News 95. JUNE 2007.

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)
www.tttg.org.au

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)

TTTG Newsletter Number 95. June 2007.

Postal Address

P.O. Box N240 Grosvenor Place
Sydney NSW 1220

Subscription $30

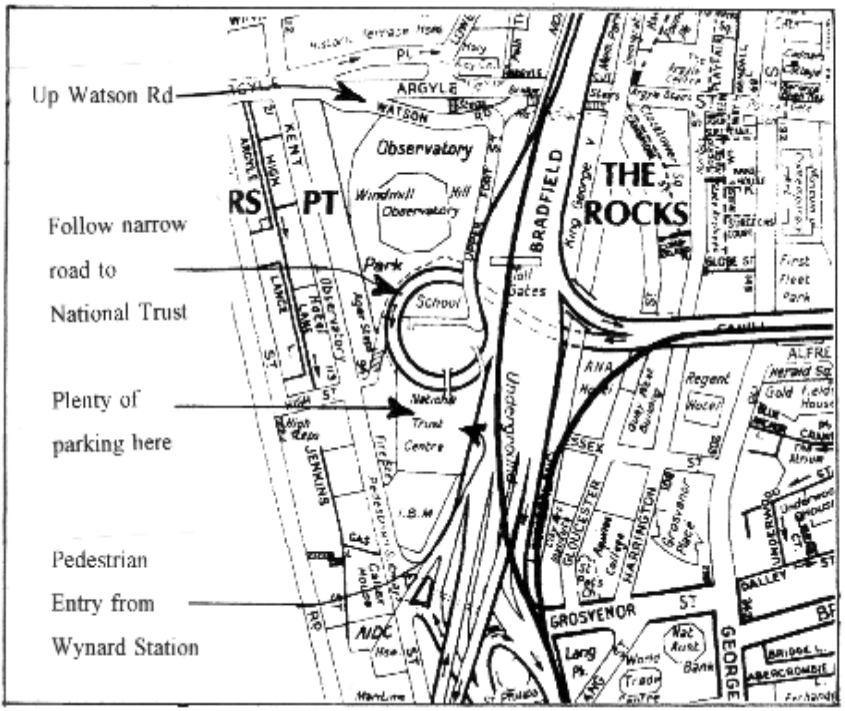
Enquires

Mike Williams 02 9144 6356
Bob Crosbie r.crosbie@bigpond.com

www.tttg.org.au

Next Meeting

National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill. Annie Wyatt Room.
Tuesday June 12 ***"Doors Open"* at 7pm**



Programme

1) Trading Hour.
"TTTG members only" tools for sale.

2) Presentation.
STANLEY

3) TTTG Auction.
No reserves, everything must be sold.

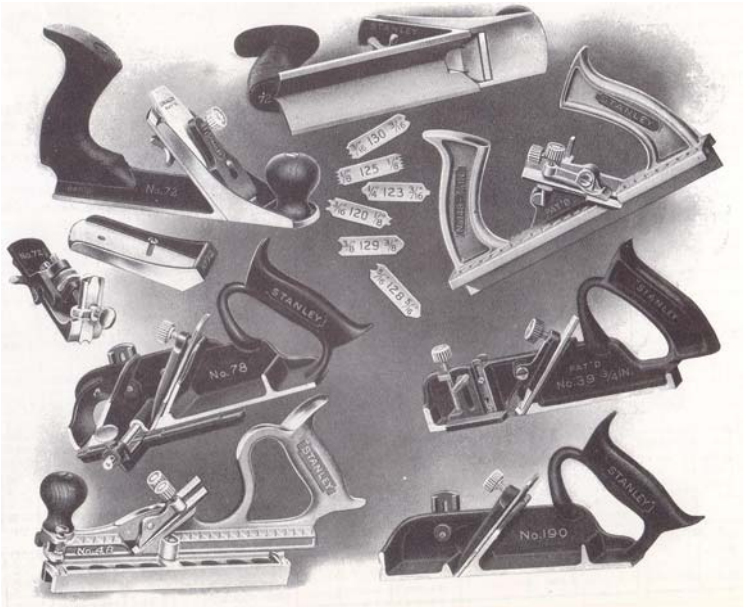
Catering by Mario Dato.

Next Meeting

June 12, 2007.

STANLEY TOOLS

Everything you wanted to know about Stanley tools,
Every Stanley tool you wanted to see.



The Trading Hour.

This is usually set up by 6.30pm.
Minimum price is $20 per tool. Quality only.

The Auction.

There is nothing to compare to a TTTG Auction.
The Auctioneer is learning to spell ethical and the Trainee Auctioneer is back!
Throw away prices. Vendors say SELL. No reserves. Stupid prices.
Anything could be under the hammer despite the new rules!

Paying after the Auction.

The Treasurer is present and the tally taken.
Buyers can assist by having the exact money ready.
If say you owe $4 but only have a $5 note please consider “rounding up”.
The prices are so low we can all afford to be generous.

The Cover.

"Squaring the Edge".
The Farmer's Handbook Department of Agriculture
New South Wales Sydney 1941.

Last Meeting.

Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

Last meeting saw an exhibition of new TTTG technology when Ray Gurney presented a lecture on traditional metal hardware used in the furniture and building trades. Ray used the new TTTG digital projector to show us a myriad of slides from his collection of photographs of antique and traditional hardware. Ray's talk was based on a lecture that he gave recently to the Furniture History Society Symposium at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.
Through his conservation and restoration work, Ray has observed a wide range of eighteenth and nineteenth century furniture and building hardware and has always taken the opportunity to photograph and record it. We were shown details of hand wrought nails, hand filed screws and many different types of locks. His talk engendered wide-ranging discussion and interest amongst those present, so much so that John Daniel has written an article in this issue on his own collection of early nails. We may be able to twist Ray's arm to write a short article on this interesting area for publication by TTTG.

The Auction.

The TTTG Auction is a key component of the General Meetings. The last auction saw a noticeable improvement in the quality of items offered. Prices were good from the vendor and buyers viewpoint.
Keep bringing that ironmongery in.

TTTG Auction Guidelines.

Vendors are requested to consider the suitability items offered for sale.

Auction Rules.

All entries will be examined before inclusion.
No reserve prices are to be placed on any item.

To facilitate this the TTTG Committee will examine the entries before the official opening of the meeting. Selected lots will then be arranged in the back of the venue room and the TTTG Committee will tell the members that the lots are open for inspection.
Lots not selected can be displayed outside the meeting room and members can make offers to the vendors.

The Insert.

The insert with News 95 is a reprint of a TIGER SAWS Leaflet.

The June Meeting.

The TTTG Committee intends "to put a little bit more" into the June Meeting. This has nothing to do with the Committee being up for re-election in August or anything to do with the need to motivate volunteers for the 2007 Wood Show.

Rather it comes out of two TTTG members asking if they could display some Stanley tools at the beginning of the next meeting. Now it so happens that these two gentlemen probably have the best collections of Stanley tools in Australia. Naturally the Committee quickly agreed to their suggestion.

The Trading Corner will still be operating but when the dealing stops the display will be set up. Anyone else who wants to bring along Stanley tools for the display is encouraged to do so.

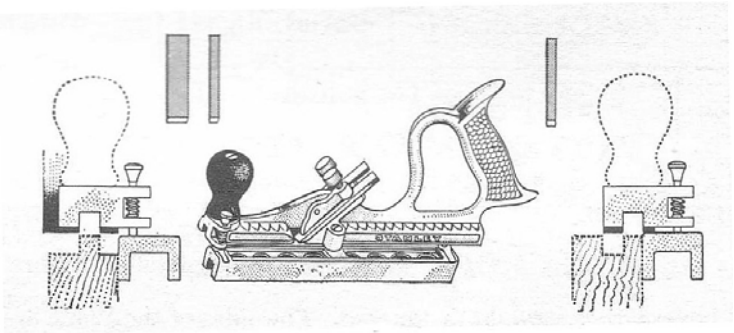
This will be a very impressive presentation but it occurred to the Committee that the audience might want to know something about the tools on display. So we have twisted the tool owner's arms and they will give a brief talk about their collections of rare and not so rare Stanley tools.

Then the Committee thought that there would be questions from the audience. So why not set up a panel to answer questions about Stanley tools? To find out who owns the Stanley tools and who will be on the panel you will have to come to the meeting.

After all this, the Auction will take place. Hans Brunner has nothing to fear from the TTTG Auction but the audience keeps coming back for more.

Somewhere in all this the Committee will try and sign up volunteers for the Sydney Wood Show. There are many benefits from assisting on the TTTG Stand. The least of which is the free entry.

As an example of the benefits from being a TTTG member one of the collectors purchased this scarce Stanley #146 plane at the recent TTTG Open Day.



TTTG Publications

Two TTTG CDs are now available.
The CDs are available at the Meetings or Workshops from Clynt. (See "The Ledger" in this issue)

-**TTTG CD Number 1**
Anthony Horden's, Sydney
"Tools for Tradesmen" Catalogue, 1913.
W S Friend, Sydney. Catalogue. Undated, circa 1920.
Ironmongeries Ltd. Brisbane. Catalogue. June 1930.

-**TTTG CD Number 2**
Alexander Young & Co. 1901 Machine Tool Catalogue
McPherson's Home Workshop Guide (1940s)
Hardware and tools pages from Sears, Roebuck and Co. 1947
T. S. Kaye & Sons Tool List (1930s) (70? pages)
plus explanatory notes and notes on the different companies.

CDs are $10 each

-Carter Tools Leaflet.
-Benns' Hardware.

$5 each plus postage.

-1932 Record Tools Catalogue.
-Stanley UK Catalogue 1950.
-Chandlers Catalogue.

$8 plus postage

-Stanley Planes and Screw Threads. John Bates.
Part One. Metal Screw Threads.
Origins and Technology clearly explained.

Part Two. Stanley Plane Threads.
What they are and why they were used.

All copies sold.

Back Issues of News.

Some back issues of TTTG News are available. Special prices for quantity.

With The Editor.

TTTG and TATHS publication on ABRASIVES.

Open Day and Tool Exchange.

The open day on Sunday April 22 was well attended.
Everyone left happy and asking "can we have another open day".
So the Committee canvassed the issue and the arguments in favour won the day.

Later in 2007 there will be another TTTG Tool Exchange.

