News 100

April 2008

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)

www.tttg.org.au

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TTTG Newsletter Number 100 April 2008

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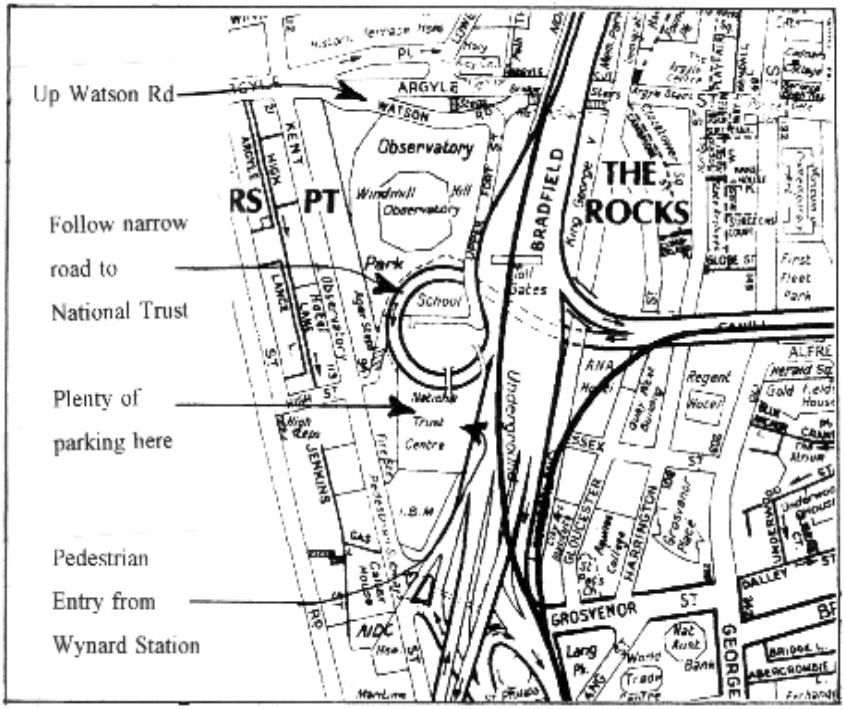
Subscription $30

Next Meeting

Tuesday April 8, 2008

National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill — Annie Wyatt Room

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



Programme

1) **Presentation: "Sydney Made"- An examination of Carter Planes and Tools**
2) **TTTG Auction**

Catering by Mario Dato

Next Meeting

"Sydney Made". Many people dismiss Carter planes and tools as an inferior locally made product and in most cases, this opinion is based on an early unfortunate experience of a single example. The fact is that Carter made robust, well priced tools for a cost sensitive market and this philosophy meant that their output lacked a consistent quality of finish. Their tools were respected by the Trade who appreciated the quality of the steel in Carter blades and who were prepared to fine tune the planes to a reasonable user standard. We have organised a comprehensive display of Carter products for the evening's discussion. There will be a whole range of qualities of product on show from un-tuned "straight out of the box" planes to planes which functionally rival imported Stanleys, (but not in their quality of finish) whose designs they were mostly emulating. The audience are invited to bring in their own examples for comparison. It should be an evening of lively discussion!

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.

Last Meeting

Conservation versus Restoration

Furniture Conservator ***Ray Gurney*** challenged the audience's attitudes to repairing old tools. Using examples of antique furniture he illustrated his approach to conservation, stressing the need to preserve the integrity of the object. This generated lively debate focusing on such issues as:-

"Are repairs part of a tool's history?"
"Should old repairs be conserved?"
"Are bad repairs merely vandalism?"
"What can be done versus what should be done?"

The presentation was followed by the auction. There were so many lots that the auctioneer could only auction the lots being sold on commission for non TTTG members.

NEWS 100

This is issue number 100 of TTTG News.

I remember the early issues being only a couple of typed pages. The first editor disappeared after the fifth or sixth issue if my memory is correct. Anyway I do remember taking over as editor and I do remember the reaction to News 7. This was the first issue where I increased the content and put a picture on the cover.

TTTG membership was small in those early days but the general reaction to News was encouraging. But not all comments were positive and a previous committee member was very negative with these comments,
"No one will read it", "It's only plagiarised" "There's nothing to print".

This only encouraged me to stay on as editor. The early issues were produced without the aid of a computer being hand written and typed by a secretarial service. How things have changed. When I did start using a computer the situation did improve a little but it took a while to take advantage of technology and improve the quality of News.

In general changes to News have always been well received however there have been prophets of doom. There were some members who resisted the current A5 format arguing that the old stapled A4 format was easier to read. Then again there are those who can't understand why News has pictures of people on the front cover.

Editing News has become a fairly smooth operation largely due to the assistance of my sub editor. Minor things sometimes have made printing News a bit traumatic, it took a while for both editor and sub editor to have the same word programs for example.

What of the future of News? The time may be right to consider changing the format possibly going to A4 and having more colour illustrations. This costs more but maybe membership would increase. Maybe a new editor will be elected!

News is largely written by Bob Crosbie who also does the initial layout. Mike Williams is the sub editor. Mike does the finial formatting and arranges the printing and distribution of news.

The Cover

Finding a cover illustration for News 100 wasn't easy; actually it never is a simple task to locate appropriate pictures for the front of News.

The editor's criteria for front page pictures are in this hierarchy,
-A people image
-Tool or machinery reference
-Local content
Over riding these three is the need for graphic quality. The real bonus is to find an image that is also in colour. These are very rare which may explain the few colour issues of News.

The editor wanted an outstanding image for News 100. Most of all he wanted an Australian image. Of course with 100 cover pages already published and at least ninety of these having people pictures the chance was that some of the best Australian images had already been published. Would I again use the Tough Logo?

Colour images eluded me so I accepted the reality of black and white. Then I focused on the problem without looking at old illustrations. TTTG was formed in Sydney and is often described as a typical Sydney group. The comparison is often made between TTTG (Sydney) and HTPAA (Melbourne). We claim to be a bit laid back, willing to bend the rules to get things done. Some say the Melbourne group is a little more serious. I make no further comment.

Anyway I started looking for iconic Sydney images. This opened the field to many possibilities. Sydney based advertising from the 1920s to the 1970s was innovative and relied on memorable images. This was true both of newspapers and later of television. Most Sydney residents born before 1980 will remember the Nock & Kirby store in George Street.

They may also remember Nock & Kirby's two promoters, Joe the Gadget Man and Handy Andy. There were other and better stores selling tools in Sydney but Nock & Kirby were the biggest general hardware retailers modelled on the American Department Store.

The illustration on the cover is from a Nock & Kirby advert in the Sun Herald's "Around the Home" section October 10, 1971.

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 $5 each plus postage

-1932 Record Tools Catalogue

-Stanley UK Catalogue 1950 $5 each plus postage

-Chandlers Catalogue

$8 plus postage

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

All copies sold

-GUIDE TO SHARPENING. Australian Abrasives.

$5 each plus postage

ALL REPRINTS OFFERED "SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

2008 TTTG Workshops

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 and are at Asquith Boys High School.

