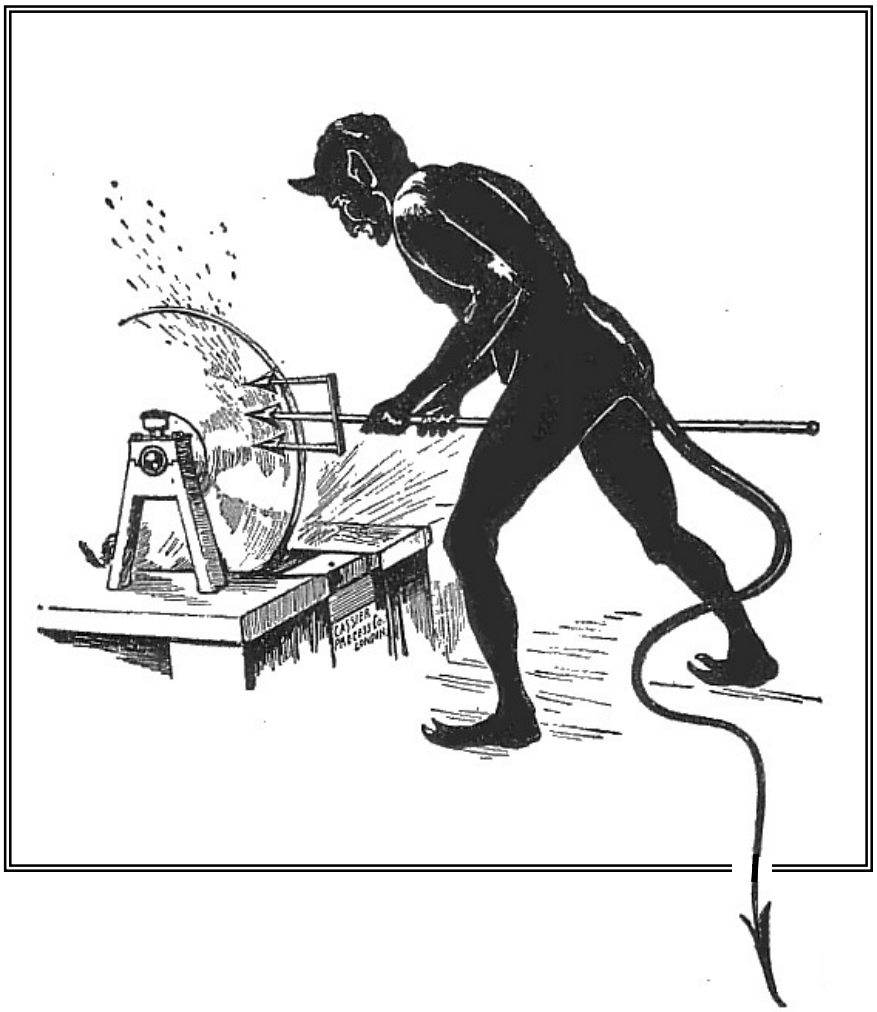
News 98

December 2007



THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)

www.tttg.org.au

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TTTG Newsletter Number 98 December 2007

Postal Address

P.O. Box N240 Grosvenor Place
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Subscription $30

Enquires

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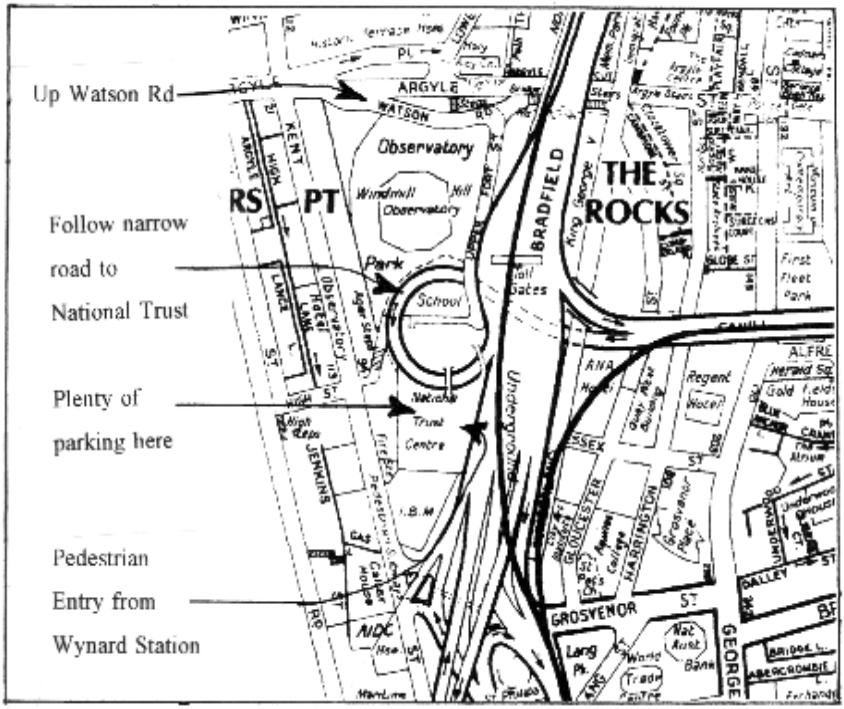
www.tttg.org.au

Next Meeting

Tuesday December 11, 2007

National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill — Annie Wyatt Room

***"Doors Open"* at 7pm**



Programme

1) Trading Hour

Quality tools for sale

2) Presentation

Repairs, "the good, the bad, the ugly"

4) TTTG Auction

All to be sold!

Catering by Mario Dato

Next Meeting

Repairs, "the good, the bad, the ugly"

We have all seen examples of repaired tools. Some repairs are so good as to be virtually undetectable while other repairs prompt comments like "what a waste of fencing wire".

This meeting will present a display of repaired tools and will discuss the issues involved

"Are repairs part of a tool's history?"
"Should repairs be repaired or conserved?"
"Are bad repairs merely vandalism?"
"What can be done?"

This promises to be a lively evening of debate. At the worst the audience will leave confused both by the discussion and by the cornucopia of battered and bandaged hand tools.

The meeting will be preceded by ***The Trading Hour***, set up by 6.30pm.

Tools for sale during the Trading Hour have a minimum price of $20 per tool. This is the time for the collectors to buy and sell quality tools.

Before the Presentation.

TTTG Committee member Peter Evans is back from the USA.
While "States' side" he investigated the bespoke saw making scene.

At the December meeting he will present his findings. Peter hopes to have a few free samples to show the audience, time will tell!

The Auction

The ***Presentation*** will be followed by ***The Auction.***
The TTTG Auction continues to offer a great variety of tools and related ironmongery at unbeatable prices. No absentee bids and no reserves.

After ***The Auction*** try and have the exact money ready and consider giving the auctioneer a tip for TTTG. Remember TTTG only gets the commission on sales, low commission and low prices means hard work for the auctioneer. ***The Auction*** is cheaper than any of the up market tool auctions.

Last Meeting

SAWS from AITKEN to WENZLOFF

The title for the October meeting proved to be accurate as the discussion did canvass an immense range of saw makers and the display of saws was comprehensive both in brands, types and age.

The resurgence of quality woodworking saws, starting in the UK and followed by the specialist Canadian and US saw makers was examined in the context of traditional saw technology.

One aspect of the discussion was a consideration of the question

Is it possible to manufacture saws as good as the best old saws?

The consensus was the manufacturing infrastructure now made this difficult.

TTTG Publications

Two TTTG CDs are now available.
The CDs are available at the Meetings or Workshops from Clynt.

-**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
-Tiger Saws Leaflet
-KEESTEEL $5 each plus postage

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

$8 plus postage

-Stanley Planes and Screw Threads John Bates
Parts 1 & 2

All copies sold

Back Issues of News

Some back issues of TTTG News are available. Special prices for quantity
We might even give some to loyal members!

The 2007 TTTG Workshops

During 2007 TTTG conducted a number of workshops.
As has become usual the sharpening workshops offered in the first half of 2007 were well attended. These workshops will be repeated in 2008.

The Chisel Handle workshop was repeated in the second half of 2007 and was well attended. This workshop will be repeated in 2008.

A Blacksmithing workshop was offered in 2007 and this was a great success. TTTG has received requested for another "fire and hammers" day and this workshop will be on again in 2008.

The Open Day and Tool Exchange was also a big winner and this could well be offered in an expanded format in 2008.

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!

2008 TTTG Workshops

17 February	SHARPENING EDGE TOOLS
30 March	PLANE TUNING
20 APRIL	TOOL SWAP, RARE PARTS & BITS
25 MAY	SAW SHARPENING
22 JUNE	PLANE TUNING & SHARPENING

For details of the workshops ask for a Workshop Leaflet or log on **www.tttg.org.au**

All workshops are on a Sunday will be at Asquith Boys High School.

Selling Old Tools

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

TTTG needs the revenue so we will try to sell it!

If you want it sold then

Contact the Editor or the Secretary

You are up for 20% commission on price realised but we get top prices.

Donating Old Tools to TTTG

TTTG accepts donations of old tools

The only condition is that the Committee can decide to sell the tools for the benefit of TTTG or can include the tools in the TTTG tool collection.

Donations of books and other printed matter are also accepted.
The same terms apply.