2007 TTTG Workshops.

The following workshops will be held in the first half of 2007.

Saw Sharpening.
Sunday May 27.

Plane Tuning & Sharpening.
Sunday June 24.

For details of the workshops ask for a Workshop Leaflet or log on **www.tttg.org.au**
All workshops will be at Asquith Boys High School.

Why TTTG Workshops?

TTTG workshops are arguably the best available.
Our workshops offer the lowest cost, quality teaching and excellent facilities.

TTTG can arrange workshops to suit your needs.
But only if you tell the Committee what you want!

2007 TTTG Blacksmithing Workshop.

The TTTG Committee is planning a workshop on blacksmithing.
This workshop will be in the second half of 2007.
Rick Mitchell is coordinating this workshop.

Strong interest has been shown. Thanks to the volunteers.

Selling Old Tools.

TTTG can arrange the sale of second hand tools.
After selling the IXL Lathe advertised in #94 another machine needs a home.

POWER HACKSAW. 20 years plus old,
needs some repair but CHEAP. Contact the Editor.

PAYPAL Electronic payment of subscription.

For those members that have access to the internet, TTTG offers the use of PayPal to make payments for the membership fee and to purchase publications. This service is provided for members who find it convenient to make payments electronically and for our international members.

PayPal is an online payment system where the buyer's PayPal account makes the payment over the internet without the buyer having to supply a credit card or bank account number to the merchant.
This month's issue contains details of how you can use this service. Turn to "The Ledger" section on page 16.
For more details on PayPal, their website is www.paypal.com.au.

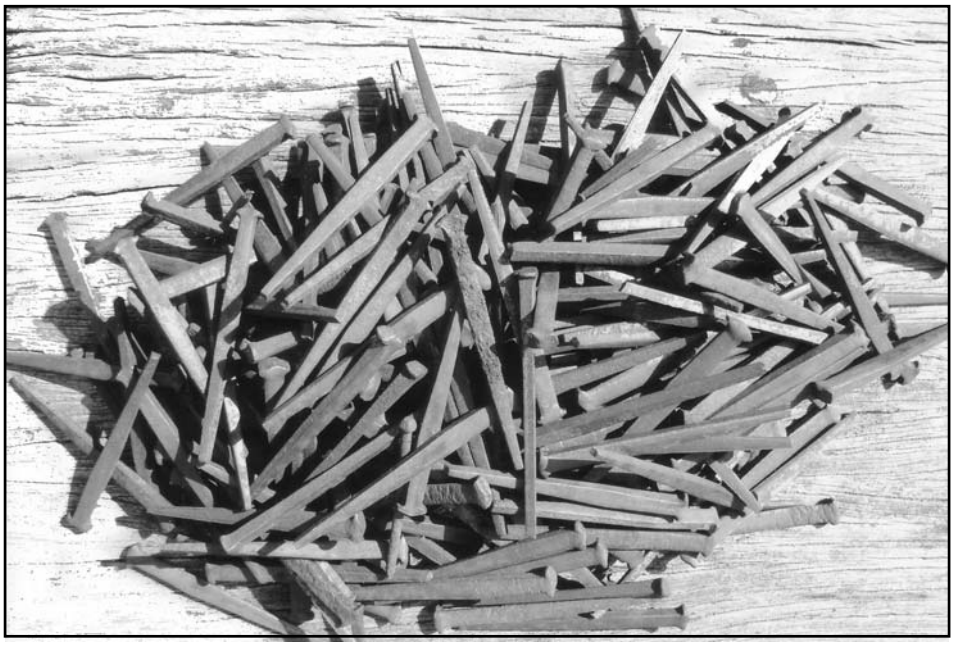
The PAYPAL facility is a TTTG first. Will other groups follow?

Correspondence

Ray Gurney's Talk

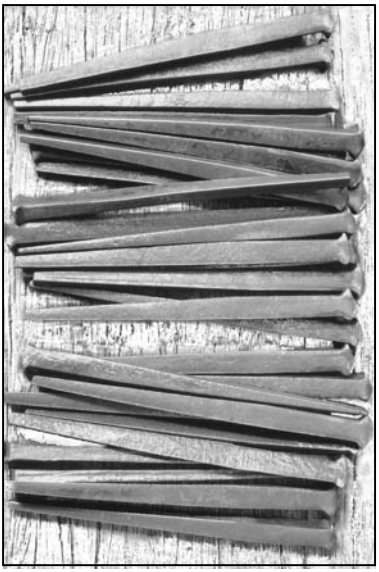
John Daniels sent the editor a few words and some excellent pictures.

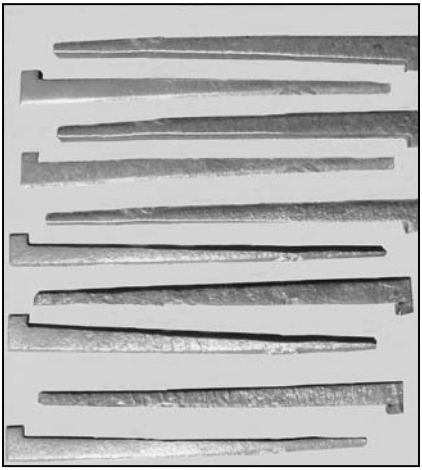
Ray Gurney's talk at our last meeting was most interesting. His interest in fastenings and fittings, especially as a means of dating furniture was readily accepted. In my case it reminded me of a few handfuls of nails that I was given; they came from an old joinery shed in Kiama. After Ray's talk I viewed them in a different light, especially the manufacturing techniques and marks left by the "Nail Maker". I feel that the nails photographed were made circa 1890 although the nails with "Grip" marks and the lamination lines may be earlier.



A large handful of shear nails with secondary worked heads, nails 50mm long.

100mm shear nails.
Secondary worked heads.





Nails as they were guillotined
from a nail plate.

"Grip"marks on the side
of a hand-wrought nail
made when the nail was
held while shaping the head.

Lamination separation
hand-wrought nail

Correspondence

Allan Perry's Talk

Chay Reid, a TTTG member from New Zealand, writes,

Regarding your reply to Allan Perry's brace bits,I aso have tw of these bits, we called them bullnose bits.
One is 7/16" *WHITEHOUSE & SONS INVENTORS UNBREAKABLE*
The other 3/8" *Wm RIDGEWAY SHEFFIELD MADE IN ENGLAND*
A coincidence, I also have a 7/16" Whitehouse same as you, but obviously Ridgeway also made these bits, probably copied the Whitehouse.

2007 Timber and Working with Wood Show

The Timber and Working with Wood Show is on again 15th, 16th and 17th June.

TTTG will be there again, demonstrating the use and care of traditional tools, jointing boards with a plane, using draw knives, thicknessing with a scrub plane, running mouldings and much more. We need volunteers to man the stand and do any demonstrations that they think will be of interest to those attending the show.
Please speak to Bob Crosbie at the meeting if you are able to help. If you can't come to the TTTG meeting and you think that you might be able to help please ring Mike Williams on 9144 6356.

Correspondence

Words from Tasmania

Our founding President and Southern Correspondent replies to News 94.
The editor's responses, in italic, follow a selection of Terry's comments.

Page 31 Sharpening a Crosscut Saw on a tree stump, pity the poor fellow didn't choose a stump waist high, I wonder how long he could keep up that pose?

No doubt an example of artistic licence.

Page 17 A very interesting article "That Plane is a Preston" but who was the author? and may I add no plane is worthless. This was a wood bodied jack plane, English beech and I guess surely enough wood to make a wedge for a coffin smoother or several moulding planes, was the front end intact, showing maker's name etc, a slice of say 25mm oil wax or polish and use as a maker next to Preston planes collection. Worthless Bah!

Those borer-eaten Mathieson planes have freshened up the fire a treat on this cold evening as I write these words, but I digress. Logic will furnish the identity of the author; this editor does not plagiarise and always acknowledges the writer's name however he does omit the author's name when the editor is also the author! Some planes are in fact useless or of no value. The Preston discussed was only of any value for the blade and cap iron and perhaps for the wood. The metal parts were passed on to someone who appreciates Preston planes and the beech body was sold at the TTTG auction for more than I paid for the plane.
Some planes are simply too far-gone to have any value beyond fuel.

It gives me enormous pleasure to know that TTTG still contributes to the Timber and Working With Wood Show. I remember when years ago we timidly asked the organisers if possibly we might have a small stand and show off a few of our old tools, yes we were granted a free space and it was such a success we were asked to participate again the following year. TTTG has gone from strength to strength at the Show. I hope one day to see TTTG at the Hobart Show.

Total agreement with Terry, TTTG has come a long way. Patrick has always been very generous at the Wood Show and it is an event we all enjoy. But TTTG is not just about tool collecting. TTTG seeks to preserve and to disseminate the trade knowledge associated with traditional tools.

Terry Butcher is writing a series on the "Bruny Island Timber Industry". Instalments will be published in future issues of News.

Terry also claims to now have between two and three hundred hacksaw frames. Which means that TTTG has two members with "serious" hacksaw collections.

Writing for TTTG NEWS.

Every TTTG member potentially has something they can contribute to News. Some members may be daunted by the prospect of putting pen to paper. Frankly it doesn't matter how rough your words are, it is the content that is important, the editor's job is to make it sound good and if he makes a mess of it then everyone blames the editor.

The editor feels that some publishing guidelines might be helpful. This is TTTG, the "laid back" organisation so keep on reading as this won't be the sort of complicated stuff other groups publish.

Rule one is to follow the **KISS** principle.
In the military this is Keep it Simple Soldier, elsewhere Keep it Simple Stupid.
A pretty good starting point. Don't try and sound clever. Don't go for big words.

Now you can use a computer in which case you can check the spelling and the grammar but you can also use a pen, the editor can then correct the mistakes. As to format if you use a computer, it doesn't really matter it will probably be reformatted anyway, if the worse happens someone will retype it. If you are a computer user you will know how to get your contribution to the editor.

As to photographs, these are perhaps the biggest problem. Use a computer or a box brownie, hand them over as prints or in digital form, whatever you can do. The editor only asks one thing, *Please photograph on a neutral background.*
No fancy stuff until you have won a photojournalism prize somewhere else.

TTTG/TATHS Joint Publication.