Selling Old Tools

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.

Why TTTG Workshops?

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

Want a specific skills based workshop?

If we think others might be interested we can tailor a workshop.

Correspondence

The resurrection of an old controversy has precipitated an editorial decision to hold over the promised latest news from TTTG's Southern Correspondent.
No doubt after reading the following Terry Butcher will send a reply.

Fettling

There is disagreement between Terry Butcher and Jim Davey over the term fettling as applied to tuning metal planes.

Peter Evans has sent the following information;

"I came across a word used in Sheffield in the 19th century.

The word is ***Fertle,***

Which means "To fiddle with, improve, mess about with, fix, adjust".

Now is this the origin of Fettle? Are the students of language convinced? Concerned members want to know."

Peter's source is; ***A Glossary of Words and Dialect***. Formerly used in The Sheffield Trades, Society for Preservation of Old Sheffield Tools, DYSON, B. Ronald., 1936

Fettling is also a Foundry Practice term meaning to rough grind a casting, on a machine such as the one below.

Drawing from English Mechanics

April 17, 1936

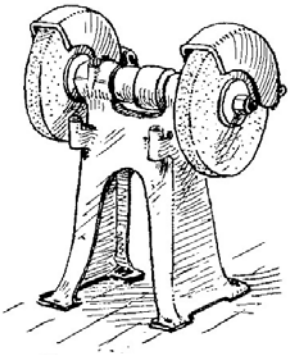


Fig. 8. Fettling Grinder.

Terry the ball is in your court.

Correspondence (cont)

A diatribe on Conservation/Restoration from Jim.

At the last meeting (*this should read the meeting before last as Jim's letter arrived too late for inclusion in the last Newsletter. Ed*) a conversation was started about the Right to Restore Tools and how much one can do same. The initial speaker queried if we had a right to repair a tool without leaving any trace of the repair, least I think that was what it was about. This topic has been a long drawn out discussion in heritage circles and is very variable depending on the object despite heritage circles saying there are standards.

First let me dispute the assumption that if you owned the Mona Lisa you could paint a frown on it. Legally perhaps you could but as it is recognized world wide as a masterpiece of a master the painting has, lets call it, inherited rights not to be tampered with. Plus it would be bloody stupid.

Heritage circles tend to view Boys Toys, tools, machines etc in an entirely different light to other objects I would even say in a demeaning way and yes the term Boys Toys is used in heritage circles all the time (I've worked in some).
A couple of examples the Fowler steam engine at the National Museum Of Australia is proudly claimed as original, crap! the water tank is lined with a plastic spray on and the boiler was about to be lined with a stainless steel liner as the original boiler skin was down to a very thin layer such as it was a miracle that it did not blow under the pressure. Both problems caused by rust, now in this case the repairs are obvious to not so close inspection. But if it was a piece of furniture that someone might have sat on would a heritage group allow a few stainless braces installed? Despite the fact it would never be sat on or the braces seen No it would go to a furniture restorer to repair it in traditional style So why not the steam engine? Why did not the National Museum treat the Fowler with the same respect for the integrity of the object as the chair. Does the chair have a sticker saying remade by Fred Blogs? No!

Mr Menzies Bentley (it's actually Mrs Menzies Bentley but that's another story!) is constantly being fixed as it's a part of the rolling stock that the museum drives around occasionally. Some of the bits used to fix it have false Bentley markings. Does the museum care. I won't even start on the saga of the "original" muffler.

Not so long ago the Australian War Memorial employed people to pull apart the official WW1 war diaries this was done just to make it easier to make microfilms of them!!! Electronic copying was dismissed as being too technical and out of the rational of the library access policy
So with these examples can we look to heritage circles to set examples for us?

Heritage circles work in the rarefied atmosphere of the de-café soy milk latte with a hint of cinnamon world; Me I drink coffee.

If on the rare chance you get a tool that has genuine history there may be some argument for respect of the integrity tool. But would the original owner want it repaired well? would the original maker of the tool mind if you improved it? How many of us have been given a story about a tool in the hope that you will buy it. How many of those stories could be verified? If there was an axe that someone attacked Ned Kelly in his armour and the nick in the edge was from the attack, keep the nick but can anyone actually quote an historical occurrence that would make a tool an historical artefact?

Now here's a good idea for the ultimate forgery the hammer used to nail Christ to the cross. Metal work no problem, bit of dendritic(tree ring) research make a metal/wood box; well weather it find an old burnt out church dating from medieval times, bit of a dig around, chance finding old parchment with hints of its story say 25,000,000 euros? Course modern conservation techniques would find the forgery some might say but modern conservation techniques would give you the technology to build it *sans* faults.

To those who spend time making sure the brass insert is the same colour as the brass surround or making sure the grain of the timber is the same density as the other parts congratulation for setting examples of accuracy to us all
A tool is that, a Tool; its purpose is to make things, to deprive it of its function is to deprive it of its heritage. To repair it so well that the original maker can't spot it is a compliment to the tool.

Tools that hang on some yuppie wall as a decoration are the crime.

Jim (the one with the hat)

John's Page

John Daniel

Few Projects are exactly the same. Part II

In Newsletter 98 on page 4 our Editor asked a few thought-provoking questions.

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

Well, as predicted, we had a lively evening of debate; a summary of same is on page 12 in Newsletter 99. I don't wish to "muddy the waters" any further, however, I'll show my approach to the treatment of two braces, both manufactured to form identical tasks, but belonging to different time slots.

Brace 1.

Photo 1. This shows a William Marples brace manufactured prior to 1861

(Yes, it is the brace illustrated in Newsletter 98). It shows a replacement head attached, and thankfully, the original head still accompanying it. The repairer of the day drilled some "well placed" holes both in the wood and the brass plates.

He also filed deep grooves in the wood below the plates to positively locate the wire.

Photo 2. This clearly shows the “strong” repair, however, also illustrates a lot of damage. A decision to be made, to leave as is, or restore it and refit the original head. I had no problem in refitting the original head, however, to rectify a legitimate repair of the day that revealed a glimpse into the character of the tradesman weighed on my mind.

Photo 3.

I chose to restore it. Firstly, the damaged wood had to be replaced so the original head could be refitted. A piece of beech from the “scrap box” was carefully aligned with the grain orientation of the old brace.

After shaping, the repair was stained then

burnished to match the colour and wear of the frame. The wire holes in the brass plates were filled with brass by peening over on the front and back, then dressing off the face to match the rest of the surface. The original head was then able to be refitted.

The overall appearance is now of a well cared for tool that would fit in well with any display or collector's tool box.

Brace 2. This is a late 18th century brace by Arthur of Edinburgh.

The head was loose and had much damage over the years.

To replace or repair the head would remove the wear and patina that only the years and much handling can achieve. In spite of the missing wood, the brace is still comfortable to hold and conveys a "warmth" from the past that had to be preserved. My responsibility was to adjust the head, carefully clean, leave the brass "age coloured" and then to preserve with a good wax.