The TTTG Library

Over the years TTTG has amassed a fair sized collection of books and other printed matter. Unfortunately TTTG does not have a home base so the collection is spread over several members. TTTG does know what it has but finding it can take time!

The TTTG Librarian usually brings a few books of books to the meeting. If you have a particular interest it is best to contact a committee member and a search can be commenced.

Despite the storage problem TTTG will continue to accept donations of printed material.

Electronic Material

With the publication of TTTG CDs we have entered the digital age. TTTG also accepts electronic copies of printed material

PLANES
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DMT DIAMOND PLATES

DIA-SHARP PLATES Dia-Sharp® Superior Continuous Diamond

ice bear®

ICE BEAR WATERSTONES

M2 HSS ACADEMY BLADES
LEATHER CHISEL ROLLS

Jim Davey
Ph 02 4447 8822 PO Box 967 Nowra NSW 2541
JDAVEY@bigpond.com

Correspondence

From Brian Read, TATHS.

Thanks to the UK Postal strike I was not the first person to get News97 this time. It arrived on Wednesday. This phenomenon works both ways. I have sometimes had e-mails about the content of the TATHS newsletter from Australia before my personal copy has arrived from the printer in England.

I like the article by Peter Evans, very comprehensive. I have scanned it for my own reference purposes, but would you or Peter have any objection if I sent copies on disk to any TATHS members who want them? I usually circulate the actual publication for any articles which are requested, but I feel this may generate more than the usual two or three enquiries.

I shall be putting the details about the Abrasives booklet in the December Newsletter, if any publication dates materialise before the end of November could you e-mail me please. I would like to get the information to TATHS members as soon as possible.

Editor's reply.

I've passed on TTTG's apologies to Brian in regard to the slow progress in publishing his booklet on abrasives. The only excuse we can offer is the other heavy commitments of the TTTG Committee members.

The TTTG Committee will publish Brian's booklet as soon as possible. However quality will not be compromised. This is an important treatise and we need to get it right.

The delay must be frustrating to Brian but I can only reinstate TTTG's commitment to publishing. All the proof readers have commented, "This is worth printing but it will take time".

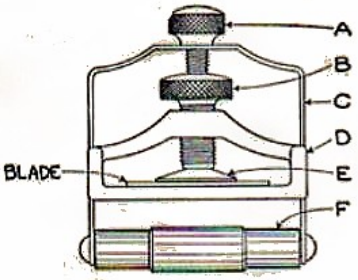
Ayr Stones.

Robert Firth has given the editor a copy of Ayrshire Hone-Stones by D. Gordon Tucker published in 1983 by Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Robert has great knowledge of abrasives.

The editor asked about the Millers Falls Honing Jig in a recent issue of News. Here are the instructions:

Instructions for using Millers Falls

No. 240 Plane Iron and Chisel Sharpener



By turning the knurled angle adjusting screw "A," adjust position of the Blade Bed "D" so that its bottom is about 3/8" from the Roller Bearing "F."

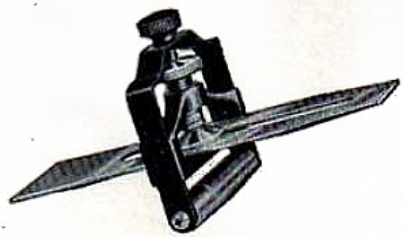
Insert the plane iron or chisel blade between the Blade Bed "D" and the Clamp Disc "E," lining it up as nearly as possible at right angles to the axis of the Roller Bearings "F." Tighten the Blade Clamp Screw "B" just enough to hold the iron or chisel in place.

Now lift the tool with blade on to the oil stone and change position of blade, if necessary, so that it bears squarely on the face of the stone. The Blade Clamp Screw "B" should now be tightened. Now raise or lower the Blade Bed "D" by turning the Screw "A" until the bevel of the blade to be honed is at just the proper angle to the face of the stone.

Make one or two strokes on the stone and then inspect the bevel to see that the bearing is correct at all four corners. If not make the necessary adjustments.

While the honing is being done, use plenty of a good grade of light oil and apply enough pressure on the forward portion of the blade to keep the edge in close contact with the stone at all times.

To hone at very acute angles allow a greater portion of the iron or blade to project beyond the Blade Bed. Conversely for abrupt or obtuse angles allow only a short portion to extend.



Millers Falls Company
Greenfield, Massachusetts

Form 256 Printed in U.S.A.

This may have been the model for the original Veritas Honing guide, and certainly it is an improvement on the similar Record No. 161 jig.

Peter Evans

Cleaning Saws

the editor

"So what is the best way to clean up old saws?"

Every time I talk about saws someone asks this question. The last meeting was no exception and I gave an abbreviated answer. Perhaps a bit more detail might be found useful. I think it is best to focus this question by defining what is meant by "cleaning up old saws".

When you find an old saw it may be clean and well looked after but more likely it will be dirty, rusty and blunt with a handle that may be cracked or broken with screws that may be damaged or missing.

What to look for?

When you start examining an old saw look for buckling or cracks and check the tension of the blade. If it is kinked and flaps about like a bit of newspaper then the blade is probably beyond repair.

However a dead blade may have a good handle attached with good screws. So a couple of dollars for a dead saw may give you the bits to repair another saw.

One of the worst things to happen to an old saw is that someone has cleaned up the saw to try and enhance its value. I recently brought a saw that had been done over with an angle grinder. Sanding discs are not the way.

What do you want?

Ask yourself why you want the saw. A saw to go into a tool collection and a saw to be used have different criteria. Old saws with flush screws and shapely handles are always worth buying if in the $5 or so range. If you don't what it then offer it to another TTTG member.

If you want a user then really test the saw. Good handsaws make a distinctive sound when waved. The best test is to bend the blade through the handle. If you don't know these tests then come to a TTTG Saw Sharpening Workshop and learn how.

What saws to buy

That said if I saw a good handsaw, say a Disston D7 or D8 at market or garage sale with a $2 to $10 price tag and it had a nice clean handle then I'd probably buy it on spec and test it later. The handle and screws are worth the price.

Remember the extra costs

Always remember the extra costs when you buy an old saw. First you will have to clean the saw, maybe do some repairs, perhaps replace a few screws and then you will need to sharpen and set the blade. This all adds up to time and money.

The saw is yours, now what?

All this said what do you do when you have an old saw? If it is very old and you are not sure then ask someone who knows! Even email TTTG or bring the saw to a TTTG meeting.

What follows is the safe approach. Some people use electrolysis and this is fine. I'm going to assume that anyone who can set up the gear for electrolysis probably has enough common sense not to do anything too disastrous. Just convert the rust and wipe it off, don't dissolve the saw in the solution.

Be careful

The thing you want to do is get the rust and dirt off without destroying the original finish. This applies to the metal and the wooden bits. If possible remove the handle.

Be sure the screwdriver fits! Flush screws can be very hard to remove, they are often already damaged. The brass in these screws is very soft and really they were a once only fit.

Saws with the modern "Disston patent" screws pose less problems with the handles. The truth is that these saw have components that are interchangeable, but only by the same maker! Most of the best twentieth century saw makers copied Disston, those rusted out Disstons' are really worth buying for the screws alone.

The handle and screws

Once the handle is off clean it, usually a wash in warm soapy water is all that is needed, if this fails try metho and if this doesn't work use paint stripper then wash and dry. Don't sand. If you have the knowledge and skill then replace missing bits but remember a complete handle will turn up one day. The old beech or apple in these old saw handles can be hard to match, for a user maybe, but think it through.

The tarnish can be removed from the brass screws with a citric acid solution. But never use citric, vinegar or any acid to remove rust from saws. Any spring steel put in an acidic solution will do strange things. The worst example is the spring bow of a pair of callipers; they quickly crack as the acid eats the rust.

If the saw is a backsaw remove the back. The back can be de-rusted in citric acid.

Down and Dirty

The process of cleaning the blade is a dirty one so you might consider wearing rubber gloves. Cloth backed metal abrasives work well if used with a lubricant. A medium grit is fine and will last a long time and give a good finish. Wrap the abrasive around a sanding block, cork or leather faced soft wood is ideal but for this job a scrap of anything will do, I like 17mm (CD)construction ply.

Any thin machine oil makes a suitable lubricant. I like WD40 but make up your own mind. Just keep the paper and the blade wet and the abrasive moving in one direction (along the length of the blade). Keep a rag handy and as soon as the muck builds up wipe the blade and spray on clean oil. Use plenty of oil.

Before you get carried away look closely at what is being revealed. If you find deep rust pits then the saw when never cut well. You can get the rust out of the pits by polishing the blade with loose abrasive and oil carried in a kitchen scouring pad, the green one are best. With a lot of sweat the saw will look good in a tool collection but don't expect it to cut wood well, the pits prevent the creation of sharp points when filing the teeth.

A simple pleasure

If you work carefully most of the original etching on the blade can be preserved. Seems to me that reading those old advertising claims etched on a saw blade are one of life's little pleasures. Nothing like making out the words "this saw cannot be surpassed"

A bit of finesse

Once the blade is free of rust wipe it clean. Then spray on a thin oil. Some like WD40; I like G15, for this task. If the blade isn't oiled it will rust again. G15 has one property that makes it ideal for preventing rusts on saws. This is the electrolytic process G15 starts when sprayed on ferrous metal. You can read about this on the label.