The TATHS Editor, Brian Read, has a long-standing interest in abrasives.
For several years Brian has been corresponding with the Editor on this subject.
Readers will recall mention of Brian's notes on abrasives in past copies of News.
Brian Read has revised his notes on abrasives and has sent the Editor a CD
"An Examination of Some 19th & Early 20t Century Sharpening Stones".
Brian has agreed to have this study published as a joint TTTG /TATHS exercise.

Several TTTG Committee members have now read Brian's draft.
The first move is to decide on a format for this publication.
Some of the evidence presented will need to be printed in colour with obvious implications for printing costs. However we are confident that the publication justifies the cost of production.

The editing process will take some months but in due course another quality TTTG Publication will be available. Brian's study is grounded in sound methodology and will contribute scientific analysis and factual information to a topic often shrouded in folklore.

John's Page

John Daniel

THE ANNUAL KIAMA WOODCRAFT EXPO REPORT

Once again, Kiama Woodcraft Group (Inc.) presented a great stage to demonstrate their wide range of expertise in all avenues of woodworking. Their cohesion and organisational overview guaranteed a successful Expo, making it a privilege for our group TTTG (Inc) to be included.

We had our usual corner giving us ample room "to do our own thing". Jim's sharpening demonstrations created their usual interest with sharpening products and tool care products being carefully assessed. The wide range of tools and display items were appreciated with many questions and lots of compliments freely flowing. Requests for TTTG (Inc) information was frequent, which after all, was the main reason for being there i.e. to promote our Tool Group.

A little aside, the KIAMA WOODCRAFT GROUP (Inc) has an annual event, which coincides with the Expo. Participating members are presented with a super foot of identical timber and are challenged to make something from it. This year, as usual, we saw the talents of the members displayed in the form of abstract woodturning, a beautiful jewellery box, scroll saw animals, candle stick holders, etc. The winner of the "Popular Choice" was a miniature set of ten woodworking/instrument making tools including planes, a gauge, oilstone box, etc. It was satisfying to see the general public appreciating the aesthetic appeal of traditional designs in the making of hand tools. Perhaps all is not lost.

Many thanks to the "old faithful" who dropped in for a chat and to give us their support. We even had a visit from an HTPAA member, who was most impressed.

If visitor feedback is any indication, it was well worth the effort. We'll be back.

THE LEDGER

New Members

On behalf of the TTTG Executive and Members, a welcome is extended to seven new Members :-

Peter Smith	**M448**	**Tom Allen**	**M452**
Andrew Patterson	**M449**	**Tony Bond**	**M453**
Kiama Woodcraft Group	**M450**	**Guy Jeffrey**	**M454**
Bob Tucker	**M451**		

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TTTG subscriptions for the 2007-08 financial year should be paid before 30th June, 2007. See the Subscription Renewal Notice loose in this edition of the Newsletter. Listed thereon are also the membership numbers of members who have already promptly paid their 2007-08 subs (they should ignore that notice, as should members whose cheque has already been posted). If you have not yet paid, please put a cheque for $30 in the mail now or pay the Hon. Treasurer, Clynt Sheehy at the June TTTG Meeting on Tuesday, 12th June, 2007.

Following our policy of last year (and that of other similar clubs), if we have not received your 2007-08 subscription by 31st July, 2007 then you will not receive your August Newsletter. Should you subsequently pay your subscription, then receipt of your newsletter cannot be guaranteed as print runs are strictly limited in keeping with the club's economical policy (there has not been an increase in subscriptions since the club's inception in 1991).

PayPal Option

TTTG membership subscription payments for financial year 2007-2008 are due before 30th June, 2007. Payments may be made by cheque, by cash at TTTG meetings and workshops.....

AND

TTTG is now offering members the **OPTION** to pay their annual membership subscription online by using PayPal. For those members who do not have a PayPal account and wish to sign up, please go to the PayPal website at www.paypal.com.au and follow the instructions.

For those members who do have a PayPal account: On the Membership page of TTTG's website (www.tttg.org.au) there are two new additions called "Joining Online" and "Subscription Renewal". Under the heading "Subscription Renewal" is a hyper-link called "Subscription Renewal" that will take you to the Subscription Renewal page.

When you get to the Subscription Renewal page you will find a number of entry fields that need to be filled in. All entry fields are required and will be matched against the member database to ensure they are valid.

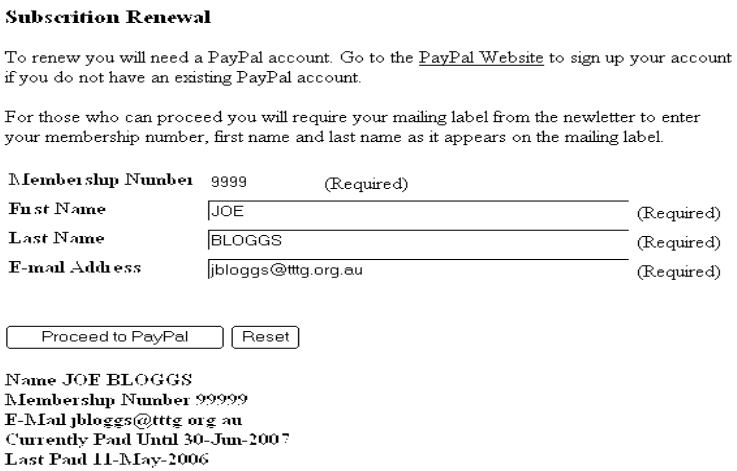
To correctly fill out the form you will need your mailing label to obtain your membership number and first and last name as registered by TTTG. From the mailing label enter your membership number WITHOUT the leading 'M', i.e. 'M9999' should be entered as '9999'. The first and last name need to be separated and should be entered as shown on the mailing label including those members that include a partner on the label, i.e. Jane & Joe Bloggs should be entered as 'JANE & JOE' in the first name entry field, and the 'BLOGGS' in the last name entry field. The e-mail address is required to give you notification of payment being made.

Pressing the 'Check Details' button will confirm your details and notify you of any errors that need correcting. If you do encounter an error, they will most likely be:
'***The Membership Number must be numeric***', to correct this, enter your membership number without the leading 'M'.
'***The E-mail address must be in a name@domain format***', requires that a valid E-mail address be entered.
'***First Name, Last Name or Membership Number do not match any existing member***', please re-check you details against the mailing label, if you still have a problem contact the webmaster at webmaster@tttg.org.au.

Once the details have been verified, the page will be updated to show the additional information provided from that which is currently stored in the database, so please verify that the information is correct before proceeding to PayPal.

Please note that if the 'Currently Paid Until dd-mmm-yyyy' information is not showing, it indicates that you are not a current member and after payment is made this information will be updated to reflect your membership status.

To make the actual payment, press the 'Proceed to PayPal' button and you will be taken to the PayPal site to complete the transaction. Once at the PayPal site carefully follow the instructions taking note that you are purchasing a 'subscription renewal' for 'The Traditional Tools Group, Inc.'. When you have completed the transaction, you will re-directed back to the TTTG website and should expect an E-mail from PayPal on your transaction and an E-mail from TTTG indicating your membership status.



Subscrition Renewal

To renew you will need a PayPal account. Go to the PayPal Website to sign up your account if you do not have an existing PayPal account.

For those who can proceed you will require your mailing label from the newletter to enter your membership number, first name and last name as it appears on the mailing label.

Membership Number	9999 (Required)	
First Name	JOE	(Required)
Last Name	BLOGGS	(Required)
E-mail Address	jbloggs@tttg.org.au	(Required)

Proceed to PayPal | Reset

Name JOE BLOGGS
Membership Number 99999
E-Mail jbloggs@tttg org au
Currently Paid Until 30-Jun-2007
Last Paid 11-May-2006

Membership Subscription Rates for 2007-2008

The general subscription rate of $30AUS per annum remains unchanged as it has since 1991. This rate applies for members living within 50 km of the GPO, Sydney and for overseas members. If you live in Australia but more than 50km from Sydney or you are an Australian pensioner, then you MAY CHOOSE to pay only $25 per annum; however if you can afford to pay $30 then it would be appreciated.

Postal Address for subscription payments:

The Treasurer TTTG Inc
PO Box N240 Grosvenor Place
Sydney, NSW, 1220
AUSTRALIA

There is a new member application form at TTTG's website (www.tttg.org.au) click on TTTG Membership Application (Application form is a PDF file of 200 KB.

Subscription Renewal Online option in conjunction with PayPal: See our Subscription Renewal page on our website to proceed.

Joining TTTG online: This facility is currently under development; it is anticipated that it will be available in shortly.

Workshops

There was a very satisfying roll-up at TTTG's Saw Sharpening Workshop on Sunday, 27th May, 2007. The next all-day Workshops are the ever-popular Plane Tuning & Sharpening Workshop to be held on Sunday 24th June, 2007 and the much sought after Dovetailing Workshop on Sunday 22nd July, 2007 both commencing at 9:30am at Asquith Boys' High School, Jersey Street (Nth.), Asquith. The cost of these Workshops is a staggeringly inexpensive $20 for TTTG Members or $40 for non-members. Details from Peter Evans 0419 245 699 or Bob Crosbie 9869 7487 or just turn up.

TTTG CDs

Both TTTG CD Nos. 1 and 2 are available from me at TTTG Meetings and Workshops. They are available at an incredible $10 each.

CD No. 1 contains:
1. Anthony Hordern's December, 1913 Tool Catalogue
2. Friends Catalogue (a particularly rare Sydney catalogue).
3. Ironmongeries Ltd. Catalogue, Brisbane
4. Wiltshire file Catalogue, 1945

CD No. 2 contains:
1. Alexander Young & Co. 1901 Machine Tool Catalogue.
2. McPherson's Home Workshop Guide.
3. Hardware and tools parts of Sears, Roebuck and Co. 1947 Catalogue.
4. T. S. Kaye & Sons of Hull, Goole & Nottingham tool List (a 1930s tool catalogue.

Clynt Sheehy
Hon. Treasurer

The Farmers Handbook.

My father was one of the men from rural New South Wales who joined up in World War Two. He was typical of the many who signed on in response to the threat of Japanese invasion in that he was "just old enough" and in not having much of an education.

So it is not surprising that I grew up thinking that all you needed to know was how to roll a smoke and how to pick a good axe. At school these values were a bit of a disadvantage as was my received knowledge on geography "Borneo is bigger than Australia", on current affairs "Everything's in the Pear's Cyclopedia" and on all technical matters "It's in the Farmer's Handbook".