Was this the correct approach for both braces? I suppose that depends on what side of the fence you sit; however, I feel that all will agree if in doubt, give it some more thought.

A Magazine Hack-Saw Frame

A MAGAZINE HACK-SAW FRAME.

A rather unusual form of hack-saw frame has recently been brought out by the makers of the well-known "Eclipse" hack-saw frames and blades, known as the Magazine Saw Frame No. 30M. It has been designed for the special requirements of electricians, plumbers, engineers, travelling mechanics and others who work away from their base.

The frame, which is of tubular design, combining exceptional strength with lightness in weight, utilizes the bow to form the magazine. Five spare blades of assorted Pitches of teeth are carried in this magazine so that the correct type of blade is available for every job, whilst upon the handle are instructions enabling the user to select a suitable blade to obtain the most economical results. It is impossible for the teeth of the blades to become damaged by other tools in the kit.

The position and shape of the unbreakable metal handle gives the operator comfortable control with one hand when the frame is used on jobbing work where a vice is not available. Protection for the hand of the operator is ensured by the provision of a long rear tension piece and the use of "Eclipse" Flex Blades which are unbreakable in use. Both tension pieces are non-detachable, but allow instantaneous swivelling of the blade for cutting at right angles.

The price of the "Eclipse" Magazine Frame No. 30M, complete with six 10 in. "Eclipse" Flexible Blades in assorted pitches of teeth is 5s. each. It is made by James Neill & Co., Ltd., of Sheffield.

The Eclipse Magazine Hack-Saw Frame.

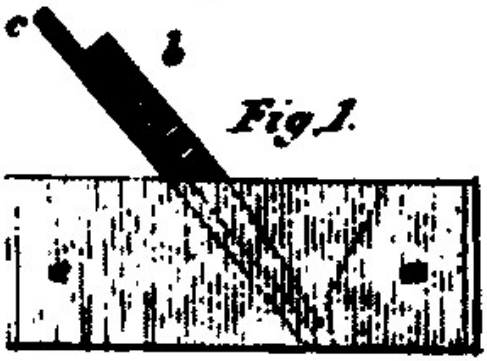
English Mechanics October 5, 1934

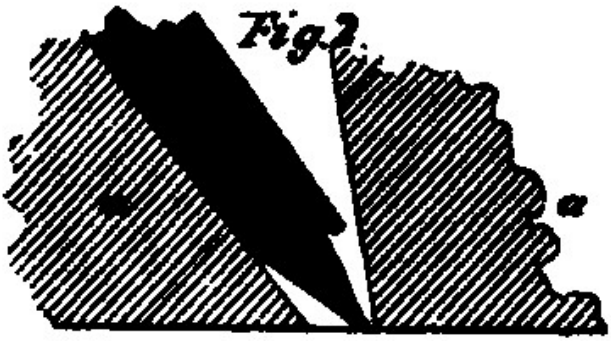
Double Bevelled Planes

Micro bevels are the flavour of the month among woodworkers some even advocate high pitches and double bevels. These innovations are in fact not new. It has all been done before. Norris made a device for honing a back bevel on plane blades in the 1920s and Chinese woodworkers have used double bevelled plane blades for centuries.

In 1826 the Glasgow Mechanic's Magazine described a double bevelled plane. This plane was the invention of Mr C Williamson of New Street, Elizabeth Place, Kennington Cross. Williamson's plane was first described in the Transactions of the Society of Arts Volume XLIII.

The drawing below is enlarged from the cover page of the Glasgow **Mechanic's Magazine 15th July 1826.**





Description of a Double Bevelled Plane for Smoothing Hard or Coarse Grained Woods.

Transactions of the Society of Arts Volume XLIII.

My improvements in the double bevelled plane consist in making the plane-iron of the finest cast-steel, and also in making it with two bevels: that is, bevelling it on both sides, by which means one iron becomes superior in its operation to the double iron that is adopted in the best planes.

To obtain this effect, I have made it sufficiently strong to resist the wedge, and to prevent its breaking by any inequality that might be in the wood or steel. The edge, by means of two bevels, becomes much stronger, will continue its keenness longer, and will cut much smoother than any plane with which I am acquainted.

It appears to me that planes had originally but one iron, bevelled on one side; such are yet in use, but they are very imperfect tools; that they were materially improved by the addition of a top iron, which, acting as an upper bevel, is the cause of the double-iron plane cutting better than the single-iron plane; but even then the working iron, if I might so term the lower iron, has but one bevel, which causes it to be far from a perfect tool to cut hard or coarse wood.
It appears to have been a desideratum for some years to employ cast steel for plane-irons, on account of the fine and durable edge that it admits, superior to any other steel; for this purpose a plane was adopted of soldering cast-steel to cast-iron; but experience proved to the users of planes that, however good the plan might appear in theory, it did not answer in practice; for it was no uncommon occurrence in using such for the steel to be forced from the iron to which it had been soldered; and when this did not occur, yet if the tempering was imperfect it could not be corrected in common practice by any ordinary workman, and I believe they are now nearly out of use. Another plan was to make plane-irons wholly of cast-steel, but these were only with one bevel, and the inequality of the surface, as well as the brittleness of the steel, caused these cast-steel irons to break in a short time, when used for common work, as they could not be made thicker than the welded one, on account of the top iron; thus this plane also failed.

The superiority of two bevels is generally acknowledged in the use of turning tools, of axes & c. But the principle has never, as far as I know, been adopted in plane-irons prior to my application of it.
Thus it appears that the advantages gained by a cast-steel single iron, made sufficiently thick to be bevelled on both sides, are a finer and more durable edge than can be obtained by any other steel; little risk of the iron breaking on account of its additional thickness; the plane not chocking; there being no top

iron, and therefore no loss of time in fitting it; and its producing a smoother surface than any plane now in use.

Mr Williamson is in the employ of Messrs. Whiting and Branston; the latter which gentleman attended the committee, and stated that he has seen the candidate's plane in use for smoothing wood to be engraved upon; that it cuts very smoothly and evenly; and that the surface formed by it scarcely requires to be finished by the subsequent application of the scraper.

Reference to the Plate.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of the plane.
aa the body: b the wedge: c the plane-iron.
Figure 2 shows the bevelled part of the iron c, and the end of the wedge b full sized.

Editor's Comment

This description provides important information concerning the development of planes and plane blades.

The discussion confirms that double plane blades were in general use by the 1820s. It also confirms that the best plane blades were made from cast-steel and that the manufacture of solid cast steel blades had been attempted. Such solid cast steel blades were not successful because a) the thin ones were too brittle and b) the thick ones were too thick to fit planes with double irons.

Williamson refers to welded plane irons. These are clearly the then standard blade made by fire welding a layer of cast steel to a wrought iron body.

The reference to soldered blades is ambiguous. He is describing a layer of cast steel soldered to a cast iron body. I don't think he is confused!
Clearly a soldered blade could not be re-temped without the two components parting company.

Indirectly he provides the reason for composite blades. Cast-steel was too brittle to be used in thin sections, it needed to be laid on to wrought iron if it was to absorb the shock loads involved in cutting resistant materials. The only thing not mentioned is the cost of the thick two bevel plane iron. Did cost prevent the success of this innovation?

