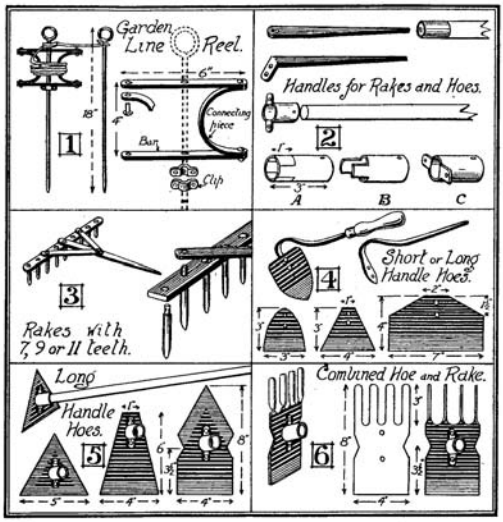
Such cutting tools as axes, and edging knives, indicated at J and H and at K and L, should be ground without a second cutting angle as indicated in the sections and the surfaces should be kept smooth and bright.

The blades of shears should not be allowed more play than is necessary for free movement and attention should be paid to the pivot from time to time. Tightening is carried out by a turn on the nut or, in the case of riveted joints, by a slight tap or two with a hammer. If the handles of shears work loose, bind the tang with twine and drive the handles on again, taking care to avoid splitting the wood It will be found that plastic wood spread over the tang will hold it firmly in position. *English Mechanics 1940*

Making Garden Tools at Home. *English Mechanics 1940.*

Heat necessary for bending and shaping any of the parts may be obtained from the ordinary fire, the gas ring, or a blow lamp.

A garden line and reel is one of the first and most necessary appliances needed at the commencement of any garden operation. That shown in the first sketch consists of two 3/8-in. round iron pins 1ft. 6-in long, with 1¼-in. eyes turned at the top, and the bottom ends drawn to a point. A reel for winding the line is fitted on one of the pins. It consists of two 6-in. bars of 1-in. by !/4-in. flat iron, -3/16-in. rivet holes are drilled at the ends, and 1/8-in. pivoting holes in the middle. The bars are joined by two shaped connecting pieces, formed from 7-in. lengths of the same material. Rivet holes are drilled at the ends, and the pieces are bent up to shape and fixed to the bars with rivets. The reel should pivot freely on one of the pins, and it is held in place with a small clip formed from two pieces of fairly thin metal, shaped to fit over the pin and held with a couple of rivets. The garden line is attached to the plain pin, and is wound on the reel. Various other tools such as rakes and hoes comes within the scope of the handyman. The second sketch shows two forms of handles for these tools. The first is a spike handle made with say a 1-ft. length of ¾-in. by ¼-in. metal, tapered at one end to fit into a ferruled wood handle.



The metal spike could be drilled, bent and adapted to accommodate any kind of tool. A socket handle could be formed from a 3-in. length of 1-in. metal tubing. A pair of lugs from 3/8-in. to ½-in. wide and 1-in. long are set out on each side as shown at A (sketch 2). The metal not required is then removed with a hack saw, as shown at B, and finally the lugs are bent back as at C. Holes are drilled in the lugs for fixing the socket to the tool, and another hole is required for fixing the wood handle.

The third sketch shows the method of making a very serviceable rake. A head-piece of 1-in. by 1/4-in. metal is drilled to receive 7, 9 or 11 teeth, spaced 1-in. apart. The teeth are 5/16-in. diameter and 2 ¼-in. long, shouldered down to 3/16-in. at the top for riveting into the head. There must be an odd number of teeth, and the centre one must have a longer shank than the others to enable it to be spike handled. Two small stays of 3/4-in. by 1/8-in. metal are also carried from the top ends of two other teeth to the spike, as shown in the sketch.

The fourth sketch shows short or long handle hoes, made from 3/32-in. mild steel. Either of the shapes could be selected. A spike handle is fitted in every case, fixing being with a couple of rivets.

The fifth sketch shows three hoes, all fitted with socket handles. The triangular pattern is very serviceable for drawing a trench for seed growing. Both others carried up through and riveted over are for general work,, but the double ended one will be found extremely useful.