I had my doubts about Borneo and Pears but I liked to look at the Farmer's Handbook. Not for the farming stuff but for the pictures of tools. Probably looking at these pictures encouraged me to stick with the squiggly lines until I could work out what the pictures meant. In these pages were more than the axes, saws, hammers and other basic tools my father had.

My father's Farmer's Handbook is in storage so when I saw a copy in a second-hand bookshop I had to buy it. The copy I purchased has a blue cover; my father's copy has a green cover but the contents are identical. I think the Department of Agriculture first published this book in the 1920s and the last reprint was in the late 1940s. This is horse age technology, real survival stuff.

When I saw the book in the shop window the memories flooded back but not of my father. One of my uncles did a bit of tree felling, bit of land clearing and sold firewood. Perhaps he got the idea to speed up log splitting from this book, as there is a chapter on explosives on the farm. Be that as it may, he got hold of the explosive charges but was not sure of how to use them. The memory coming back was of the fragments of wood falling on our back veranda roof. That's when my grandfather told me my uncle couldn't read and I should spend a bit more time at school.

As a primary school age child I enjoyed the chapter on carpentry on the farm. The section on planes fascinated me, all wooden with the advice to buy wooden planes "in my opinion the easiest to use" and to buy second hand. So much was left out that it took me years to fully understand what was included. The other chapters were equally fascinating for a child, blacksmithing, harness work, rope work, care of horses. The pictures of the men on the farms were identical to the older men, my grandfather's friends, who looked so different from my father's friends. If I asked my father or his friends anything they had no time but the older men, still working hard, made time.

It occurs to me that there may be some interest in these mechanical chapters. TTTG will reprint them or put them on a CD. All in good time and no hurry

Shute-Board

Advertisements often used the term Shute-Board as well as Shooting Board, Stanley Tools providing an example of the use of this terminology.

Shooting or Shute-Boards were advertised as being for the use of woodworking tradesmen and printers and electrotype setters.

The advertisement below from a printing trade journal in the 1920s explains the use of Shute-Boards in the printing industry.

How many Stanley Shooting Boards were actually used in the printing industry and where are they now?

Any information on the use of Shute-Boards in non-woodworking trades would be appreciated.

Were they used for the same task as the Printer's Saw? The editor regrets not buying the Printer's Saw made by Douglas Sydney that turned up at North Rocks for $50. It was a superb example of 1950s Australian engineering.

Grinding Edge Tools

When it comes to sharpening, woodworkers often doggedly stick to poor techniques. Paradoxically when the situation gets desperate they will often throw money at the latest "high tech" solution.

Take the matter of grinding tools as a case study. All the old textbooks warn against dry grinding plane and chisel blades and recommend wet grinding. Most of the more modern textbooks copy this as holy writ. Why did the old writers recommend wet grinding? The answer is that when these books were written large diameter natural (sandstone) grinding wheels were the only commonly available machines. These natural stones had to be run in water or they would "glaze" or "burn" the tool being ground.

When small diameter artificial (emery) grinders became available these could not be run in water. Woodworkers found that these grinders quickly burnt edge tools. Reasoning back to previous practice the recommended solution was to cool the tool being ground by dipping it in water. This practice insured that any tool ground in this manner would be ruined.

Why? Quenching hot heat-treated tool steel in water immediately causes minute cracks in the steel and also changes the hardness of the steel. Woodworking tools can be ground on dry wheels without damage if
a) the correct wheel is used and b) the correct wheel is used correctly.

The solution is to learn something about grinding. It is an interesting fact that wood machinists started using dry grinders as soon as they were introduced to shape moulding knives and planer blades. Before High Speed Steel these knives were carbon steel, the same steel as chisels and plane blades. How did machinists avoid burning such knives? *By using the correct wheel correctly.*

Lots of woodworkers today try and use dry grinders and burn their tools. Usually they then go looking for a wet grinder. These small wet grinders look great and the price tag reinforces the appearance of "hey this will do it". But they are not really designed for woodworker's edge tools. Put simply these wet grinders are too slow.

Easy to make these comments you no doubt are thinking but what can the starting out woodworker do? With luck you might find an old large diameter natural grindstone in good condition, some were even power driven, but it's not likely. The realistic solution is to learn how to use a dry grinder correctly.

To learn how to use a dry grinder correctly attended the next

TTTG Sharpening Workshop,
after the Sydney Timber Show.

Carpenter's Bench

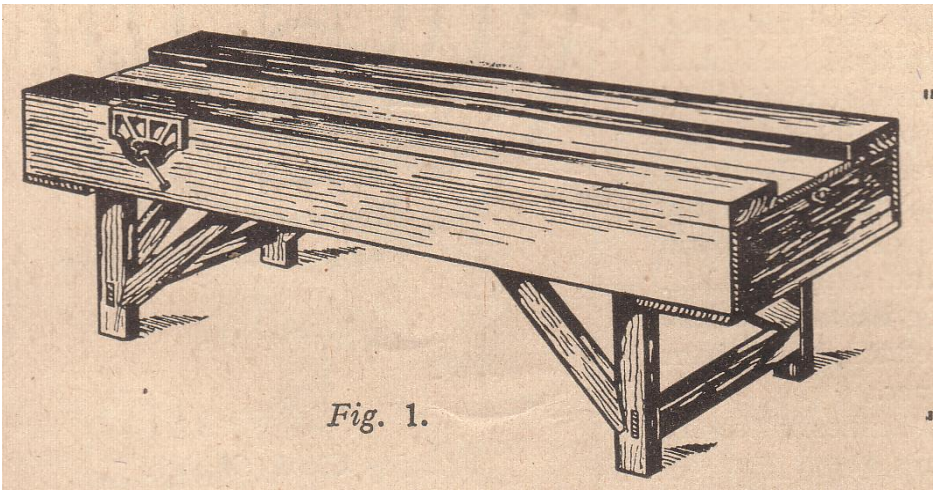
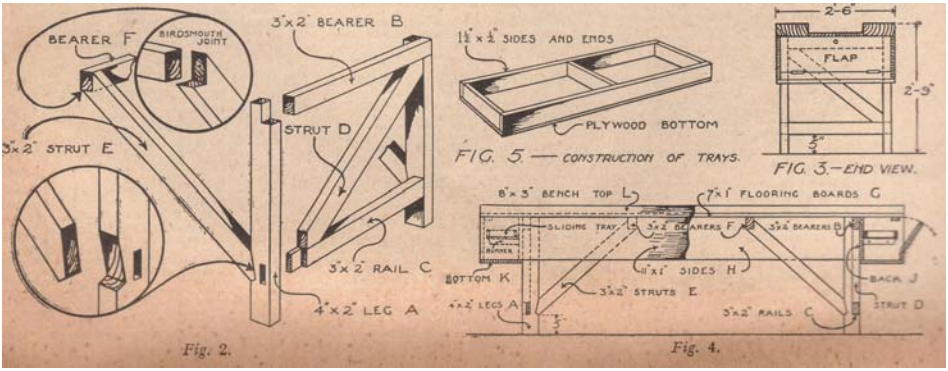


Fig. 1.



Description	Length ft.	Length in.	Width in.	Thickness in.	Material
A Four legs	2	7	4	2	Deal
B Two bearers ..	2	5	3	2	"
C Two rails	2	5	3	2	"
D Two braces ..	2	9	3	2	"
E Four struts ..	3	1	3	2	"
F Two bearers ..	2	5	3	2	"
G Two tops	9	0	7	1	Flooring
H Two sides	9	0	11	1	Shelving
L Two tops	9	0	8	3	Deal
Twotray-bottoms	2	6	8	Plywood	Alder
Material for tray sides	14	0	1½	½	Deal
Material to form lockers	16	0	11	1	Shelving

English Mechanics
April 12, 1935.

Honing Jigs

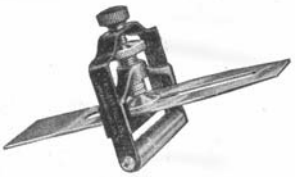
In all woodworking trades the age-old attitude "that's not for tradesmen" has often stifled innovation. Generations have struggled to get a sharp edge on plane blades and on chisels. Many inventive mechanics have designed devices to hone edge tools quickly and well. Until recently these devices were seen as "not for tradesmen". Excellent, complicated and expensive honing jigs are now successfully marketed. Aids to sharpening have been around for a long time but the jigs available in the past were often simpler and cheaper.
Here are a few examples of honing jigs from previous generations.

TENAX. Osborn & Co. Catalogue Southampton (1925)

The " Tenax," Adjustable Tool Rest, Plane and Chisel Sharpener. A "Rounding" or Dull Edge an impossibility. Invaluable to Every Amateur Carpenter. Enables the novice to obtain a result equal to the most experienced Craftsman ... 5/6 each

Millers Falls. Millers Falls Tools Catalogue 42 (1938)

No. 240 Plane Iron and Chisel Sharpener



A new device at a popular price that overcomes the imperfections of free-hand honing, saves time and lengthens the life of the blade.

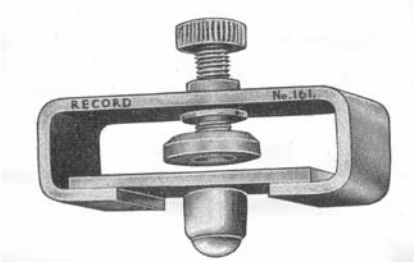
The blade is held rigidly in the holder by means of a lower thumb screw and exact angle desired secured by adjusting the upper screw. Still further angular adjustment can be secured by changing the position of the blade in the clamp.

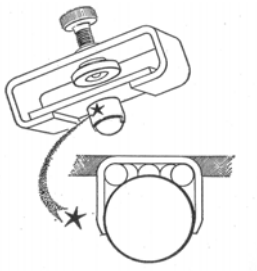
With the blade firmly clamped and the wanted angle secured, place the tool on an oil stone or hone in the usual manner. The roller bearing rolls freely during the honing operation. Can also be used on a grinding stone. Nicely finished.