What it means is this; if you spray a freshly cleaned saw blade with G15 and leave the saw for a few days any residual rust seems to wash out. This can be taken a step further by wrapping the blade in newspaper for a week or so. When the paper is removed the blade will be totally free of any rust residue.

After all this it only remains to reassemble the saw. For a collector this is probably as far as it should go. In my opinion even damaged teeth are fine is the last sharpening was a correct sharpening. Of course is the teeth have been destroyed by poor sharpening or abuse the collector might consider the next step.

What next?

If a saw is to be used it needs shaping, sharpening and setting.
You have two choices, find a good saw doctor or learn to do it yourself.
Once the saw is sharp look after the saw.
Different people have different circumstances. It all comes down to protecting the teeth and preventing rust. Saws in constant use in a workshop are probably best hung up on the wall. Saw bags are good but keep them dry. A space in the tool box is ideal. A wood slip over the teeth is the traditional way but those plastic cover slips from hard-point saws are great! Use your brain and recycle!

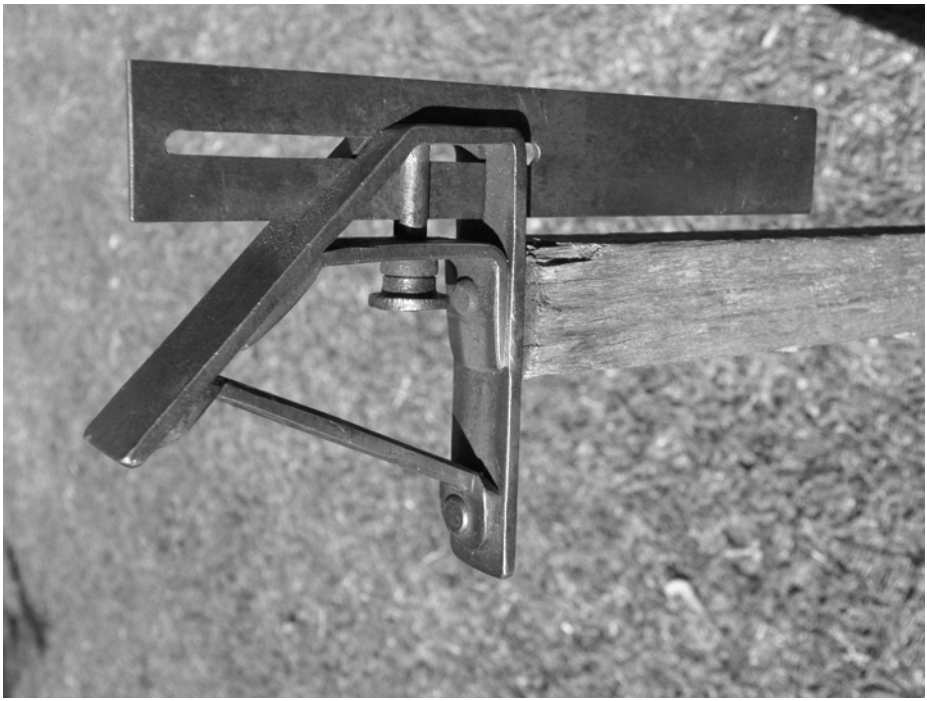
Early in 2008 TTTG will offer another Saw Sharpening Workshop.

John's Page *Number 50* John Daniel

A Challenging Project

Was this a Year 10 High School Metalwork Project when most schools had Metalwork as an elective or was it a desperate man's attempt to fill a hole in his tool box? The fabricator certainly put in a valiant effort to make a handy size combination square.

The photographs tell the story. The square, although not made to engineering accuracy, would however be acceptable for a bit of rough bush carpentry. Take note of the challenges faced. The cutting of the slot in the blade, the attachment rod and locking nut securing the blade, the bending and forming the stock, and the riveting during the final assembly may have been a little confronting.



The square may be rough; one might say “crude”.

However acknowledgement must be given for effort and focus that was required to complete the “project”.

My mind goes back to the classroom scenario where a Metalwork student was determined to produce a square edge. With a satisfied smile he presented it to the teacher for final OK. He couldn’t understand the teacher’s response when it was discovered what the student had done. The student out of frustration had filed the square to match the job.

Editor’s Comment

Long time back I agreed to edit News. The first editor produced a few issues and then disappeared. In those early days I had two problems. One was a pain in the neck but soluble. Not having a computer I had to take the draft to a typist! This went on for about a year until I went electronic. The other problem continues, getting authors for News.

One of the first breaks as editor was getting a letter from John Daniel for our newsletter. The rest is history. The letter evolved into a TTTG News regular, John’s Page. When enough John’s Pages had been published TTTG printed the compilation *John’s Pages*, now out of print and a collector’s item.

Readers might be interested in a little inside information.

John was in one respect a reluctant TTTG correspondent. When I first spoke about publishing his first letter he stressed that he didn’t want anything changed. Naturally I encouraged him to expand on this comment. Apparently John had written some material which had been published with editorial changes made without his approval.
Like any editor I didn’t want to give up editorial control but equally I saw the potential of John as a regular writer for News. So I agreed to his terms. Have I kept my word? In essence yes though I have sometimes omitted a word or two and have been admonished by John!

THE LEDGER

New Members

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

Allan Momberg	**M466**	**Vijay Mistry**	**M467**
Gerard Newham	**M468**	**Paul Griffiths**	**M469**

Member's E-mail Address and 'Phone Number Details

Immediately prior to the recent TTTG Blacksmithing Workshop, I was asked by the workshop instructor, Rick Mitchell, to E-mail workshop delegates to advise them as to what to bring to the workshop. A couple of these E-mails bounced, possibly because their intended recipients had changed their E-mail addresses.

Members may access and update their E-mail address and 'phone numbers through the TTTG website www.tttg.org.au (Your E-mail address and 'phone numbers are kept confidential.)

Go to "Member Access" at the bottom of the home (or any other) page and enter your User Name and Password then click on the "Log in" button.

If you have not already done so, you will need to initially register for member access by clicking on the "Register" button on the "Member Access" page.

However, you may only change your postal address by E-mailing me (click on "Contact Us" on the left hand side of any page) or by writing to me at Treasurer, TTTG Inc., PO Box N240, Grosvenor Place, Sydney, NSW, 1220

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Compliments of the season and a happy new year.

Clynt Sheehy
Hon. Treasurer

THE FOLLOWING TOOLS ARE JUST SOME OF THOSE TO BE AUCTIONED AT THE TTTG MEETING ON TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER, 2007

(THESE ITEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BEFORE MEETING - NO GUARANTEES AS TO CONDITION OR ACCURACY OF DESCRIPTION)

1. 17" WOODEN JACK PLANE - 2-1/8" BLADE - "MATHIESON"
2. 22" WOODEN TRYING PLANE - CLOSED TOTE - 2-1/2" BLADE
3. 1-3/8" WOODEN SKEW REBATE PLANE WITH STEEL SOLE
4. # 71-STYLE ROUTER - 3/16" BLADE
5. # 51-STYLE SPOKESHAVE - 2" BLADE
6. "LEVER" CAP - CAST IRON- UNFINISHED, FOR KIT INFILL PLANE - 2-1/2"
7. SHARPENING GUIDE - "STANLEY HONING GAUGE" - FOR PLANE IRONS
8. SAW SET - PISTOL TYPE - "PAULCALL" (Green)
9. SAW SET - PLIER TYPE - "EMMAH" Germany
10. SAW VICE - "DISSTON No. 1" - CAST IRON
11. TORQUE WRENCH - 1/2" SQ. M. DRIVE - 0 to +/-120 FT-LB - "RITCH D 15"
12. ADAPTOR SLEEVE 2 MT (F) X 3 MT (M)
13. FIRMER CHISEL - 3/8" - SWEDISH TYPE - BRASS FERRULE - CONICAL BOLSTER
14. FIRMER CHISEL BLADE - 5/8" - "F.G. PEARSON SHEFFIELD"
15. BUTT CHISEL - BEVELLED EDGE - 1-1/2" - MATHIESON - BRASS FERRULE
16. BRAD AWL - ASH HANDLE
17. WAD PUNCH - 5/8" - ARCH TYPE
18. LEATHER BURNISHER - WOODEN HANDLE - SHOE WELT - HOT TYPE
19. TWIST DRILL SHARPENER - FOR ELECTRIC DRILL - "TOOLEX" - With spare emery wheel.
20. ADJUSTABLE BEVEL - ROSEWOOD With brass fittings - 12" BLADE
21. SPIRIT LEVEL - 27" - RABONE - BRASS CORNERS
22. SPRING BALANCE - "HUGHES" - 30 LB
23. MONKEY WRENCH - 0 to 2-1/2" - 8" o/a - "EN-FO ENGLAND" (Black)
24. STILLSONS - 0 to 2" - 12" o/a (closed) - Black - "RECORD # 14"
25. STILLSONS - 0 to 2-1/4" - 12-3/4" o/a - Red - "RIDGETOOL E 14" - ANGLED JAWS
26. TWO BRASS SCALE PANNIERS (For balance)
27. PUSH DRILL - ARCHIMEDIAN HOBBY TYPE - (Red knobs)
28. AUGER BIT - 5/8" - LONG - SQUARE SHANK FOR BRACE - "MATHIESON"
29. AUGER BIT - 7/8" - LONG - SQUARE SHANK FOR BRACE - (Brand indistinct)
30. TWIST DRILL - 5/8" - (1/2" dia. shank with a flat) - "CLEVELAND TWIST DRILL CO."