One of the most convenient of this class of tool, however, is the combined hoe and rake shown in the sixth sketch. It also is of 3/32-in. metal marked out to the dimensions shown. The end at which the teeth are formed is divided into seven equal portions. The three portions forming the spaces between the teeth could be removed by drilling 1/2-in. holes at the base and cutting in from the edges with the hack saw. The ends of the teeth are rounded, and they should be heated for twisting to shape at the base. The cold chisel, file and hack saw will all play a part in shaping the blades of the hoes in the home workshop, and it may be desirable to harden the working edges on completion.

2003 – 04 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW OVERDUE

(TTTG Memberships are based on the financial year
1st July to 30th June)

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID, PLEASE FORWARD A CHEQUE FOR * $30 (MADE OUT TO TTTG Inc) TO :

The Treasurer
TTTG Inc
PO Box N240 GROSVENOR PLACE
SYDNEY NSW 1220

***If you live more than 50km from Sydney or you are a pensioner, then you MAY CHOOSE TO PAY only $22.50**

Please advise if you have CHANGED your address from that shown on your newsletter address label.

It would be helpful if you would write your name and membership number on the back of your cheque. (See Newsletter envelope address label for your membership number.)

Should you require a receipt, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment OR see the Hon. Treasurer, Clynt Sheehy, at a TTTG meeting.

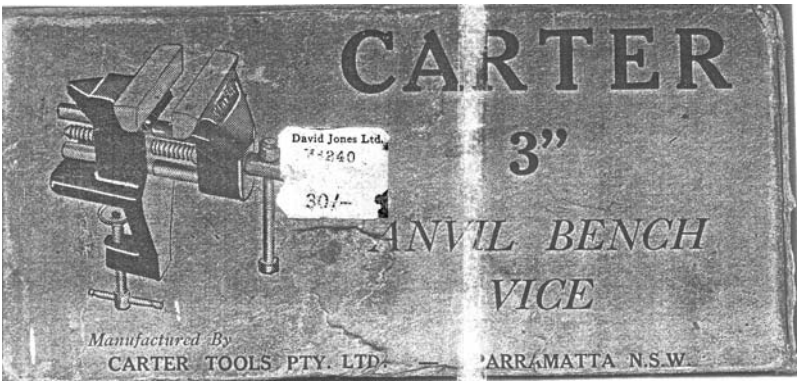
The Treasurer has NOT YET RECEIVED 2003-04 subscription payments from the following members (as at 12th September, 2003). Would these members please expedite their payment.

7	116	184	214	237	259	276
12	129	188	215	239	266	277
33	133	192	217	243	267	280
36	136	195	221	244	269	281
49	139	201	222	245	270	282
68	152	206	223	248	271	283
75	156	209	225	249	272	284
87	165	210	228	250	273	286
101	168	211	231	256	274	287
114	180	212	234	257	275	288

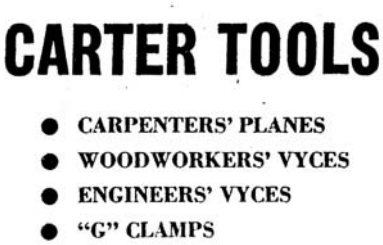
Carter Tools Collection.

Carter 3" Anvil Bench Vice.

A recent acquisition by a TTTG member is a Carter 3" Anvil Bench Vice. This Carter tool was found in the original cardboard box.
The manufacturing quality of the Carter 3" Anvil Bench Vice is excellent, the cardboard box is well made and the design and printing is effective.
A stick-on label reads **David Jones Ltd. 66240. 30/-** which is interesting evidence of Carter Tools being merchandised by David Jones Ltd.
The (somewhat battered) box end is reproduced below.



Carter Tools Exhibition.
It is becoming obvious that Carter manufactured a more extensive range of tools than has been previously assumed. The Carter output also appears to have been very large judging by the number of Carter tools available.
The TTTG Committee is considering a future exhibition of Carter Tools. Examples of Carter Tools and any related information is requested.



Home Made Tools.

USES FOR OLD FILES.

Old files of all sizes and shapes can after they have ceased their useful life as a file, be of good service again in many ways. In the writer's workshop many old files have been found useful for various repair and replacement jobs and it is thought that some of the uses described here may be helpful to others. Being cast steel most old files can be useful, but those of flat, square, and round section can be re-used most. To make them serviceable a number of these most suitable should be annealed ready for adaptability to any job that may come along. The annealing can be carried out in a forge or open kitchen fire. They should be heated to bright red and allowed to cool slowly. After this softening process they will be ready for use and easily worked.