	Capacity	Weight	Code	Price Each
No. 240	2⅝ inches	11 ozs.	ESDER	$1.25

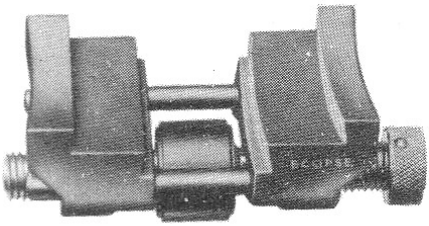
Packed one in a box

Record (1950s)





Eclipse The Eclipse Catalogue (1969)



HONING GUIDE

A simple, well-balanced tool (U.K. Pat. No. 924579) which will hold securely wood chisels and plane irons from 1/16" to 2 5/8" wide so that the required angle is applied when honing.
The guide consists primarily of a pair of stepped self-centring jaws. To ensure that the tool to be honed is held securely, one jaw in each pair is curved and the two upper pairs of jaws are undercut. The head of the operating screw is slotted to permit additional tightening. The straight-faced, hardened steel roller permits a true square edge to be honed.

Of the four jigs illustrated the Eclipse is still being made, albeit a copy not as superbly manufactured as the original but cheap and useable.
Many consider the Eclipse to be the "best", there are many second hand ones, like all Eclipse tools this jig is a delight to use.

The Millers Falls is long out of production but appears to be a well-designed jig. Does anyone have one? It would be an interesting tool to try out.

The Record is also out of production. It is a well-made jig and works well. However the ball bearing is a real design fault as it soon fills with abrasive particles and steel and clogs up, it then develops facets!

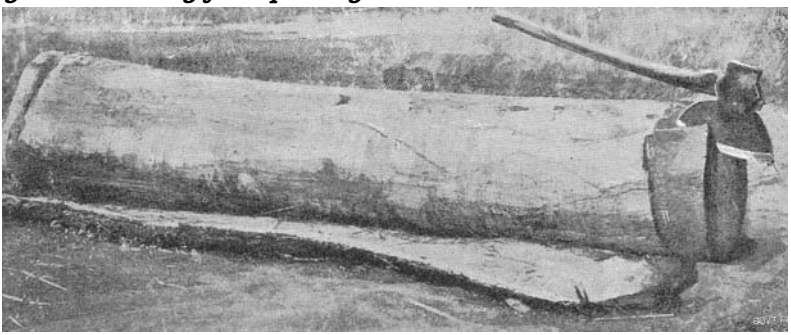
The TENAX is similar to the Stanley Jig, and like it bulky and cumbersome and no doubt hard to use. Seems to be a bit expensive too. In the same price list an India Oilstone could be had for 6/3, a Washita, in a case, for only 4/6

These four Honing Jigs are by no means the only jigs that were manufactured.

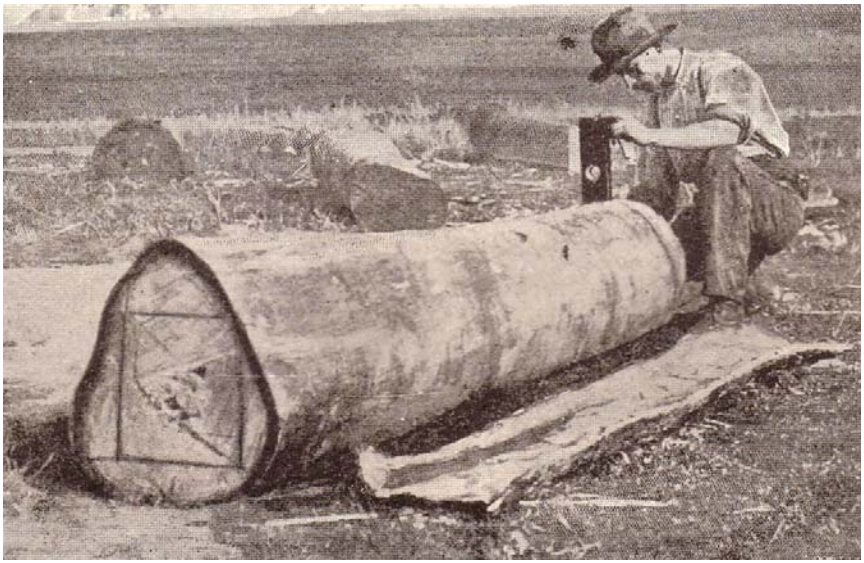
Squaring a Gate-Post.

The following photographs are from the "The Farmer's Handbook" published by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, Sydney 1941.
TTTG intends to reprint extracts from this publication and the section titled "The Handy Man on the Farm" unabridged.

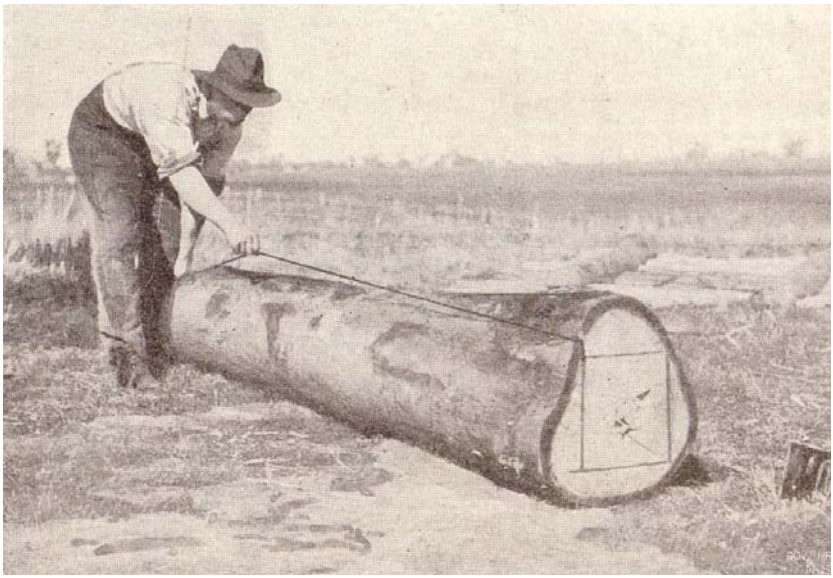
The log barked ready for squaring



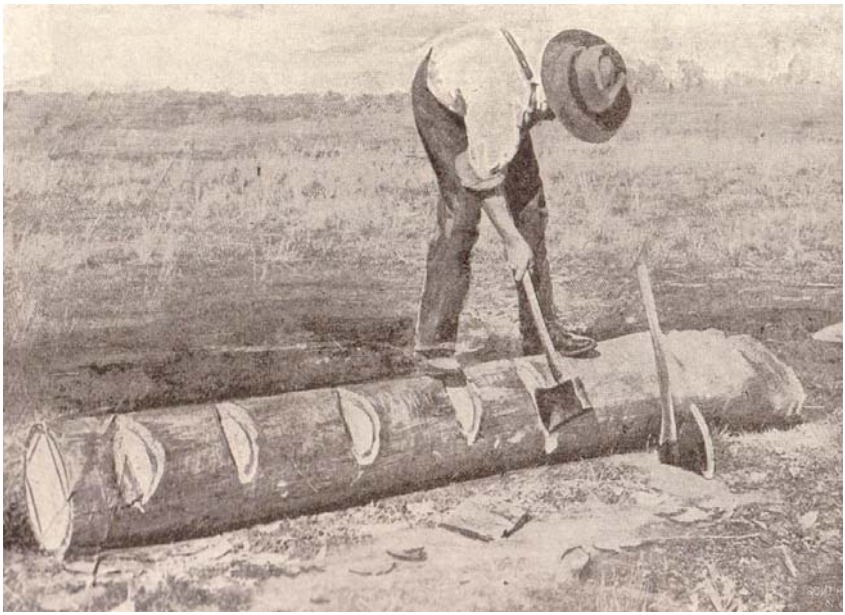
Marking the Ends



"Striking"



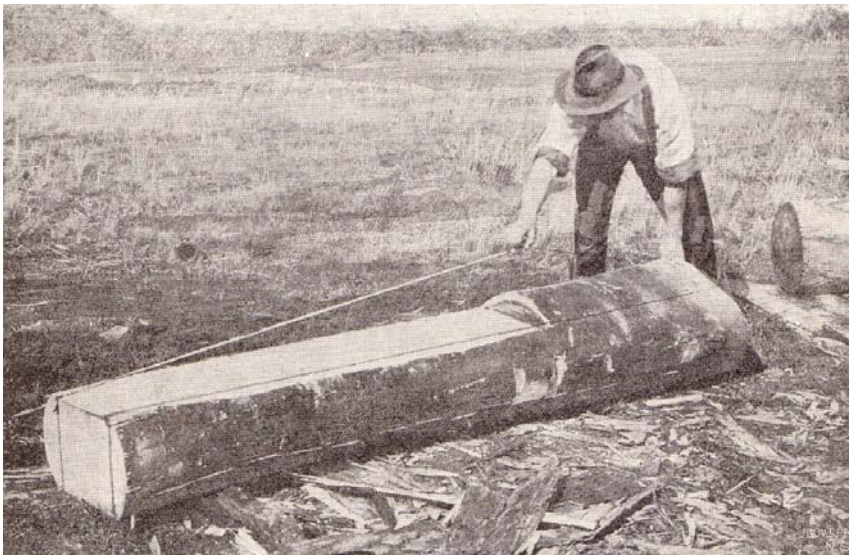
Chopping to the Line



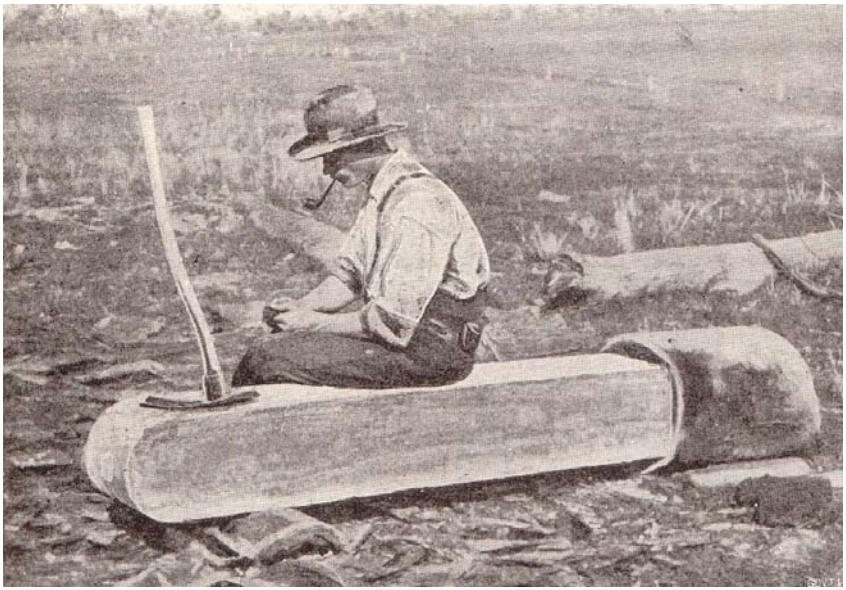
Splitting to the Line

Squaring the Edges

Striking after the first two edges have been squared



Finished



Cutting Wood Threads

Screw Cutting. F. J. Camm. Cassell and Company Ltd. London. 1920s?