THE LEDGER

New Members

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

Mick Waddick	**M471**	**Noel May**	**M474**
Tony Millar	**M472**	**Steve Harrison**	**M475**
Geoff Rigby	**M473**	**Mike Vernon**	**M476**

Workshops

Some of these new members joined having been impressed during their attendance at TTTG Workshops. The next two Workshops are the Open Day/Tool Swap/Tool Sale on Sunday 20th April, 2008 and the ever-popular Saw Sharpening Workshop on Sunday 25th May, 2008. Australia is awash with blunt saws; why not bring one or two along to the latter workshop; you know you won't have time to sharpen them at any other time and the camaraderie at the Workshops is great. Bring a sharp triangular file.

Our all-day Workshops are held at Asquith Boys' High School; they commence at 9:30 am. The Open Day is free; all other Workshops cost $20 for members and $40 for non-members (non-members may join on the day and for $50 they get the Workshop **plus** membership up 'till 30th June, 2009. Incredible value ! !

Should you require further info, 'phone Peter on 0419 245 699 or Bob on 9869 7487 or just turn up.

Friends Interested in Tools ?

Do you have friends interested in tools, their use or their history? If so, why not urge them to join The Traditional Tools Group? If they join in April, May or June this year, they will receive for their very nominal $30 annual subscription, membership up until 30th June, 2009.

Clynt Sheehy
Hon. Treasurer

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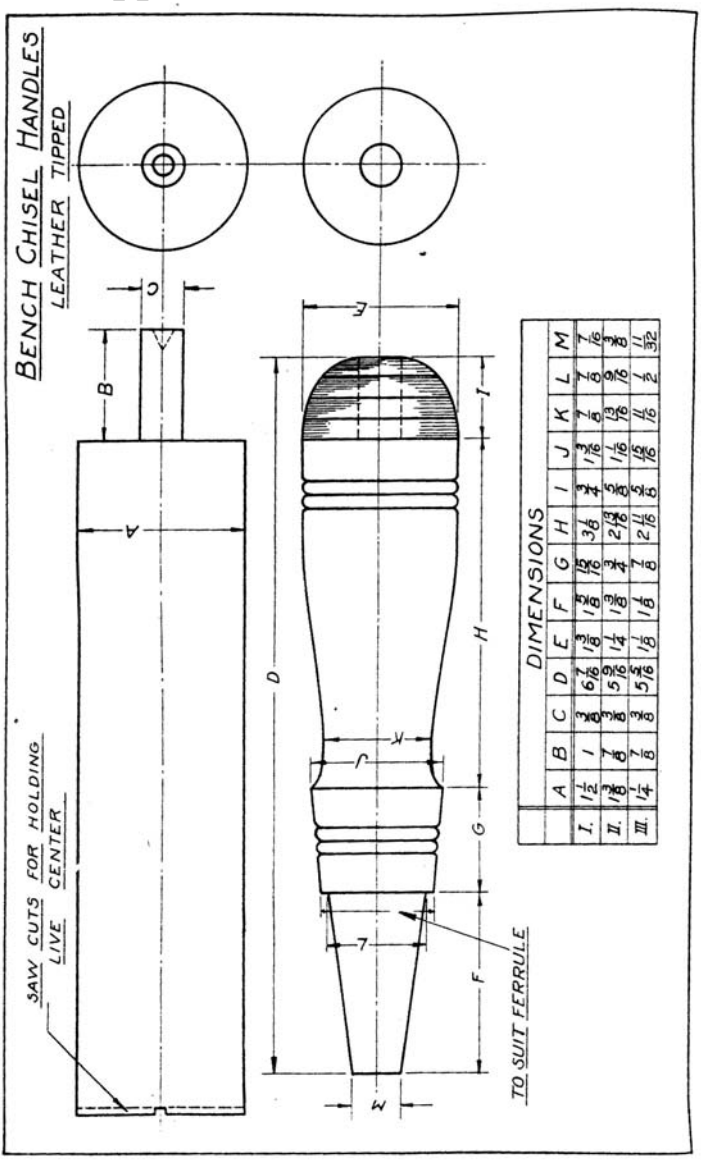
Leather Tipped Chisel Handles



From- 100 Problems in Woodwork
William A De Vette Milwaukee USA

Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia

While editing News 100 my copy of the Tool Chest arrived.
It has been a while since I reviewed other publications on a regular basis but this is more due to space constraints than to editorial policy.

The Tool Chest Issue 87 is up to the high standards expected of this publication and well worth reading. I'm not going to write a review. Rather I'm going to say a few things about HTPAA.

Probably the majority of TTTG members are also HTPAA members. In many ways we are complimentary associations. As befits Victoria HTPAA is a bit more formal than TTTG.

For instance HTPAA publishes a members' contact list. TTTG has discussed this but we have no plans to publish such a list. A lot of TTTG members are on the HTPAA list so maybe this might prompt some TTTG members to join HTPAA.

The TTTG Committee encourages all TTTG members to join HTPAA. HTPAA subscriptions are now due. Consider signing up to HTPAA.

How to Join HTPAA

What it costs

Australian members	$35
Others	$45

Australian dollars

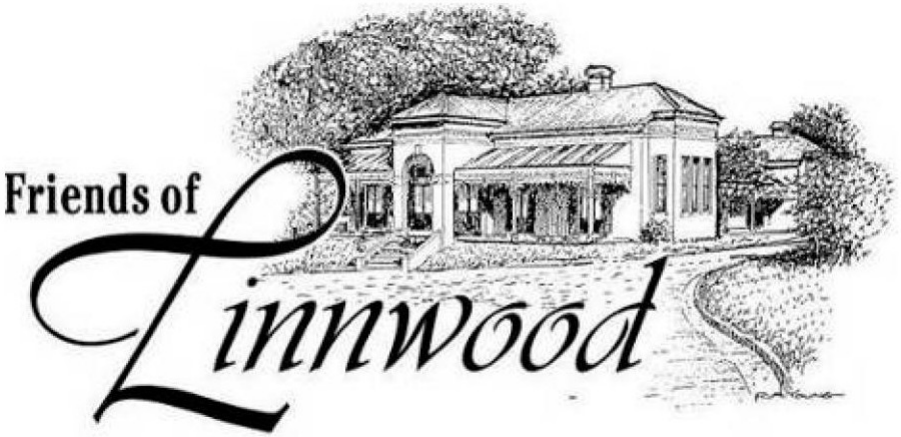
Where to write

HTPAA Membership
P.O. Box 1163
Carlton Victoria 3053 Australia

Pay by cheque or Money Order payable HTPAA

Check out the website www.htpaa.org.au

LINNWOOD MAY 18 2008



TTTG Inc will be represented at the next Linnwood Open Day on Sunday May 18th

There will be display of traditional tools
&
Demonstrations of traditional woodworking techniques

The tools and techniques used to produce joinery and mouldings when Linnwood was built will be demonstrated.