FOR SALE

Large quantity of Silky Oak for sale. This is Australian Southern Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*)
It has been rough sawn into slabs – some slabs are 1½inches thick, some 2½inches.
Each slab is between 12 and 14 inches wide and about 8 feet long. The slabs have been stickered in sequential order for about 10 years so they are perfectly dry.
All the slabs are from the same tree and were going to be used on a project which I have now abandoned. Would make great dining room tables (several) or benches. You are only limited by your imagination!
Contact Mike Williams on (02) 91446356.

Record No. 044C Plough Plane

Bob Crosbie

Background

"The two new Record planes introduced by C&J Hampton Ltd have been developed as a result of a policy aimed at making production easier, while at the same time improving upon the plane's efficiency and ease of handling".

DESIGN 1969 Journal

I can remember reading a review of the new Record 044C and 050C in the Woodworker magazine but I can't remember seeing either plane for sale in the tool shops in Sydney. The combination plane that seemed to be standard then was the Stanley UK No.50. Since buying my Stanley 50 around 1970 I've acquired a few Record 050 planes so I'm familiar with both planes. The Stanley is by far the better plane which no doubt was reflected in its prominence back then.

When I saw the adverts for the Record 044C and 050C the swinging sixties look did impress me but the handle looked wrong. I already had a combination plane and couldn't afford another plane!

Over the years I've picked up a few of these Record redesigned planes and done a bit of reading about Record. In my opinion the Record bench planes made up to the seventies are excellent planes as are most Record tools made before the eighties. The 040 plough plane is a delight to use, perfect for small work and so quick to set up. But the 044 and 050 and even the 045 never seem to work sweetly.

Getting a Record No. 044C Plane

To be honest I've had a bit of a wish to get one of these redesigned planes for a few years. Only criteria being "it had to be cheap"
At Henry's last Tool Sale, Eddie had a 044C on his table. At the end of the day I asked him how much he wanted for the plane. During the day I'd brought a few things from him so it's a bit embarrassing to admit I can't remember how much I paid. I do recall that it wasn't much and that he was very generous. The 044C was in very good condition but minus blades. As luck would have it, I picked up a set of blades in the original blue plastic wallet at North Rocks Markets for $10. The three small blades are missing but they will eventually come my way!

The research

I've got a lot of printed material on Record. First I looked at the catalogues then looked up the review of these Record planes in the Woodworker. What I really wanted was a copy of the instruction leaflet for the 044C. So my next step was to go online.

Cornish gold

There are a few hits for Record on the web.
Go to Google enter Record Planes. The link to Cornish Workshops will give you access to the Record Instruction leaflets and very useful information on using combination planes. I printed all the leaflets. Then I clicked on the link to the Visual Arts Data Service and printed the Design 1969 Journal Review.

A bit of reading

The design review provides a succinct synopsis of the design process culminating in the production of the Record 044C and 050C planes. The focus areas were;

a) The difficulties experienced in using the previous designs (044 and 050 planes).
b) The production difficulties experienced in making these planes. These difficulties were essentially a high proportion of rejected casting due to the handle design and the shaving deflector and cross spur being difficult and hence expensive to produce.

The radical solution was to introduce a separate handle moulded from cellulose acetate. The moulded synthetic separate handle was easier to manufacture and was a sound ergonomic design.

The new designs eliminated the shaving deflector and the separate clamping bracket for the smaller cutters, further reducing production costs. The body and fence shapes were rationalised and streamlined.

A close look

The 044C I have is a nice clean casting with excellent machined parts. Very sixties both in design and manufacturing quality and it works well.

Black & Decker

the editor

A few years ago TTTG sold the contents of a 1950's garage on consignment. The vendor was very pleased with the prices realised but the selling was hard work. It was lots of "various stuff with nothing outstanding".

Black & Decker hammer drill

The old power tools generated no interest so I brought them as a job lot. All the power tools date to about 1955. I must confess to having a weakness for these classic power tools. The design and manufacturing qualities are exceptional. That said I don't know anything about electrics so I tend to find a good owner.

A few months later I plugged in the Black & Decker hammer drill.
I've been using it ever since.

Black & Decker power saw

A few weeks back I remembered the 8" Black & Decker power saw that came with the hammer drill. I plugged it in and it worked perfectly. My guess is that these power tools had not been used since the early 1970s. The saw lacked a blade so I brought a new TCT blade and opened out the bore to fit. Perfect cut!

Why use this saw?

Old power saws do not conform to current standards and should not be used.
That acknowledged the manufacturing quality of these tools is very high.
The aluminium bodies are strong and comfortable and the mechanical parts are all metal and machined to high tolerances. These power saws are heavy but the adjustable components are smooth and positive. The rise and fall and the bevel cut can be moved easily and lock rock solid. The guard retracts quickly. As a bonus the cable and plug are heavier than on new power tools. To my mind all this encourages safe and accurate power sawing. The weight is not a problem.

The disadvantages

There were two problems with this saw. The fence was missing. I may make a new fence or I may find an old fence. And the blade bore is non standard. Rather than pay a lot for a non standard blade I modified a standard good quality TCT blade. Having blades sharpened can now cost more than buying a common size new blade. A TCT blade improves the performance significantly.

Which Black & Decker?

The drill and power saw are by Black & Decker Ltd (Harmondsworth) England.

On the Farm

The Farmer's Handbook was published by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture. The fourth edition was published in 1923. The fifth edition was published in 1941 and was in print through the 1940s. My father had a copy of the fifth edition bought in 1941 before he embarked on his island visits starting in New Guinea. The copy I have before me (fourth edition) came from a second hand bookshop with the invoice to the original owner. This copy was bought in the immediate post war years, maybe on the purchasers' return from his tropical adventures.

Most soldier settlers after World Wars 1 and 2 had *The Farmer's Handbook*. Isolated on marginal blocks without adequate capital this book was really the Farmer's Bible. Field visits and any other publications from the Department of Agriculture must have given many a farmer hope.

Distance and money meant that as much as possible had to be done on the farm. *The Farmer's Handbook* explained how to grow what crops at what time and also how to make and look after the farm equipment. The book covered everything from clearing the land to grooming the horses.

The methods described are pre internal combustion and chemical fertilizer!

Section XIV of The Farmer's Handbook *is The Handy Man on the Farm.*
The topics covered are

Harness, Harness Fitting, and Repairing.
The Use and Care of Rope.
Blacksmithing for Farmers.
Tank-Making.
Carpentry.
Painting on the Farm.

The editor believes this material may interest TTTG members and that a reprint is worth consideration.

To provide an idea of the content of this publication the following extracts are reproduced in this issue of News.

Saddler's Tools	pages 858/9
Blacksmith's Tools	pages 884-9
Tool Prices Sydney 1929	page 926

This is a mere sampler! The text is well written and the opinions expressed are clearly based on experience and prolonged reflection.

Saddler's Tools

Use of the Tools

The Plough is somewhat expensive, and its work can be done by other. tools, such as the round knife. The chief parts are a cutting blade and gauge. By setting it to the right width a strip of leather can 'be rapidly and, accurately cut. (Fig. 7)

The Round Knife is almost indispensable. It is the most suitable tool for. shaving or bevelling leather, and is also used for cutting leather into straps. or any other form. The line of cutting is marked with the compasses, and. the round knife entered and steadily pushed forward along the line, keeping, the left hand in front to hold the leather firm. The cutting is done on wood in the direction of the grain, and the surface must be free from nails(Fig. 8.)

Compasses are required for marking the lines for cutting, and for marking distances.

The Edge Tool is used for taking the sharp edges off the leather after it has been cut. If these edges are left, the leather readily frays or cracks. 'The tool is run along the edge with the right hand, and the work steadied by keeping the left hand in front. (Fig. 9)

Punches are used for making the different holes required in leather working. The round form is used for making the holes in straps for receiving the tongue of the buckle. The tongue punches are used for cutting the hole for the heel of the tongue.

The Creases are used for making ornamental lines on the leather (Fig. 10). These lines do not increase the strength of the leather, but add much to its appearance. The crease is heated over a candle, and after wiping off the candle-black the crease is pushed along the leather until a sufficiently marked depression is made.

Awls and Awl-handles.-The awl-blades are attached to the handles by first pushing the heel of the blade into the handle as far as possible with the hand. The handle and blade are carefully examined to see that they are fitted truly, and then the blade is securely held in the vice, while the handle is driven down on to it with a light hammer.

Three kinds of awls are used:

(1) A curved awl, slightly flattened at the point, but otherwise round. This is used when the work cannot be stitched right through, but from one side only.

~2) A round straight awl, tapering gradually from the handle to the point. This makes a round hole, the size of which depends upon the distance the awl is pushed through. It is used where single holes are required, and in beginning and ending long stitching.

,(3) A diamond awl, used in ordinary stitching. Several of these, to suit the different sized threads used, are required.

Confidence is the chief requirement in handling the tools, and a little practice soon makes the learner familiar with their use.