Illustrated in Fig. 1 various scrapers for most purposes are shown which have been made and have proved most satisfactory. Then there are punches and cold chisels that can be made at short notice, many of which can be ground into punches without annealing, while others require very little alteration to make them useful as chisels,

In Fig. 2 most general purpose lathe tools are shown and like the punches Wall drills, hacking knives used by decorators, hedge knives, wood-turning tools, woodcarving tools, replacement blades for grass cutters, together with small screwing dies, press tools, cutters and counterbore blades can all be made in this way from old files cheaply. Reamers for all general purposes and pipe cutter wheels and all such equipment used in small engineering shops can be made at short notice and in many cases will serve its purpose just as well as the purchased article. In conclusion it should be stated that and chisels are easy to make and can be relied upon to give good service. the suggested uses for old files should always be considered as a way out of a difficulty and the results obtained may not always be equal to those obtained from special tools made for the same kind of work.

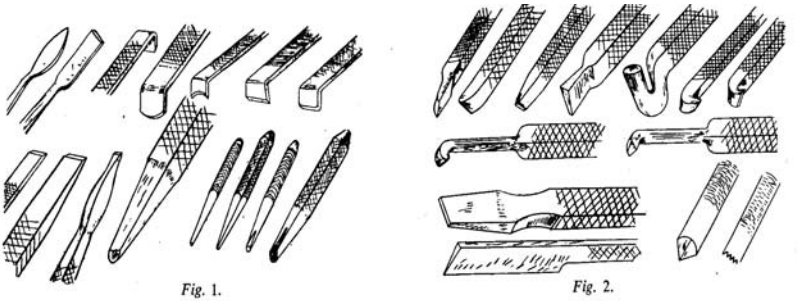


Fig. 1. Fig. 2.

Illustrating Various Tools that can be made out of Old Files of Different Shapes.

English Mechanics 1940.

Home Made Tools.

NEW USES FOR OLD KNIVES.

THERE are one or two very simple, but exceedingly useful tools which no carpenter or cabinet-maker would, and which no amateur should, be without. A few words regarding the manufacture, use, and care of these may be of interest to amateurs. No careful mechanic ever sets-out his best work with a pencil. A " setting-out knife" is used for all accurate work, as with it a much finer line can be obtained and consequently greater *nicety* than with a pencil These knives can be bought at most tool-shops ; but as many amateurs enjoy making their own tools, whenever possible, I would give them this piece of advice : Whenever an old or discarded dinner-knife comes into your possession, or within your reach, secure it, and preserve it as a treasure. Assuming that a knife has been begged, borrowed, or found, having a blade 4 or 5 inches long, screw it into a vice so that about 1½ inches of the blade next the handle may be broken off (with the handle) by a smart blow from a hammer. Grind this shortened blade to the shape shown in Fig. 10, and finish off on an oil-stone. Now, the piece of broken blade which yet remains should be again broken into pieces 1½ or 2 inches long. These " bench-knives " are used to hold pieces of wood firm upon the bench while being worked. If, for example, a piece of stuff is to be beaded or chamfered, unless its own weight renders it steady, the bench-stop is, by itself, insufficient for that purpose, for a sideway pressure has to be exerted, which tends to force the wood away from the tool. To remedy this, take a " bench-knife," and having driven the stuff home against the bench-stop, drive the knife into the other end of the wood and into the bench at the same time. When, as in the Skeleton Hanging Wall Cabinet, shown and described in Vol. I. of AMATEUR WORK, a number of pieces have to be lined in exactly the same manner and measurements, it is important that they should be kept perfectly still during the process of setting-out. Here again two or three old knife-blades will serve your turn better than any other tool, hand-cramp, or what-not, however expensive the article might be. Lay all the pieces of wood of the same dimensions and use, close together, side by side, and drive into each end of the set a knife-blade. You can then turn your work over to square both sides.

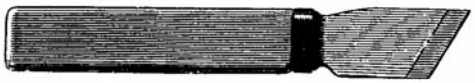


FIG. 10.—SETTING-OUT KNIFE.

Amateur Work Illustrated. London 1888.

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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 Vol.15 No.3. Issue 69, August 2003.
-TATHS. Tools and Trades History Society.
Newsletter 81 Summer 2003.
Journal Vol. 13.

Directory.
-The Traditional Tools Group Inc. (TTTG). tttg.org.au

P.O. Box 240 Grosvenor Place. Sydney N.S.W.1220.
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.
-Hand Tool Preservation Society of Western Australia. (HTPSWA).
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