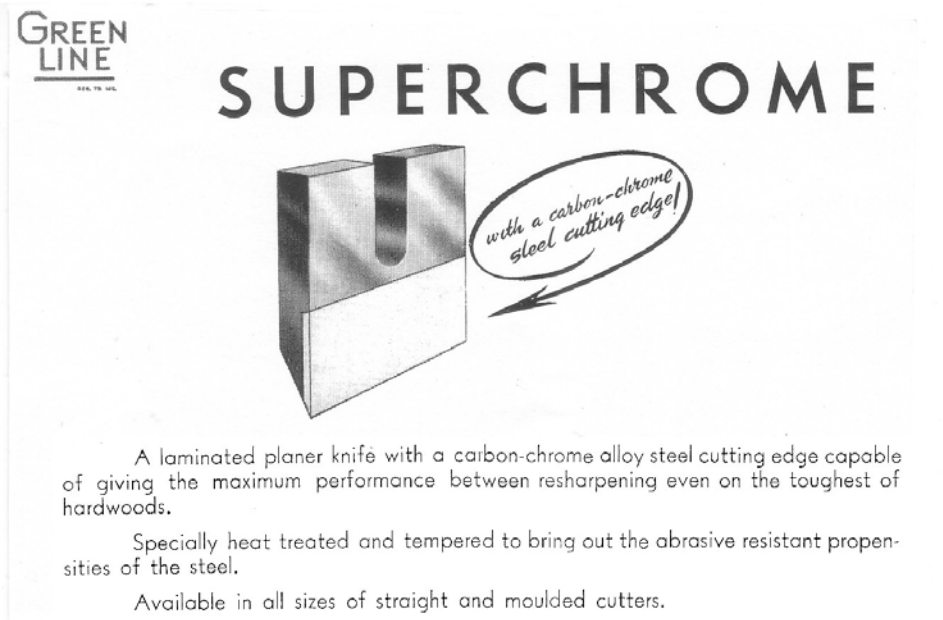
Also

Bring in your old tools for identification.

Green Line

Machine Knives for Industry

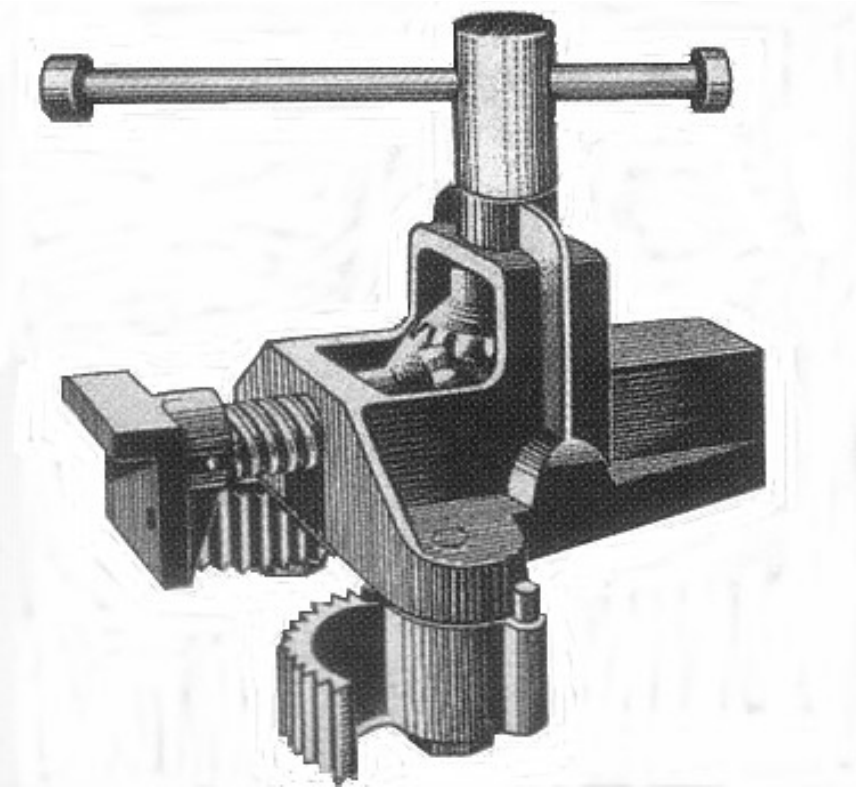
H S Tozer & Son Pty. Limited, 1541 Botany Road, Botany NSW made machine knives for woodworking and other industries and seem to have been in operation in the 1950s. The only information I have is the Tozer leaflet *Green Line Machine Knives for Industry Woodworking*.



Does anyone have any additional information?

Carter Cramps and Clamps

Carter Tools Pty Ltd made a range of cramps. Carter "G" cramps are fairly common; less plentiful are Carter Quick Adjusting Cramps while Carter Flooring Cramps are seldom seen. The writer is familiar with the G cramps which are a bit agricultural. Does anyone have a Carter Floor Cramp? I'm curious as to the quality of this Carter product.



If you have any Carter products, please bring them along to the next meeting for our special "Carter Evening". A TTTG long-term plan is to have an exhibition of Carter Tools in Parramatta, the home of Carter, and the population centre of Sydney.

The Ferlie File

The Ferile File is another example of a universal tool that seemed to offer great advantages but was soon forgotten.

The advert is from Woodworker July 1934

Plumb (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.

In 1946 the Australia tool maker Plumb (Aust.) changed its name to Hytest Axe & Tool Pty. Ltd. Plumb (Aust.) produced a range of excellent forged tools, their axes in particular enjoying a first class reputation. Fayette R Plumb Inc. of the USA also manufactured world famous axes. Naturally both brands were confused one for the other.
In March 1946 Plumb (Aust.) issued the circular on the opposite page.

On 12th June 1946 the circular below was distributed.

HYTEST AXE & TOOL PTY. LTD.

(FORMERLY PLUMB (AUST.) PTY. LTD.)

SUBSIDIARY OF AUSTRALIAN CONSOLIDATED INDUSTRIES LTD.—AN AUSTRALIAN COMPANY

HYTEST FORGED TOOLS

Telephones MX 3363-4-5 & MX 1654
Telegrams & Cables...
"HYTESTOOLS," Sydney

COLLINS STREET, ALEXANDRIA
N. S. W. — AUSTRALIA
IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE_____

CONTRACTORS TO H.M. GOVERNMENTS

WAC/IL

C I R C U L A R

12th June, 1946.

CHANGE OF COMPANY NAME

To avoid confusion between our products and those of other tool manufacturers, trading under a name somewhat similar to our former title, we have changed the name of our Company from Plumb (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. to

HYTEST AXE & TOOL PTY. LTD.

Our Forged Steel Tools (such as Axes, Adzes, Picks, Mattocks, Hammers, Wedges, etc.) have been successfully marketed as quality tools under the name "HYTEST", and we therefore decided to incorporate our brand in our trading name and thereby prevent misunderstanding.