Saddler's Tools

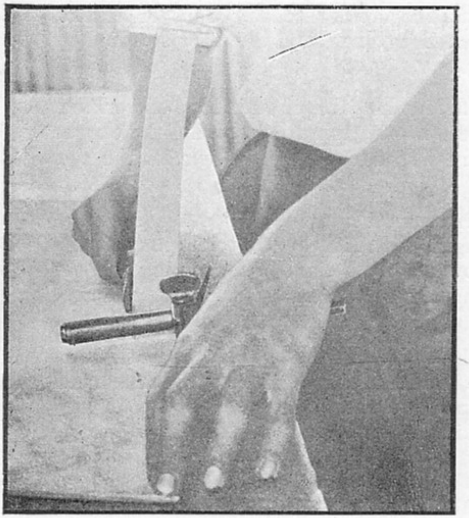


Fig. 7.—Cutting leather with the Saddler's Plough.

Fig. 8.—Cutting with the Round Knife.

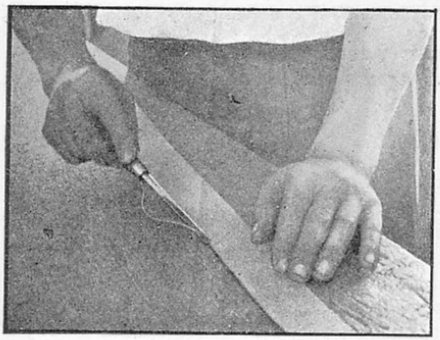


Fig. 9.—Trimming a strap with the Edge Tool.

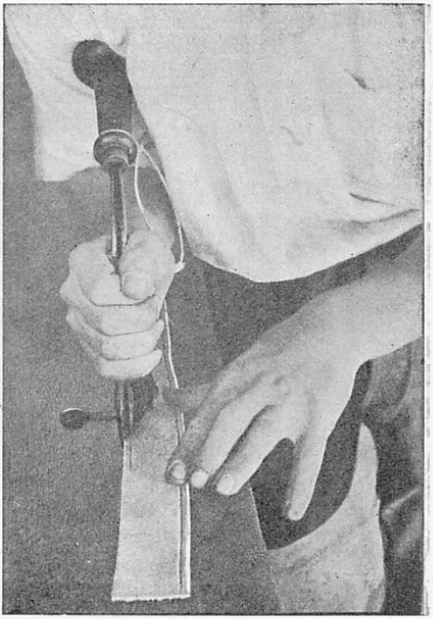


Fig. 10.—Creasing a strap.

Saddler's Tools

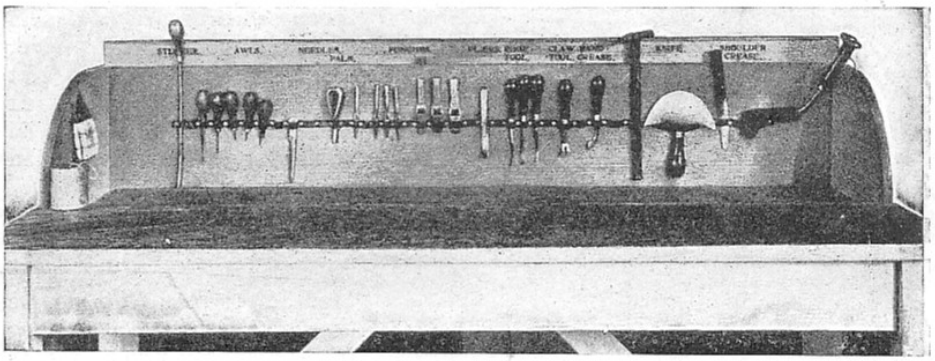


Fig. 11.—A convenient bench for leather-working, showing arrangement of tools.

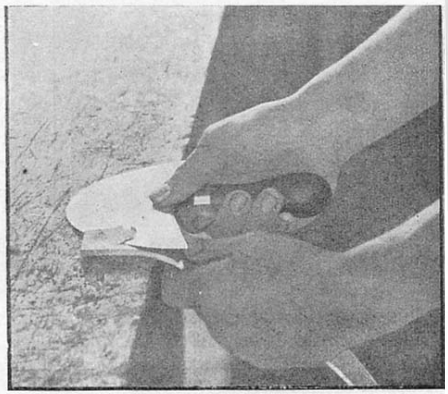


Fig. 14.—Shaving leather with the Round Knife.

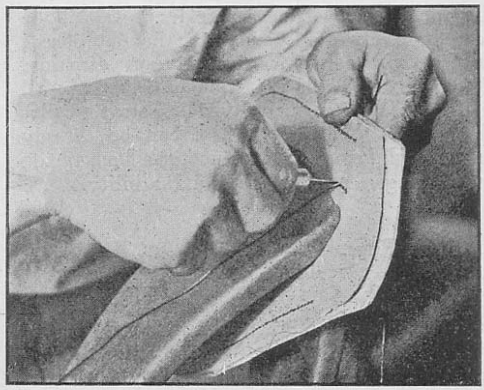


Fig. 15.—Using the awl.

Blacksmith's Tools

Forges

These can be roughly divided into two classes-fan-blast, and the bellows forges. Fan-blast forges are either self-contained-the hearth and blast being in the same one forge-or the forge merely consists of a hearth and the blast is taken from a pipe connected with a blower. The blower may deliver air to several forges, each being equipped with a valve to regulate the flow. Such forges are only used in the large machine shops.

The portable fan-blast forges, an illustration of which is seen in Fig. 1, are very suitable for farm work. They are made in different sizes, but as the farmer does not usually have to take in hand very heavy work, a medium size will be satisfactory. At the same time a larger forge gives more room for working, and metal can be heated more rapidly. It is doubtful whether it is economy to purchase one of small size, when the outlay of a little more money results in a much superior forge being obtained.

Bellows forges are the kind generally used by blacksmiths. Like the blast forges, they are made in different sizes.

Probably the portable fan-blast forge is the most suitable for farmers' purposes. The fan action produces a very even blast, and the forge has the additional advantage that, being made of iron throughout, it can be exposed to the weather without danger of serious deterioration. When bellows are used the forge must always be housed in a proper shed, or the leather soon perishes.

It is a convenience, especially to those who work on large areas, to have a forge which can be moved easily from place to place. For instance, when tanks are being excavated, or distant paddocks ploughed, it is an advantage to have the forge on the spot. Unless it is portable it cannot easily be moved about.

The prices of fan-blast forges vary considerably. One with a hearth of about 22 or 24 inches square is a good size for most purposes, and costs about £11.

Smithy.

A good building is required to house the tools and protect the workman from inclement weather. If the tools are not kept together in a definite place they soon become scattered, especially when only occasionally used, and are not at hand when required. Many odd jobs for the smithy accumulate on the farm, and not being matters of urgency are, in the rush of work, left over till a more convenient season. Wet days can be profitably filled in doing work of this class, and necessarily some shelter must be provided as a protection from the rain. Such a building should be located in a high and dry spot, as dampness causes rusting of the tools.

A suitable size is about 12 feet square and 8 or 9 feet high. The roof may be of iron or any other waterproof covering, and the sides of slabs. An opening must be made in the roof to allow fumes to escape readily.

Large numbers of tools of various descriptions accumulate in a shop after a time, and racks should be made for these so that they can be kept in a place where they can be found without difficulty.

The Tools.

The Anvil-A solid anvil is required. A light one, or a heavy piece of iron, such as is sometimes used, lacks solidity and gives too freely under the hammer. An anvil weighing at least 2 cwt. is required, and this will cost between £8 and £9.* A second-hand anvil, quite suitable for amateurs, can often be obtained cheaply from a local blacksmith.

Vices-A good strong vice is a necessity. Small vices are very well for light work, but they are practically useless for much of the work a farmer has to do. The ordinary blacksmith's vice, known as a "tail " vice, is very good. These are generally sold by weight. One with a 5-inch jaw, and weighing between 65 and 80 lb., is a good workable size. Parallel vices cost slightly more than tail vices, but they possess the advantage that a full-faced grip is obtained, regardless of the extent to which the jaws are opened.

Hammers.- Different sizes and shapes ire used by smiths, but for farmers' work, a hammer weighing about 2 lb., with a ball end, is all that is required. (Fig. 2). The ball end, or " pene," as it is called, is used in riveting, scarfing. and other work. In some hammers straight or cross penes take the place of the ball end. A straight pene is tapered, somewhat like a blunt chisel, and runs longitudinally with the handle, while a cross pene is at right-angles.

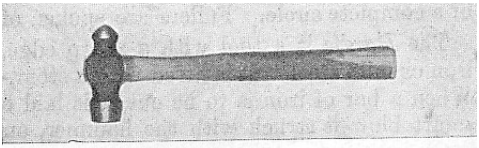


Fig. 2.—A Smith's Hammer.

Sledges, are not urgently required by an amateur, but nevertheless a sledge-hammer is very useful on a farm for many purposes. A 10 or 121b. sledge is a good size.

The hammers, sledges, and other tools must be firmly attached to their handles. Well-seasoned wood should be used; it is an advantage to have the wood in the, shop for some time before making the handles, so that it will be well dried out. Unless it is well-seasoned the heat of the forge shrinks the wood, and the hammer head becomes loose.