WOOD-SCREWING taps and screw-boxes of different sizes for cutting handscrews, knobscrews, etc., form part of the general woodturners' outfit. Ordinary taps for tapping threads in metal are usable for tapping female threads in wooden chucks for the lathe, but the pitch of thread is much too fine for many wood screws, and metal-screwing dies are practically useless for cutting the male threads on wood. Fig. 171 shows the simple form of fluted tap for wood-screwing, four or five of the bottom threads being tapered off to nothing as at A, to permit free entrance of the tap in the hole, the flutes being three or four in number, as shown in cross section in Fig. 172. This style of tapered tap will only cut full threads in "through-going" holes which permit the tap to pass right through; actually these taps only operate by scraping.

Fig. 173 illustrates the proper form of tap for cutting screws in wood, and works equally well in either end-grain or in side-grain stuff. The threads in this tap are finished parallel, three or four threads being sufficient; this also tends to reduce the frictional resistance in screw-cutting which happens when using taps made as Fig. 171. The tap is easily made with the aid of a screw-cutting lathe, but can also be turned up and the screw-thread hand-chased with a chaser of suitable pitch. However, the tap is finished as shown, the top end A being turned the size to suit the diameter of the tapping hole, and also drilled hollow to

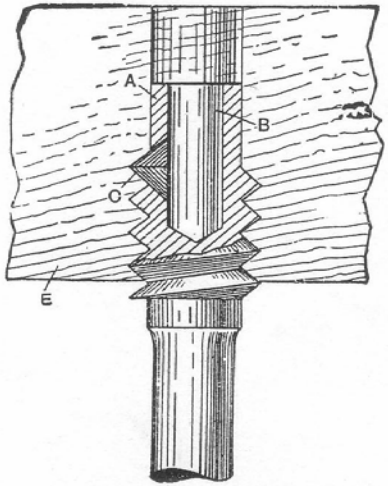


Fig. 174.—Cutting Internal Threads.

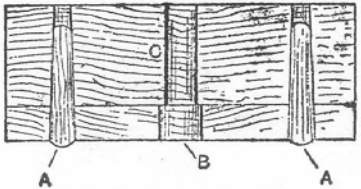


Fig. 175.—Section of Screw Box.

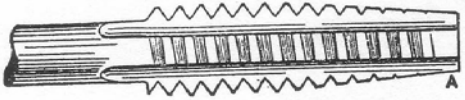


Fig. 171.—Tap for Threading Wood.

Fig. 172.—Section of Tap.

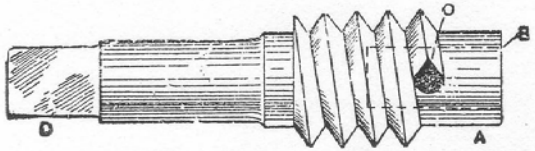


Fig. 173.—Form of Tap used in Screw Box.

of the cuttings. Figs. 176 and 177 show a section and side elevation of the cutter, it being bedded into the screw-box, so that the heel A (Fig. 177) is in alignment with the outside thread, as shown at A (Fig. 178), in which position it is adjusted to working order and fixed with the kneed-bolt B, the gab being cut out as indicated at C, and also in Fig. 179. The kneed-bolt is shown by Fig. 180, and as it projects above the cutter a suitable countersinking is prepared in the cover to permit the box closing together.

A screw-box with turned handles is shown in Fig. 181. It is made the same way as the other, but with the additional length at the ends for turning the handles, plus the waste piece A for cutting off at the prong-chuck end; and in this case, instead of tapered wooden dowels, the cover is secured for turning with snap-headed screw-nails B. In turning the handles, the centres for prong and poppet-chucking are not taken coincident to the square end of the screw-box, but coinciding with the centre of the box as at A (Fig. 182), the screw-box being thereby thrown off the centre to the extent of thickness of the cover, the angular corners of which are turned off smoothly with the box, the turning gouge being held at the angle shown at C (Fig. 181).

These screw-boxes with guidance of the cover are well adapted for cutting long screws, which do not necessitate the thread being cut full to a square shoulder, as is often the case for short screws. Although the makeshift of removing the screw-box cover could be adopted for running the thread to a shoulder, it is much better to use the screw-box made for cutting shouldered threads.

Figs. 183 and 184 show front view and section of screw-box for cutting threads close up to a shoulder. To obviate undue wearing of the gab a metal plate, prepared from an ordinary iron washer of suitable diameter, is sunk flush to

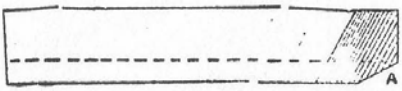


Fig. 177

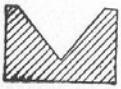


Fig. 176

Figs. 176 and 177.—Elevation and Section of the Cutter.

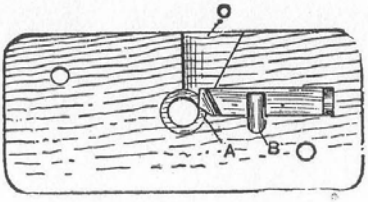


Fig. 178.—Cutter Fixture.

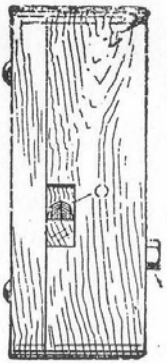


Fig. 179.—Top View of Screw Box.

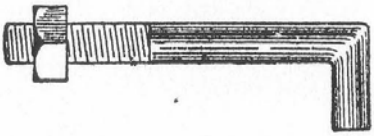


Fig. 180.—Kneed Bolt.

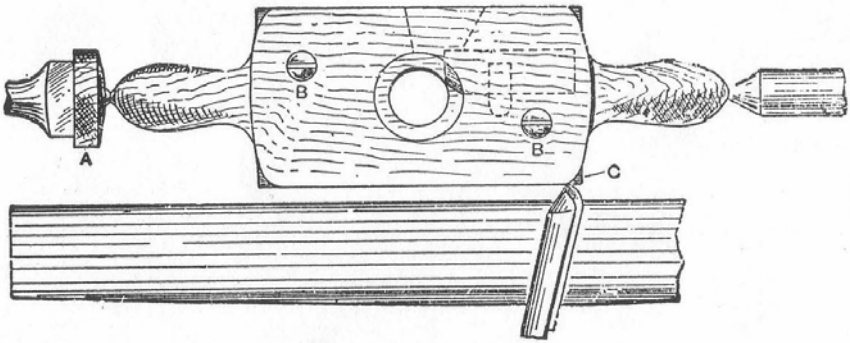


Fig. 181.—Turning Handled Screw Box.

the face of the screw-box and fixed with countersunk screw-nails as at A. In using this screw-box, which, being cover-less, and therefore without guidance, other than the work-man's hands, it requires to be carefully held with the hand at right angles to the work when starting the thread, using considerable pressure at the same time to make the thread "bite"; this kind of screwing is mostly done whilst the work is in the lathe chuck, so that the screws may be cut to length and the job finished at one operation. Fig. 185 is shown as an example of how the pin is turned for screw-ing, it being chamfered at the point A for starting the thread, and also as shown at B to let the screw cut clean out to the shoulder, so that the screw butt-joints together as indicated in Fig. 186, which is given as an example of turned pillar A screwed into the base B. The pins are, of course, in every case turned to the diameter of the screw that is required.

Handscrews are much used for cramping together glued-up work, and also for clamping together pieces of unglued work, which it is found advisable to dress up in pairs; the handscrews are made in many different sizes, being fitted with screws from $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., or even larger, such as are used for cramping heavy cabinet work. How-ever, handscrews with $\frac{7}{8}$ in. or 1 in. diameter screws are useful sizes for jobbing work, and for turning such screws the stuff (birch or beech) is cross-cut into suitable lengths of 1 ft. 3 in. or 1 ft. 4 in., so as to provide a reasonable length of screw. The work is chucked between prong and poppet as shown in Fig. 187, the pins A being turned parallel, and an easy fit for the hole in the screw-box cover. The hole through the cover should be slightly less in diameter than the full size of the thread; this leaves the threads slightly flattened on the top; they are thus less liable

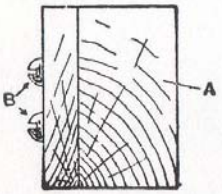


Fig. 182.—Marking Centres for Chucking.

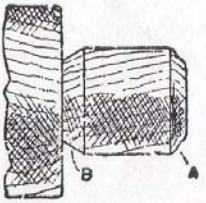


Fig. 185.—Turned Pin for Screwing.

Figs. 183 and 184.—Screw Box for Short Screws

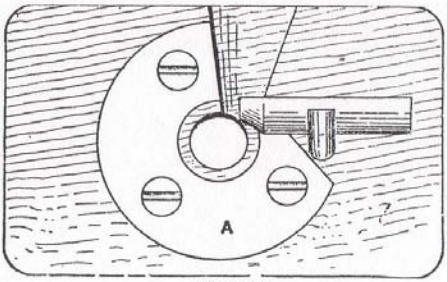


Fig. 183

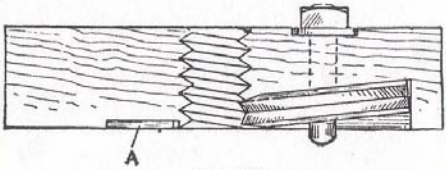


Fig. 184

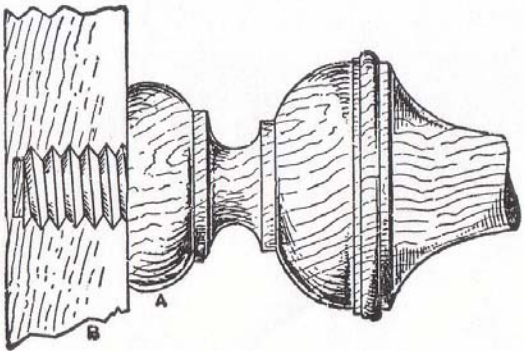


Fig. 186.—Screwed Joint.

to chipping, and therefore work better and last longer. The point should be chamfered as at B to afford a starting grip for the screw-box cutter, and also for fitting the recess in the rear end of the handscrew jaw, as shown at A (Fig. 188). The handles are turned about 4 in. long and 1½ in. or more in diameter, so as to furnish an efficient hand-grip in tightening the handscrew. However, the handles need not necessarily be turned perfectly round, but may be left equally flattened on both sides as indicated at C (Fig. 187), in which case it saves wood by reason of the screws being turned of thinner stuff.