We would be glad if you would note the following information and change your records accordingly:-

	New South Wales Branch	Victorian Branch
Company Name	HYTEST AXE & TOOL PTY. LTD.	HYTEST AXE & TOOL PTY. LTD.
Postal Addresses		
Offices	Collins St., Alexandria, N.S.W.	420 Spencer St., Melbourne.
Works	Collins St., Alexandria, N.S.W.	Spotswood, Victoria.
Telephones	MX 3363-4-5 & MX 1654.	FJ 6101.
Telegrams, Cables	"HYTESTOOLS", Sydney.	"HYTESTOOLS", Melbourne.

Please note that the name only has been changed and that addresses, etc., remain unaltered.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would give this change of name the widest possible publicity, and we believe our action will be found mutually beneficial.

HYTEST AXE & TOOL PTY. LTD.
(formerly Plumb (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.)

W. A. CRICK, MANAGER.

"HYTEST" PRODUCTS include AXES, ADZES, BARS: Crow, Sould, Wrecking, Pinch, etc., BLACKSMITHS' TOOLS, ENGINEERS' CHISELS, HAMMERS: Drill, Sledge, Soaling, Mash, Napping, Engineers' Hand, HOES, MATTOCKS: All Types, PICKS: All Types, WOOD SPLITTING WEDGES.

Plumb (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.

A subsidiary of Australian Consolidated Industries Ltd.—an Australian Company

ACTORS TO
VERNMENTS.

' PLEASE

FORGED TOOLS HYTEST PLUMB (AUST.) PTY. LTD. SYDNEY & MELB. TOOLS

Telephones:
MX 3363-4-5 &
MX 1654.

Telegrams & Cables:
"HYTESTOOLS" Sydney.

CIRCULAR

COLLINS STREET,
ALEXANDRIA,
N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

30th March, 1946

Dear Sir/Sirs,

We have always stressed that our "HYTEST" Axes and other forged tools are 100% Australian made and that we are not connected with any other Company of a similar name. We again wish to bring under your notice that axes and hatchets supplied by us and bearing our name thereon are not the product of Fayette R. Plumb Inc. of U.S.A. or of any Company associated with that Corporation. We shall be glad if you will do all in your power to see that this is clearly understood by your staff and imparted to customers.

We are very proud of our Australian-made Axes and other tools and, therefore, it is our intention, at an early date, to change the name of our Company to "HYTEST AXE & TOOL PTY. LTD.", thereby completely removing any possibility of confusion or misunderstanding with the products of all other makers.

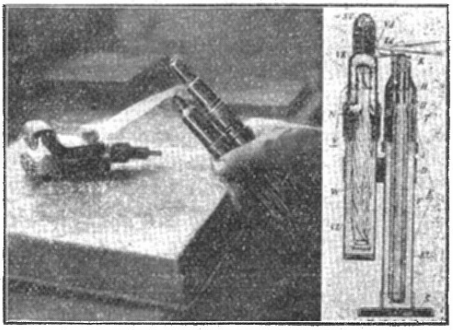
Yours faithfully,
PLUMB (AUST.) PTY. LTD.,

W. A. CRICK
MANAGER

EST" PRODUCTS include AXES, ADZES, BARS: Crow, Spud, Wrecking, Pinch, etc., BLACKSMITHS' TOOLS, ENGINEERS' CHISELS, FARRIERS' TOOLS, FERN & HOOKS, HAMMERS: Carpenter's Claw, Drill, Sledge, Spalling, Mash, Napping, Engineers' Hand, HOES, LADLES, MATTOCKS: All Types, PICKS: All Types, SOLDERING IRONS, SPANNERS, SUNDRIES: TOOLS, WOOD SPLITTING WEDGES, also GENERAL & UPSET FORGINGS.

“RICOFOR”

“RICOFOR”



THE WORLD’S 1938 WONDER UTILITY TOOL

The only lamp adaptable for all known trades:— BRAZING — SOLDERING — MELTING; **GOLD, SILVER, BRASS, COPPER, etc.**

FLAME 2550° F. in 15 SECONDS using Petrol, Alcohol or Methylated Spirit.

SIZE: Only 8 inches high, 2 inches wide by 1 inch. Can be carried in your pocket easily.

Present users include:—Mechanics, Locksmiths, Electricians, Gold and Silversmiths, Dentists, Surgical and Medical Instrument Makers, Opticians, Laboratories, Motor Owners, Householders, Plumbers, etc., etc.

ON RECOMMENDATION TRIALS TO:—
His Majesty’s
ARMY — NAVY — AIR FORCE, TELEPHONE AND RADIO COMPANIES.

NO working parts and
NO pumping!!!

COSTS ONLY
17/6
Post Paid
THOUSANDS ALREADY SOLD

Descriptive Leaflet “E.M.” Free on request.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:
STANHAY, ST. ANDREWS, GUERNSEY
Supplying customers direct throughout the World.
NOT St. Andrews, Scotland.

Please mention this journal.

Advertising hype or something the world really needed?

English Mechanics June 17, 1938

The Kiama Woodcraft Group

The Kiama Woodcraft Group staged their annual event on the weekend of 8-9 March with great success, thanks to fine weather and a stream of visitors from near and far.

The Traditional Tools Group Inc (TTTG) was well represented in their usual corner of the grand Masonic hall. Overall, promotion of the TTTG generated interest from the public, and members also dropped in on both days.
Members John McQuillan, Bob Sheehan and John Kikwood ventured down the coast from Sydney for the event.
Fellow members Ian Kerry and Tom Fox travelled down from the Blue Mountains, and Kit Tanner and Jim Davey made the regular trek from Nowra on the south coast.

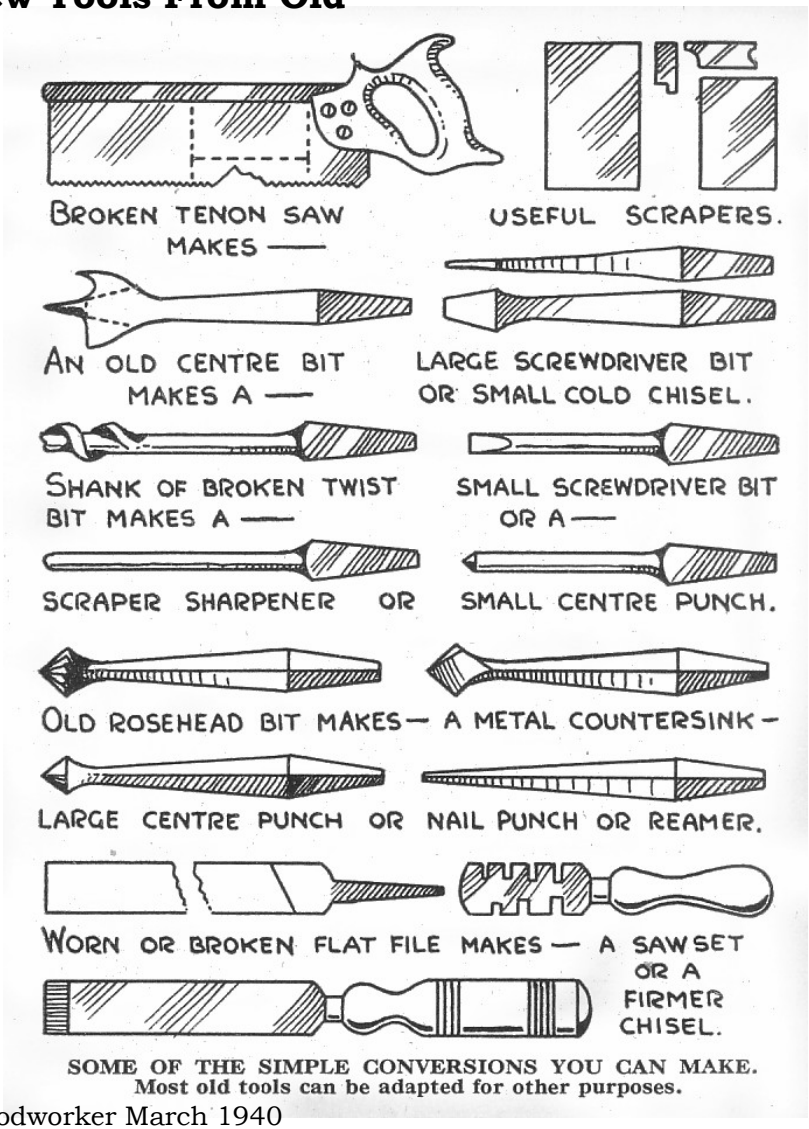
Local members Michael Purcell (Albion Pk Rail), Horacio Rodrigues (Figtree) and John Daniel (Kiama) were also present.