The Flatter-This tool has a broad, flat face, and is used, as its name implies, to flatten or smoothen surfaces after the hammer. The hammer leaves the surface somewhat rough, and a better finish can be obtained with the flatter. Farmers, however, scarcely require this tool, as for all practical purposes sufficient finish ran be obtained with the hammer.

Swages are small tools with the faces grooved in different sizes to fit over bars. Some have semicircular grooves, while others have angular ones. What are called top and bottom swages are

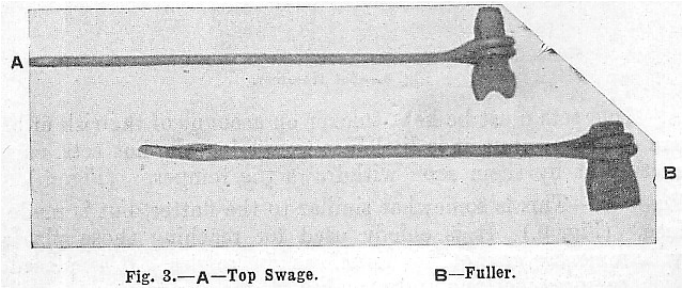


Fig. 3.—A—Top Swage. B—Fuller.

used. They are ranged in pairs, one for the top and the other for the bottom. The top swage is fitted with a handle (Fig. 3A), While the bottom one has a stem for fitting into the hole in the

anvil. These tools, like the flatter, are generally used for giving a finish, and can well be dispensed with.

Instead of the single swages a *swage block* is occasionally used. This is a large iron block, bearing on its outside surface a series of grooves of varying kinds and sizes, and having its centre pierced with holes. A swage block is of little use on the farm.

Fuller-This tool has a convex face. It is chiefly used for forming semi-circular grooves or depressions in bars, and sometimes for finishing up corners where a hammer cannot be used. The rounded face does not cut the fibres of iron, but merely alters their direction. The fuller, therefore, when used to make a groove, does not lessen the strength of the iron.

They are made in different sizes. The face forms half of a circle, and the size is taken at the base of the semi-circle, or what would be the diameter of a complete circle. Fullers are spoken of as 1/2inch, 3/4inch, &c. (Fig. 3B.)

The Hardie is a tool with a sharp edge, adapted for cutting hot or cold iron or mild steel. It is fitted with a stem, so that it can be held in the anvil. When a bar of iron is to be cut, it is laid on the sharp edge of the hardie, a smart blow is struck with the hammer, and the bar is then moved round a little for the next blow, and so on until the bar is nicked all round. It is then easily broken by striking a sharp blow on the end, after laying the bar on the anvil with the nicked place just over the edge.

Hot and cold sets or chisels are steel tools used for cutting either hot or cold metal. They are fitted with handles and are forced into the metal with the hammer or sledge. Hot sets are kept

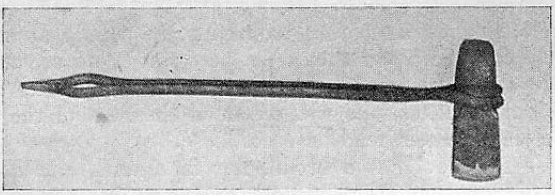


Fig. 4.—Cold Set.

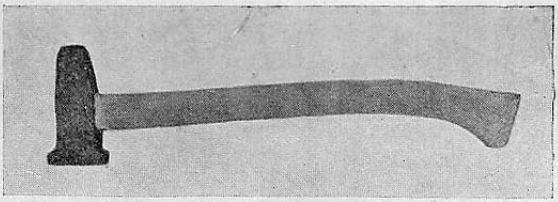


Fig. 5.—Set Hammer.

thinner in the blade than cold sets. Cold sets must be kept thicker on account, of the risk of breakage These are tempered, but it is little use tempering the hot sets, as the, heat of the metal cut by them soon withdraws the temper. (Fig,. 4.)

Set Ham.mer.-This is somewhat similar to the flatter, but is made smaller in the face. (Fig.5.) It is chiefly used for reaching those places where ordinary hammering cannot be done, as in angles. It is placed on the spot which requires working and struck with the sledge.

Punches are made circular, oval, oblong. and square in different sizes, and are fitted with handles for use.

Mandrel are slightly tapered tools used for finishing up holes after punching. shaping rings, &c. They are made in different sizes.

Bolster-This is a steel or iron bar or block, containing holes or cavities for forming up different classes of work. The holes are round, square, slotted, according to the class of-work for which they are intended. If a head. is required on a bar or bolt it is upset a little to thicken the end so that it will not slip right through the bolster ; the bar is then heated and dropped as far as it will go through the selected hole, and driven with the hammer. The effect of the hammer is to form a head on the bar from the upset metal.

The tongs vary in size and construction according to the nature of the work, and each blacksmith makes them to his own liking. The illustrations show some forms which have been found very handy where the work consists chiefly of repairs to farm tools or implements.

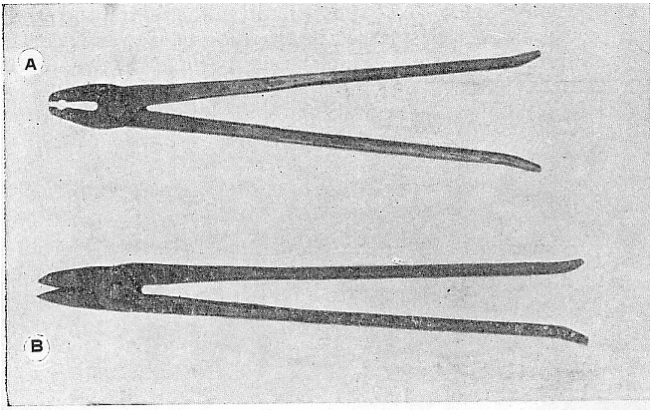


Fig. 6.—A—Tongs for holding Links. B—General purpose Tongs.

Fig. 6A shows a pair of tongs adapted for holding small links is whilst is welding. The jaws should only be about 1/2 inch wide, and have a small groove near the points to enable a firm grip of the link to be obtained. Fig 6B Shows a pair suitable for general purposes.

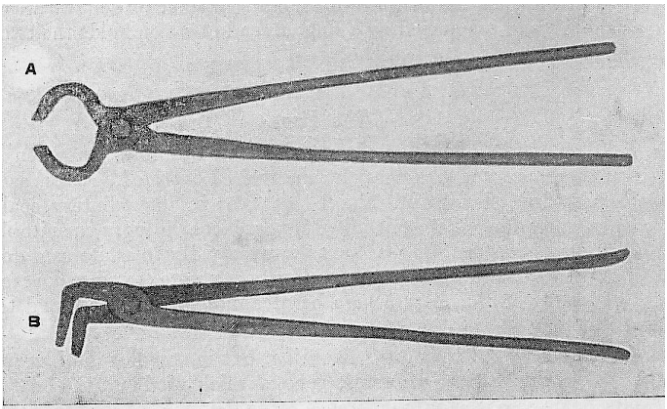


Fig. 7.—A—Tongs for holding Bolts. B—Tongs for holding Round Stocks.

Fig. 7A illustrates tongs for holding bolts. The rounded jaws leave room for the head, and enable the points to take a firm hold of the bolt.

The tongs in Fig. 7B are designed for holding hoops and flat rings, such as the round stocks of dray wheels, &c. This form gives such a grip that, when hammering, the work can be brought into the required position by merely turning the wrist. This is an important point, as iron cools quickly, and everything must be arranged so that no time whatever is wasted.

Fig. 8A showsa pair of tongs for holding a ploughshare. The lower two pointed curved jaw is obtained by making an ordinary flat jaw about 1½inches longer than the upper one. This jaw is split down the centre and each section curved as shown, and the tips turned in at right-angles to prevent the share from moving from side to side. Similar tongs, smaller in size, are used for holding coulters.

Fig. 8B is an illustration of tongs for holding a pick. The jaws are curved round as shown, and are helped by a ring, an end of which holds the two parts of the tongs together instead of the usual rivet.

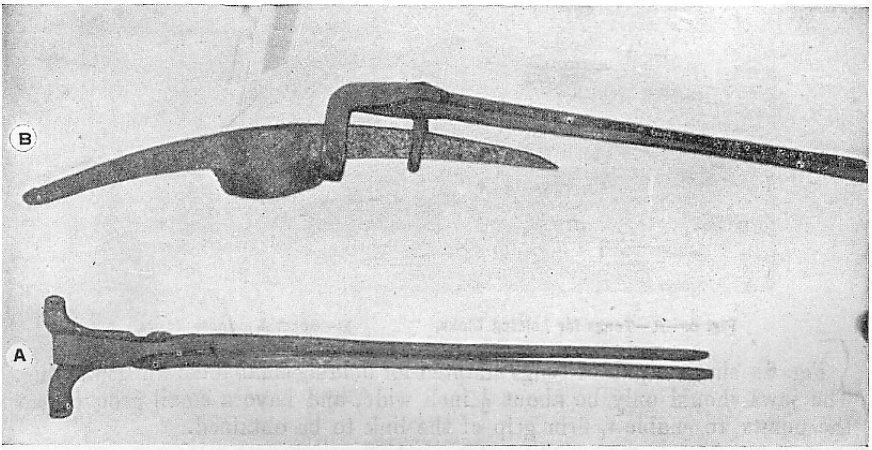


Fig. 8.—A—Tongs for holding Ploughshares. B—Tongs for holding a Pick.