The operation of cutting the screw thread is illustrated in Fig. 189, in which A and B represent a part section of the screw-box and cover, and C the cutter cutting the thread D. On account of the safe guidance afforded by the unscrewed hole through the cover, the cutting of the thread is a simple operation. The pin is inserted through the hole in the cover and the chamfered point of the pin pressed against the cutter, at the same time twisting the pin towards the cutter for one turn or so until the thread catches and "draws itself"; the screw-box then quickly runs up until the cover abuts against the shoulder E. A portion at the shoulder, the thickness of the cover, is, of course, left unscrewed, but this is an advantage in this case, as it leaves the handscrew stronger. Figs. 190 and 191 clearly explain how the screw holes are bored and screwed. The jaws may be made from any kind of tough, seasoned hard-wood, and for the size given (1 in. screws) the jaws may be dressed up 1¼ in. or so thick by 2¼ in. wide, with overall length of about 1 ft. or 1 ft. 1 in., with jaw grip projecting 3½ in. or so, and screw-hole centres about twice that distance apart. They may, of course, be marked and bored separately, but the better plan when making handscrews is to clamp the jaws

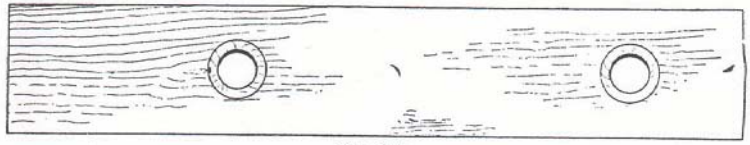


Fig. 190

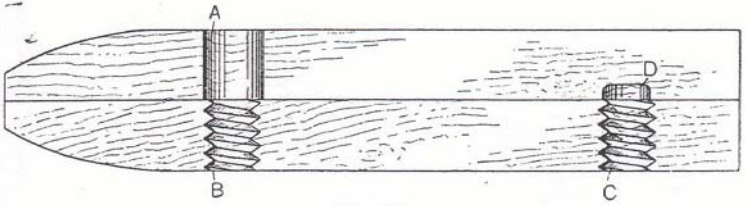


Fig. 191

Figs. 190 and 191.—Plan and Side View of Handscrew Jaws.

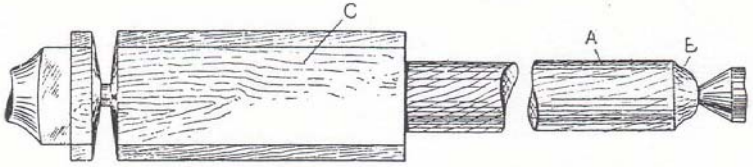


Fig. 187.—Turning Handscrew.

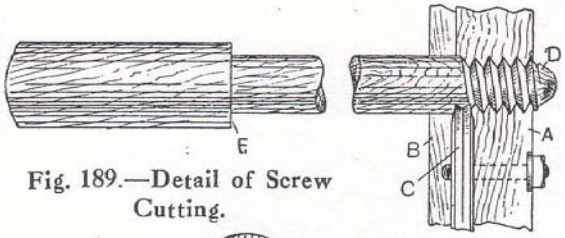


Fig. 189.—Detail of Screw Cutting.

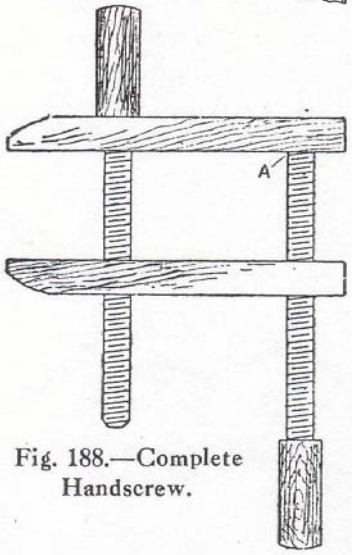
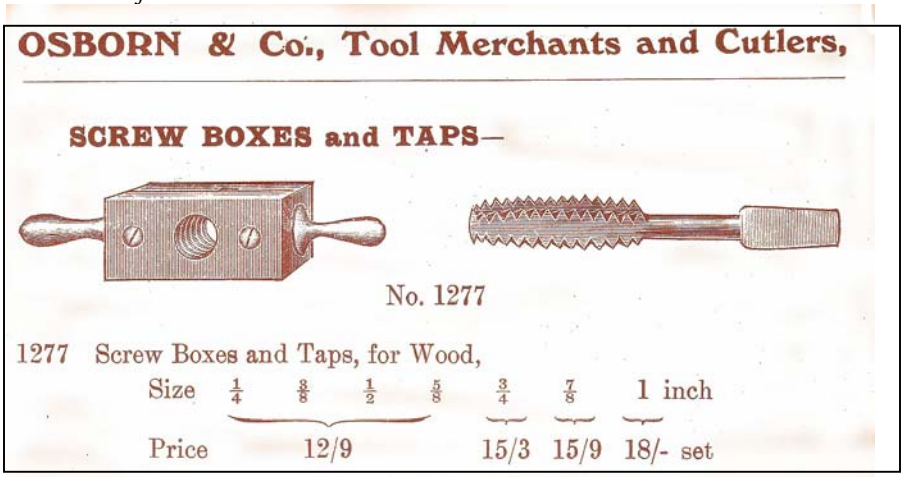


Fig. 188.—Complete Handscrew.

together to ensure exactitude in boring the screw-holes. The holes are bored with centre-bits chucked in the lathe, the boring being fed with the poppet centre. A reference to Fig. 188 will explain that the front screw passes clear through the top jaw, therefore the hole A (Fig. 191) being first bored through with a full-boring 1-in. centre-bit, the boring-bit point leaves the centre mark for boring the hole B for the screwed jaw, it being bored, as indicated by the dotted line (Fig. 181), tapping size for the screw after the jaws are separated. The rear screw-hole C is bored tapping size, and the depression D afterwards bored to prevent the point of the rear screw slipping when the handscrew is in use. Blacklead is the best lubricant for these screws.

How do you make wooden screws? Why doesn't this screw box work? I've lost count of the number of times I've been asked both these questions.

This chapter from Screw Cutting edited by F. J. Camm. is the most comprehensive treatment of wooden screw threads that the editor has read.

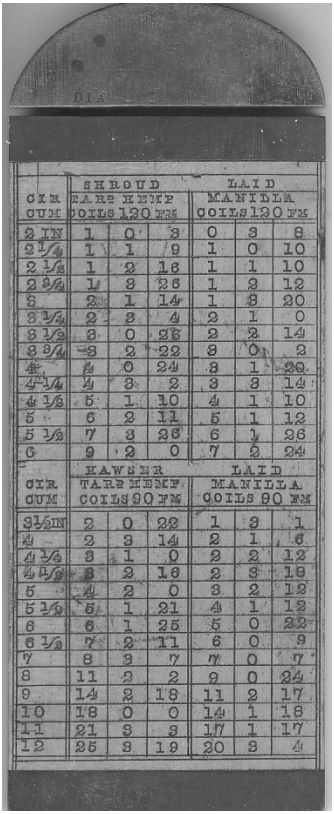


Osborn & Co. Catalogue Southampton (1925)

Measuring Rope - Part 1 – illustrations **by Peter Evans**

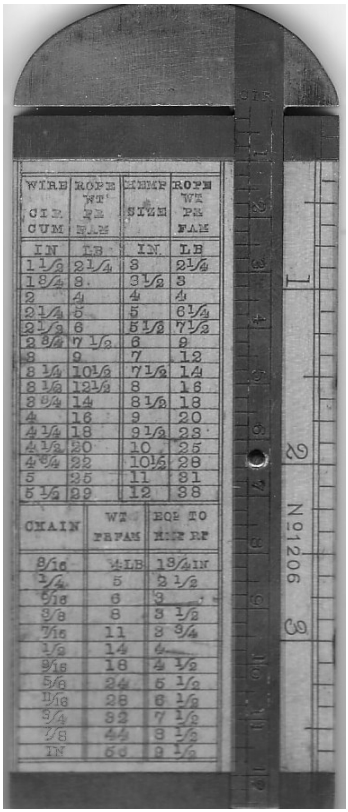
Unfortunately the illustrations were left out of the article in News #94. Here some are with a small amount of text retained for explanation.
Here is a clean example of a No. 1206, the 4" Rabone gauge (both sides shown).

The Tables are reasonably clear on this gauge, and are reproduced in tabular form later in this article.