TTTG representatives (l to r) Michael Purcell (Albion Pk Rail), ?, Jim Davey (Nowra), Horacio Rodrigues (Figtree) and John Daniel (Kiama).

BITE-RIGHT File teeth

English Mechanics December 16, 1938

New Tools From Old



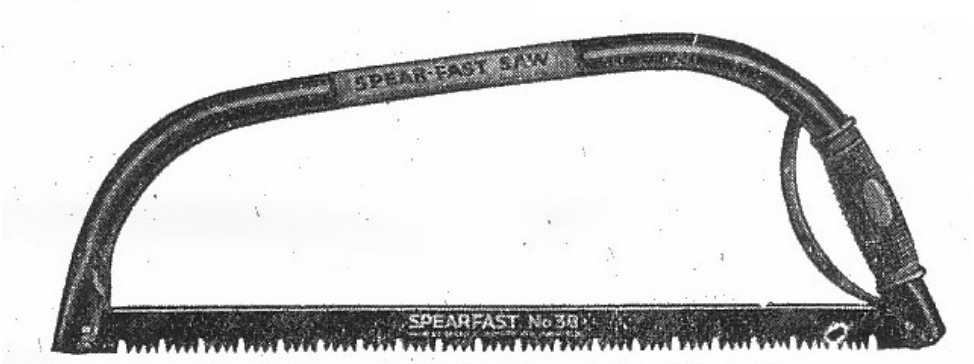
SOME OF THE SIMPLE CONVERSIONS YOU CAN MAKE.
Most old tools can be adapted for other purposes.

Woodworker March 1940

Spear Fast Saw

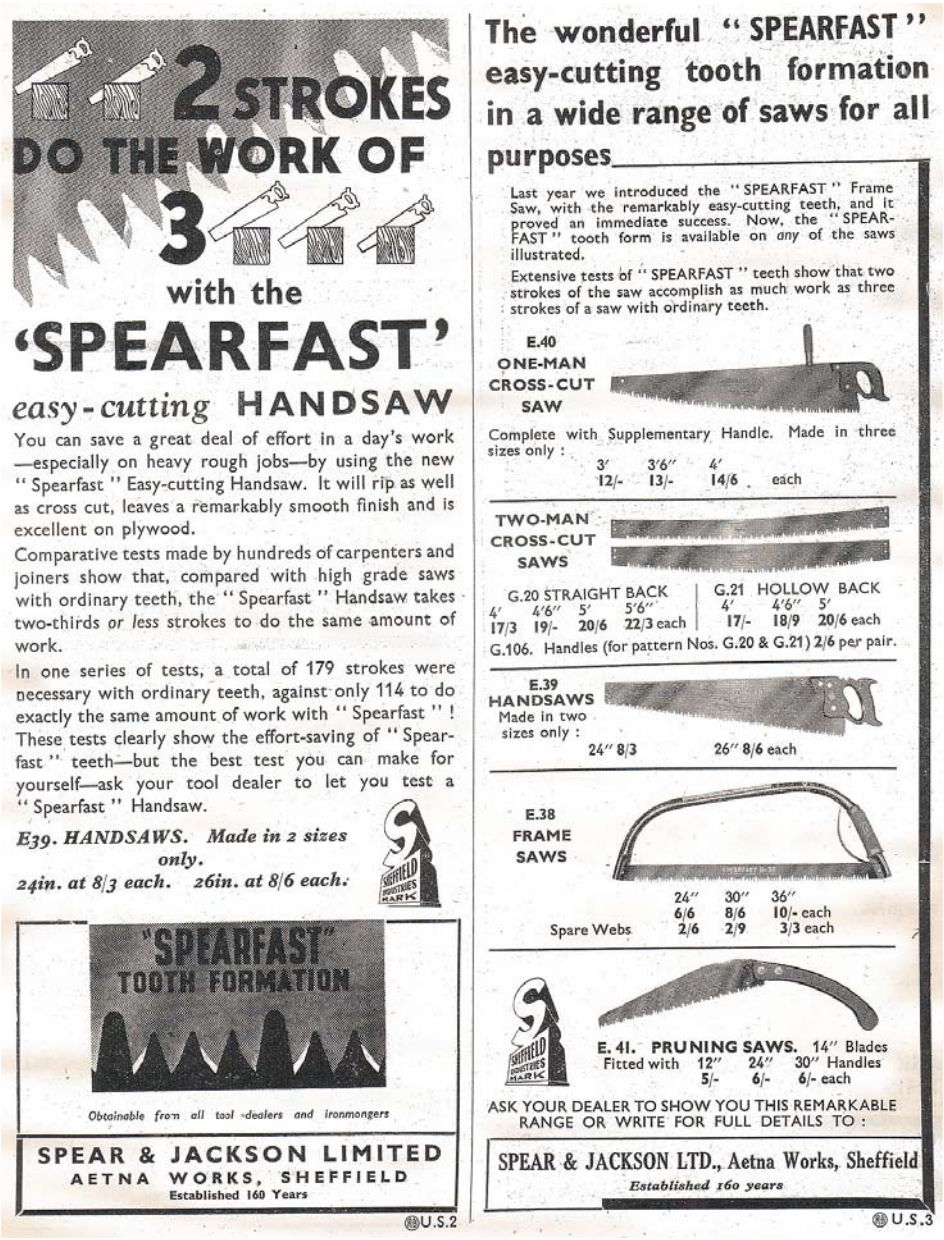
A NEW WOOD CUTTING SAW.