Tool Prices Sydney 1929

TOOLS SUITABLE FOR USE ON A FARM.

The following list of tools has been prepared as an indication of the equipment likely to be most useful on a farm. The prices shown are those quoted in Sydney price lists, 1929. Fluctuations in market values must, of course, be expected:—

	£	s.	d.
1 Smoothing-plane, 2¼″ ..	0	10	6
1 Trying-plane, 2½″	0	15	0
1 Jack-plane, 2¼″	0	13	6
1 German Jack-plane, 1½″	0	8	0
1 Rebate-plane, 1¼″	0	7	6
1 Rip-saw, best quality, 28″	0	14	0
1 Hand-saw, best quality	0	13	0
1 Tenon-saw, best quality, 14″	0	12	0
1 Nest of saws, best quality	0	7	6
1 Saw-set	0	6	9
1 Oilstone	0	5	0
1 Rule 2 ft.	0	2	2
1 Claw-hammer, No. 5 ...	0	6	3
1 Square, 12″	0	5	0
1 Square, 6″.....	0	3	0
1 Bevel, Sliding, 10″	0	3	0
1 Draw-knife, 10″	0	5	0
1 Marking-gauge, Single.	0	1	3
1 Mortise-gauge	0	5	0
1 Carriage Clamp	0	5	6
4 Chisels, Socket, ¼″, ⅝″, ¾″, 1″	0	12	0
6 Chisels, Firmer Socket, ⅜″, ½″, ⅝″, ¾″, 1″, 1¼″	0	16	3
1 Brace, all iron, 10″ ...	0	8	0
6 Bits, double twist, ¼″, ⅜″, ½″, ⅝″, ¾″, 1″ ..	0	16	3
11 Bits, Nail, Nos. 2 to 12, at 6d. each	0	5	6
1 Screwdriver, 10″	0	2	6
1 Mallet	0	4	9
5 Augers, ½″, ⅝″, ¾″, 1″, 1¼″	1	9	3
1 Spokeshave	0	2	6
1 Adze, No. 2	0	6	3
6 Bradawls	0	3	0
1 Hatchet	0	5	6
1 pair Compasses, 8″ ...	0	2	0
1 Wood Rasp, 12″	0	2	0
1 Oil-can	0	2	0
1 Spirit-level, 24″	0	6	0
1 pair Pliers, 7″	0	2	0
1 pair Pincers, 7″	0	2	0
1 Metallic Tape, 66′ ..	0	12	0

Saw Stools

the editor

Saw stools, commonly called “horses”, are very useful both on the building site and in the workshop. Well made saw horses are light and strong, even with rough use they will give many years of service. The legs should be doubly inclined and shouldered. Size can be adapted to purpose; the angles and the construction remain the same.

There are simpler ways to make saw horses but the details in the drawing are “best practice”. Making saw horses to a high standard is a very satisfying job. As they are usually needed in pairs the job lends itself to efficient work habits.

These saw horses pose interesting exercises in geometry. In practice ways of avoiding the geometry are always sought. One method is to cut all the angles to the ratio 1:5. With a bit of adjustment it works! Ideally the leg edges need to be planed to a bevel if the braces are to fit. Usually the legs are left square.

I’ve used a number of old drawings to set out pairs of saw horses. Lloyd’s book *Help For Home Builders*. Melbourne 1957 has an excellent drawing on page 57. The drawing reproduced for News 98 is from *Carpentry And Joinery*. Technical Publication No. 19 October 1945 published by the Department of Labour And National Service Commonwealth of Australia.

Recently I needed four extra long saw horses in a hurry so I thought about ways of speeding up the job. The text accompanying this drawing discussed how to make saw horses quickly and well. The author suggested that this was a job needing patterns and jigs to achieve a first class result in reasonable time.

Using a photocopy of the drawing I made a set of templates to set out all the angles. I made these out of thin ply faced with bench top laminex. To cut the legs to the bevel cuts I made a pair of cradles for the drop and slide saw. The making of these aids took longer than making a pair of saw horses but when I made the first pair of saw horses the making time was reduced by at least half.

The templates reduce setting out time and the cradles speed up the bevel cuts. When I make the next pair of saw horses I will mechanise cutting the housings and the shoulder cuts on the legs. More jigs to make! As it was I rough cut the leg joints then cramped four legs together and finished to the set out lines with shoulder plane and carriage rebate plane.

For the braces I used construction ply. The ends have to be bevelled to fit the legs but this is quickly planed by eye. I also glued all the joints and power drove the screws, though I still prefer the old type slotted screws and pre-drill!

How long does it take? With components machined a bit over two hours a pair.

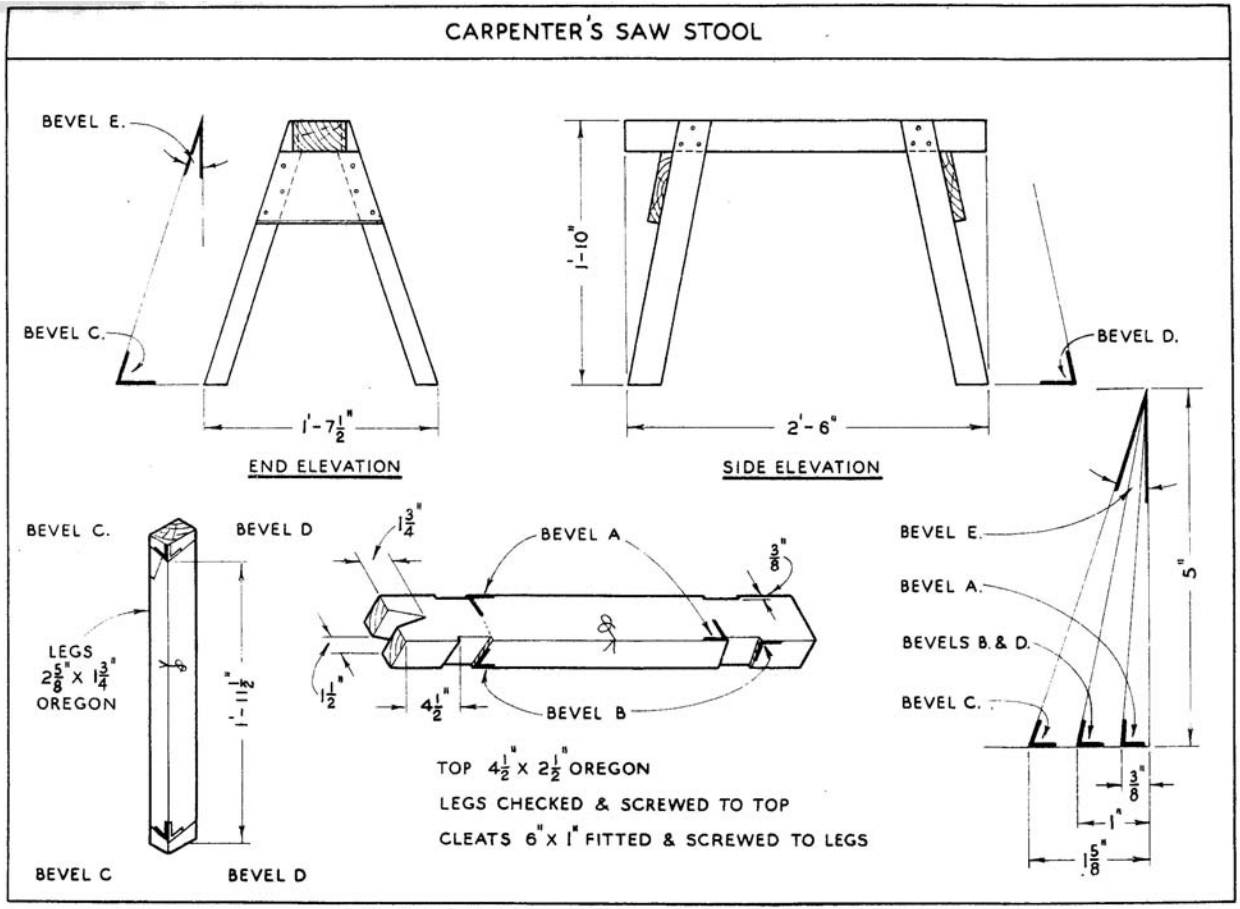


Fig.5 Details of Construction of Carpenter's Saw Stool.

Finding Patents on the Internet

Peter Evans

Finding patents in the USA has become much easier recently, and this introductory guide will relate mainly to the US, with some notes on accessing UK patents. Unfortunately accessing Australian patents online is not yet possible, but the picture looks better for the future. To check on progress in Australia, look at http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/patents/search_index.shtml.