CIR CUM	SHROUD TARR HEMP COILS	120	FM	LAID MANILLA COILS	120	FM
2 IN	1	0	3	0	3	8
2 1/4	1	1	9	1	0	10
2 1/2	1	2	16	1	1	10
2 3/4	1	3	26	1	2	12
3	2	1	14	1	3	20
3 1/4	2	3	4	2	1	0
3 1/2	3	0	26	2	2	14
3 3/4	3	2	22	3	0	2
4	4	0	24	3	1	20
4 1/4	4	3	2	3	3	14
4 1/2	5	1	10	4	1	10
5	6	2	11	5	1	12
5 1/2	7	3	26	6	1	26
6	9	2	0	7	2	24

CIR CUM	HAWSER TARR HEMP COILS	90	FM	LAID MANILLA COILS	90	FM
3 1/2 IN	2	0	22	1	3	1
4	2	3	14	2	1	6
4 1/2	3	1	0	2	2	12
4 3/4	3	2	16	2	3	18
5	4	2	0	3	2	12
5 1/2	5	1	21	4	1	12
6	6	1	25	5	0	22
6 1/2	7	2	11	6	0	9
7	8	3	7	7	0	7
8	11	2	2	9	0	24
9	14	3	18	11	2	17
10	18	0	0	14	1	18
11	21	3	3	17	1	17
12	25	3	19	20	3	4



WIRE CIR CUM	ROPE WT PR FAM	HEMP SIZE	ROPE WT PR FAM
IN	LB	IN	LB
1 1/2	2 1/4	3	2 1/2
1 3/4	3	3 1/2	3
2	4	4	4
2 1/4	5	5	6 1/2
2 1/2	6	5 1/2	7 1/2
2 3/4	7 1/2	6	9
3	9	7	12
3 1/4	10 1/2	7 1/2	14
3 1/2	12 1/2	8	16
3 3/4	14	8 1/2	18
4	16	9	20
4 1/4	18	9 1/2	23
4 1/2	20	10	25
4 3/4	22	10 1/2	28
5	25	11	31
5 1/2	29	12	38

CHAIN	WT PR FAM	EQS TO MIN BF
3/16	¼LB	18 3/4 IN
1/4	5	2 1/2
5/16	6	3
3/8	8	3 1/2
7/16	11	3 3/4
1/2	14	4
9/16	18	4 1/2
5/8	24	5 1/2
11/16	28	6 1/2
3/4	32	7 1/2
7/8	44	8 1/2
IN	60	9 1/2

On the Table on the next page the three columns, after CIRCUMference, are the *weight of* the coil in, respectively, CWT (hundredweight or 1121b), QR (Quarter or 281b), and LBS (pounds, lb) for 120 FM (fathoms) length of rope. Therefore when you weigh a coil of rope you can easily determine the length.

So for example, if you weigh a coil of 3 Manilla shroud at 171 lb (or 1 CWT + 2 QTR + 2LB, you can fairly quickly determine that this is 95 FM length of rope.

CIR CUM	SHROUD LAID					
	TARD HEMP			MANILLA		
	COILS	120	FM	COILS	120	FM
2 IN	1	0	3	0	3	8
2 ¼	1	1	9	1	0	10
2 ½	1	2	16	1	1	10
2 ¾	1	3	26	1	2	12
3	2	1	14	1	3	20
3 ¼	2	3	4	2	1	0
3 ½	3	0	26	2	2	14
3 ¾	3	2	29	3	0	2
4	4	0	24	3	1	20
4 ¼	4	3	2	3	8	14
4 ½	5	1	10	4	1	10
5	6	2	11	5	1	12
5 ½	7	3	26	6	1	26
6	9	2	0	7	2	24
CIR CUM	HAWSER LAID					
	TARD HEMP			MANILLA		
	COILS	90	FM	COILS	90	FM
3 ¼IN	2	0	22	1	3	1
4	2	3	14	2	1	6
4 ¼	3	1	0	2	2	12
4 ½	3	2	16	2	3	18
5	4	2	0	3	2	12
5 ½	5	1	21	4	1	12
6	6	1	25	5	0	22
6 ½	7	2	11	6	0	9
7	8	3	7	7	0	7
8	11	2	2	9	0	24
9	14	2	18	11	2	17
10	18	0	0	14	1	18
11	21	3	3	17	1	17
12	25	3	19	20	3	4

Now don't be confused by the headings on each column, *because they are not always* headings. COILS 120 FM is the length of rope that the following weight numbers refer to, and it is all one phrase. Some of the other terms probably need a definition: *Shroud Laid* - Four-strand ropes with a centre strand. The centre strand is preformed, either as a rope when closing large ropes, or a strand of rope, formed in the opposite direction, using about half the number of yarns of the other strands.

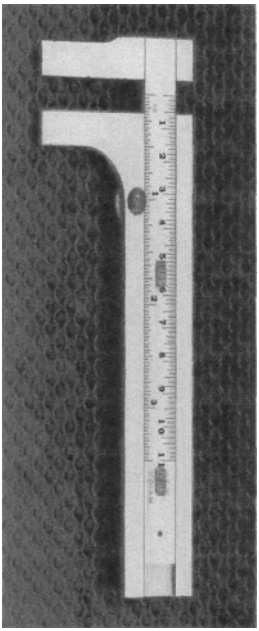
One interesting point - why are Shroud weights given for 120FM, and Hawsers for 90FM? Laid simply means twisted (in this context, and does not refer to a sailors port activities).

WIRE CIR CUM	ROPE WTPR FAM	HEMP SIZE	ROPE WTPR FAM
INCH	LB	INCH	LB
1 ½	2 ¾	3	2 ½
1 ¾	3	3 ½	3
2	4	4	4
2 ¼	5	5	6 ¼
2 ½	6	5 ½	7 ½
2 ¾	7 ½	6	9
3	9	7	12
3 ¼	10 ½	7 ½	14
3 ½	12 ½	8	16
3 ¾	14	8 ½	18
4	16	9	20
4 ¼	18	9 ½	23
4 ½	20	10	25
4 ¾	22	10 ½	28
5	25	11	31
5 ½	29	12	38

CHAIN	WT P.R FAM	EQ.L TO HEMP RP
3/16	4LB	1 ¾ INCH
1/4	5	2 ½
5/16	6	3
3/8	8	3 ½
7/11	11	3 ¾
1/2	14	4
9/16	18	4 ½
5/8	24	5 ½
11/16	28	6 ½
3/4	32	7 ½
7/8	44	8 ½
IN	56	9 ½

Now for the other side of the gauge. We include wire and chain in this table, as well as hemp, weight and circumference. The definitions: WTPR FAM means Weight Per Fathom. EQL TO HMP RP means Equal to Hemp Rope, ie 1/4" chain = 2 1/2" hemp rope in strength.

Starrett produced a nice steel circumference gauge No. 424 (see Figure), although this gauge lacks the tables and was probably not intended for measuring rope, but other round objects.



Part 2 in the next News issue.

Review

Saw Sharpening

A New and Revolutionary Method of Saw Sharpening
By Harold Amey. Price 2/6. 1950?

If TTTG reprinted this publication the public would be even more ill informed on the subject of Saw Sharpening than are they currently. Alternatively if TTTG reprinted this with a statement "published as a contribution to humour" the damage might be minimised.

This slim booklet was "Printed in Australia by New Fantascopic Method" by Barker & Company Printers Melbourne and Sydney.

If anyone has any knowledge of the New "Fantascopic" Method it may be possible to date Saw Sharpening.
Maybe someone knows something about Harold Amey.

Harold advises

> Read through to the end of this booklet and there will be unfolded to you the process, as simple in its operation, as it will prove efficient, time saving in its work and will produce a perfect fast cutting saw.

Well I read the booklet several times, at first thinking there were some pages missing, but all I gained was an appreciation of Harold's inadequate knowledge of saws or perhaps of his inability to communicate with the reader.

REVOLUTIONARY METHOD OF SAW FILING.

A new and revolutionary method of saw filing approved of by experts for every type of saw and which every man whether in office, home or workshop can perform in five minutes without noise or chatter needing a file only. No automatic machine or gadget is employed. The method is so simple, with a guarantee that is a hundred per cent. finished job and will be permanently in perfect shape. No skill is required. The finished saw will have the fastest cutting blade that man has ever used. The file will automatically standardize every tooth (not by eye test) but by actual measurement to 1000th part of an inch and will be exactly the same size and pitch.

What was the revolutionary method?
The Preface sounds good but the author falls far short of his claims.

The drawings are good but they do not relate to his words.

The only insight the reader gains is an awareness of the author's obsessive rejection of the conventional method of saw sharpening.

Harold claims, "The file does it all".
But he does not tell the reader how!
To learn how to sharpen hand saws attend the TTTG Saw Filing workshop.

Review

Wooden Spokeshaves

Ken Hawley and Dennis Watts
The Hawley Collection Trust Ltd.
The Tools and Trades History Society

This booklet is a study of the spokeshaves in The Hawley Collection (Sheffield). Readers will know Ken Hawley's contribution to the study of traditional tools. It is no exaggeration to call Ken a pioneer in the study of traditional technology. Ken spent many years collecting tools from disappearing trades in Sheffield and amassing documentation about these trades. His motivation has always been a genuine interest in preserving and in disseminating knowledge.

The spokeshaves studied in this publication are all from Sheffield toolmakers. Ken was fortunate in meeting Cyril Smith, the last Wm.Marples spokeshave maker in the sixties. A cine film of Cyril making shaves and a friendship were the outcome of this meeting.

The booklet draws heavily on Cyril's knowledge and on Ken's collection of Wm. Marples' tools and manufacturing equipment. The hand process of making spokeshaves is illustrated in a logical manner with the actual tools used to make these tools. No fanciful speculation here, this is how it was done.

Everyone with a serious interest in spokeshaves should buy a copy, the booklet is so well written and the illustrations are so good that virtually anyone can enjoy it, if only for the pictures! For details of TATHS: **www.taths.org.uk.**

The TTTG Library has a copy for which we thank Brian Read.

F.C.Pearsn's Light Edge Tool Warehouse Sheffield early 20th century.

Stamping Figures

MACHINES FOR STAMPING FIGURES.

When it is desired to stamp figures or letters on to metal or fibre parts, such as nameplates, metal labels, and checks, ordinary hand punches are often used. The result is usually irregular and unsightly, and sometimes even illegible. "Numerex" machines have been designed to eliminate these faults. They give clean, legible impressions, the characters being of uniform size, equally spaced and of equal depth and in correct alignment. All the characters are stamped at one blow.

The machine, which we illustrate herewith, is built entirely of steel. Each of the wheels bearing the characters has a blank position, so that it is possible to impress any number of characters from one to the maximum six at one operation. In operation the machine is held by the stem, as the illustration shows; in this position the wheels are approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ in. above the surface to be numbered, and visibility is given to the gauge points in the base of the machine which indicate the correct alignment of the characters on the wheels to the position to be numbered. After the position of the machine is located, it is pressed down hard so that the wheels engage the surface to be numbered. The head of the shank is then struck one sharp blow with a hammer weighing about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Apart from the improved appearance which is given to a product by an impression neatly stamped, an appreciable amount of time can be saved by a machine of this type when a number of labels has to be produced.

Showing the Stamp described.

English Mechanics January 30, 1931.

.

Osborn & Co. Catalogue
Southampton (1925)

No. 790