As well as these notes, refer to notes prepared by Russ Allen (key person behind DATAMP, see below) for the US Tool Group M-WTCA http://www.mwtca.org/mwpat.htm. There is a wealth of information here. Russ has a page of patent searching information at http://www.nonesuchtools.com/patent/, there is lots of great stuff here, you might find yourself browsing for hours. By browsing through Russ's notes and links you will discover many interesting patents, especially the early (1790 to 1836) *X-fractional* patents, eg 9370½X; early patents where limited material has been recovered from inventors and others with original papers, after the great patent office fire of 1836 destroyed all records.
For an overview of patent searching there is a PowerPoint presentation by Russ and Ralph Brendler at http://www.mwtca.org/presentation/. From within the presentation you can access the online searching resources Russ discusses in this presentation. If you are really into this you will want to investigate "fractional patents".

Russ has a useful search process accessed through http://www.nonesuchtools.com/patent/ezsearch.php, you can use simple English searches for tools by category and date (including partial dates). Russ has a more powerful process for those who need to get into patent searching at http://www.nonesuchtools.com/patent/secret123.htm. Now if you are really serious you will investigate Russ's "shotgun" method.

Firstly, the US Patents and Trademark Office (USPTO) maintains a comprehensive website. To search for patents go to http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html. Now for patents at the period we are mainly talking about (before 1976), there is no search available on the contents of patents, in most cases only the date, patent number and the category. You will quickly discover that searching is designed for the computer literate. The USPTO scanned the pre-1976 documents using a variant of TIFF, and you will need to download an image viewer that will in all likelihood stuff up QuickTime software. The software can be found here http://www.alternatiff.com/. An undocumented feature in Advanced Search is that you can search for patentees back to 1920 (but you can search for all patentees in Google).

However you do not need to use the USPTO website for most purposes.

For tools, start with DATAMP – Directory of American Tool and Machinery Patents – a cooperative venture of US tool and machinery enthusiasts. This site lists a large number of patents, easily searchable. If you know the date, there is a quick search available on the second top line; you may also use **Patent Issue Dates** (see left hand column of the webpage) and drill down to the date you are looking for. This is useful if you are not sure of the date, you can bounce around different dates. The list of tool patents issued on that date will hopefully include the tool you are looking for; if not it may be that the patent in question has not yet been added to the site, it is staffed by volunteers after all.

Using the top line searches, you can search by Person | Company | Type | Class. *Type* is tool type and closely related to *Class*, which is the USPTO Category. You can browse USPTO Categories from this webpage. You can therefore browse pretty easily. There are *advanced tools* recently made available, and the entire site is upgraded on a regular basis. You need to browse around this site for a while to get a feel for its potential. A great advantage of DATAMP is that you are searching within a limited number of patents, all applying to tools.

An example: a Mitre Box I acquired with a maker that looked like L. H. ULM??D. There was no patent date. By scanning through the DATAMP entries for Miter Box, you will found an entry for a patentee L. H. Olmsted; a quick look at the 1886 patent diagram and sure enough there is - the Mitre Box (thanks to Don McConnell for this searching example).

When you find the patent you are looking for you can then view the patent details from the DATAMP page either on the USPTO website or in Google Patents.

A recent entrant on the scene is **Google Patent Search** BETA, http://www.google.com/patents where you can word search *inside* the patents. On this page you can enter a word and find all patents where this word appears. So if you put in "Bailey" you of course get a large number of patents, too many to browse, so …go to *Advanced Search*. Here you have a wide range of choices; click on Google Patent Search Help for brief details on the search and report fields. Remember this is still Beta, so

For high quality PDFs of patents I recommend the web site - **http://www.pat2pdf.org/** - where you enter the patent number (discovered on the DATAMP site or elsewhere) and view/download a PDF of the patent in question. Enter the number into the box and click Fetch and then click on Download on the next screen, and voila you have the patent document as a PDF for viewing/printing/saving to you hard disk. The quality of these PDFs is generally better than Google, and around twice the file size on patents tested.

may be quirky, and has strict parsing with search words, so if you enter “plane” then “planes” will not be found, and vice versa. Still, this is an amazing facility and will lead to sites such as DATAMP becoming near to complete. You will note that the print quality of the Google pages is not as good as pat2pdf, so once you have found the patent number you may wish to pop over there to print the patent.
Google uses an OCR engine to search the content of patents and so provides unprecedented access; note that the OCR engine is not perfect. You need to put in a number of searches at times to – hopefully – find what you are looking for. The searching is a big advance on the USPTO though.

Now for the UK (and Europe in general), start with http://gb.espacenet.com. If you know the number you can use that search field. If you have a vague idea, then Quick Search is useful but does not seem to be reliable or consistent. For example, selecting GB and entering “honing” picked up the Kell and Lee Valley guides, but not the – earlier 1961 – Eclipse nor others. Selecting Worldwide in the first field picked up the Eclipse and Record.

Generally this is a painful interface, although the PDFs are good. Again I entered the Eclipse patent number in the Number Search field with GB selected – nothing; changed to Worldwide and there it was. Hopefully this will improve. Note that patents are listed in date order, with the newest first; there does not appear to be a date search facility anywhere, including in Advanced Search http://ep.espacenet.com/advancedSearch?locale=en_ep, except for the actual publication date of a patent. Note selecting Worldwide picks up USA (81 countries all told including Australia, but how much is there outside the major EU countries?) patents, and some others. Eventually esp@cenet should cover patents globally.

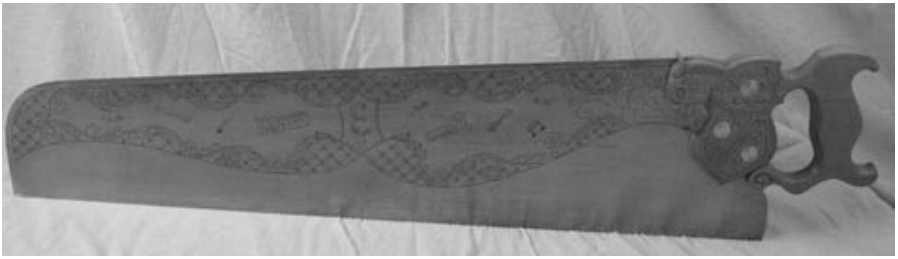
Some other good on-line sources:
Missouri Valley Wrench Club http://www.mvwc.org/patsrch.html
Use the next Web page to rapidly search a sequence of patent numbers http://www.nonesuchtools.com/patent/shotgun.htm. Sometimes all you have is the patent date and need to scan all the patents issued that day – this search engine does just that, and fast.

Modern Makers No. 1 – Saws

Peter Evans

Since the article in October News, there are a couple of developments. One is a new maker wishing to put his saws on the market; the second is an established company making a radically new saw offering, the third a part-time maker with some nice saws.

Andrew Lunn

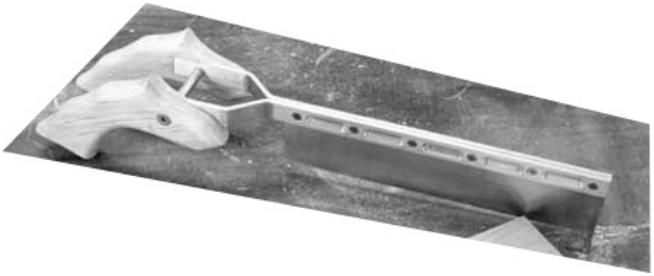


Andrew is a new maker and you can see some of his work at http://www.eccentricwoodcraft.com/ (a saw from the site is illustrated). To quote Andrew "As far as range and prices go, I make western style backsaws, both dovetail and tenon, as well as panel saws and full sized 26" saws, both rip and crosscut. My designs are traditional but aren't copies of older saws. I've put a lot of thought into what makes a saw function well and have very carefully built those details into my saws. My prices are pretty modest considering the amount of time and attention I put into a saw and reflect the fact that I am a newcomer--dovetails saws start at $130, and tenon saws start at $150. Panel and full size saws start at $175. These starting prices all include a generous amount of custom etching that is done by hand. From there I can always do more, incorporating custom features such as original carving".

Spruce Mills - Tim Hoffman

Tim's saws get a good mention on the WoodNet Internet forum, http://www.woodnet.net/forums/. Tim does not have a website; when he has saws for sale, he lists them on WoodNet and they just about sell immediately. There are a number of new sawmakers emerging, particularly on the WoodNet web site.

Glen-Drake Toolworks



This company is famous for the Tite-Mark™ marking gauge, and has come up with a radical saw – the Wild West Joinery Saw (comes from California). The back saw design has two handles and is designed to be used with two hands. Will this design be accepted by the market? There are details set out on the Popular Woodworking blog where the editor who reviewed the saw was quite impressed. An early purchaser has reported that the saw solves his dominant eye problem. The dominant eye problem is where (as in his/my case) the left eye is dominant but where you use a saw right handed. This dominance problem has had a bit of a run on the Internet recently, and is a major problem with hitting a golf ball accurately.
http://blogs.popularwoodworking.com/editorsblog/GlenDrake+Wild+West+Joinery+SawNew+Idea+In+Sawing.aspx. That is a bit long so try http://tinyurl.com/yushwt; this is easier to type in and will get you there. Cost is US$190 for anyone who wants to try one. Kevin Drake has a DVD available from his website, if we can get the technology working we will show it at the December meeting.

Now where are the Australian makers?

COVER PAGES

Front page

From an advertisement for Demonite Discs
Engineering Wonders London undated circa 1909

Back Page

A recent donation to TTTG
British Isles mid nineteenth century
Red Pine, lid veneered mahogany and rosewood
Condition is poor!