At a recent demonstration given to representatives of the Press, by Messrs. Spear and Jackson, Ltd., Sheffield, a new type of hand-saw was exhibited. Known as the " Spearfast", this saw embodies a novel design of tooth formation, the teeth being formed and sharpened in such a manner that only two-thirds of the effort is necessary, compared with ordinary saws. Intensive tests show that, in general, two strokes of the saw accomplish as much as three strokes of a saw provided with ordinary teeth. A number of tests have been made by independent persons of all classes, ranging from amateurs to skilled joiners and in each case it was shown that the new saw took only two-thirds the number of strokes to do the same amount of work. In the case of one series of tests, the finest quality saw with ordinary teeth took 179 strokes to go through a piece of timber, but with the "Spearfast" only 114 strokes were necessary. Various types of hand-saws are available with the new tooth formation, including frame-saws similar to the one illustrated, pruning and cross-cut saws. In each case the balance has been carefully studied and particular attention given to the retention of the cutting edge and set. Another useful feature is the well-designed grip for the handle, and another good point is the smooth finish which is left after cross-cutting and ripping; also its suitability for plywood cutting.



The " Spearfast " Wood Cutting Saw.

English Mechanics October 21, 1938

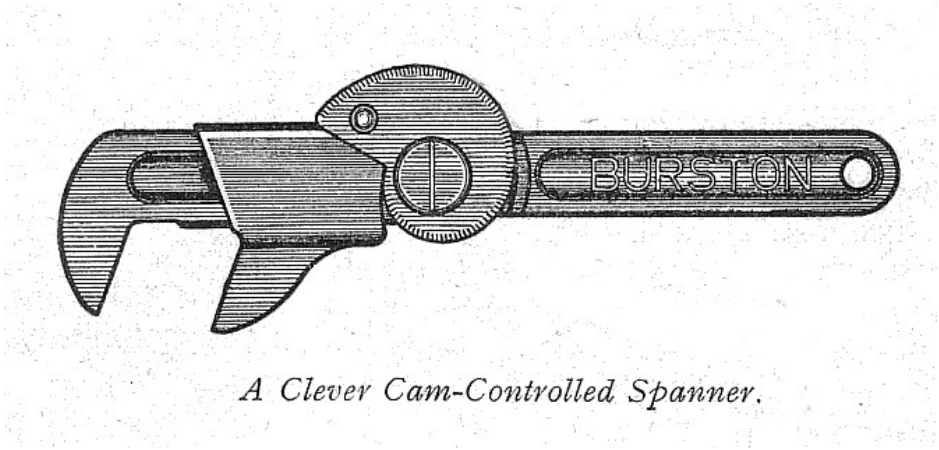


Spear & Jackson Advert Woodworker October 1938

Cam-Controlled Spanner

AN ENGINEER'S SPANNER.

There is little doubt that the ordinary adjustable type of spanner used for hexagon nuts is a big improvement upon the fixed or set one, but most have the disadvantage of requiring some form of screw adjustment for setting the jaws to their correct distance apart. The Burston Spanner illustrated, whilst retaining all the advantages of the ordinary spanner, also possesses the additional one of being able to open or close practically instantaneously. It has no screw adjustment, but merely a cam capable of rotating about a pin. A small peg on the side of the cam enables it to be rotated, thus adjusting the jaws at once. An internal spring keeps the sliding jaw against the surface of the cam, but the jaws remain set for any size of nut as long as required. Owing to its design, there, is no undue stress on the jaws of the spanner, nor upon the cam. It will unscrew the tightest nut without any danger to the jaw operating mechanism. The spanner is 8 inches long and will take nuts from **7/**16 in. to 1⅛ in. It costs. 6s. and is made by the Burston Spanner Co., Oxhey, Watford.



A Clever Cam-Controlled Spanner.

English Mechanics January 5, 1934

Bow Saw

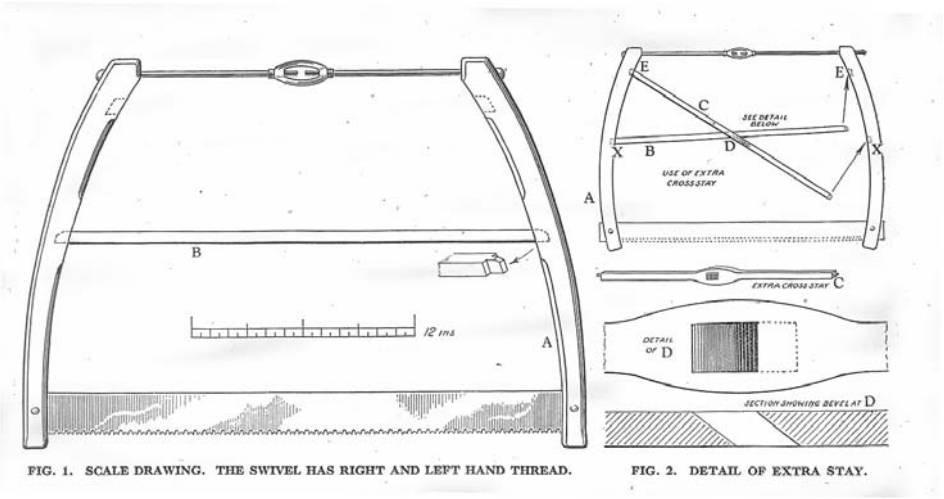


FIG. 1. SCALE DRAWING. THE SWIVEL HAS RIGHT AND LEFT HAND THREAD.

FIG. 2. DETAIL OF EXTRA STAY.

This interesting variation on a conventional bow saw appeared in the **Woodworker in August 1941**. The bow saw can be used in the normal manner with one cross stay but for heavy work, it can be used with two cross stays and a shorter blade. One stay has a swell in the centre which is pierced to allow the auxiliary stay to pass through it at an angle as shown in the diagram. With the resulting double triangular bracing, the frame is guaranteed to maintain its shape. This idea seems not to have caught on either because it required the user to keep a stock of shorter blades for the times when the double bracing was used or because such saws are usually rigid enough with the standard single cross stay.

TOOLS, TANGS AND HANDLES

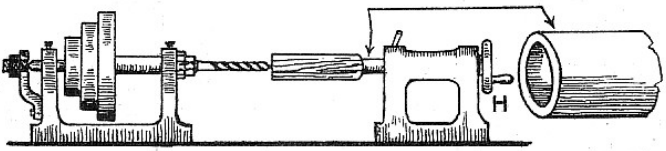


FIG. 3. MANDREL OF LATHE FITTED WITH MACHINE TWIST BIT.

FIG. 1. THE CHISEL AND ITS TANG.

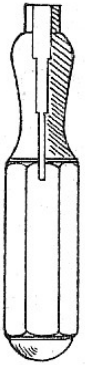


FIG. 2. STEPPING HOLES FOR TANG OF CHISEL.

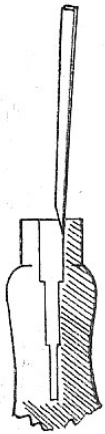


FIG. 4. HOLE TAPERED WITH $\frac{1}{8}$ IN. CHISEL.

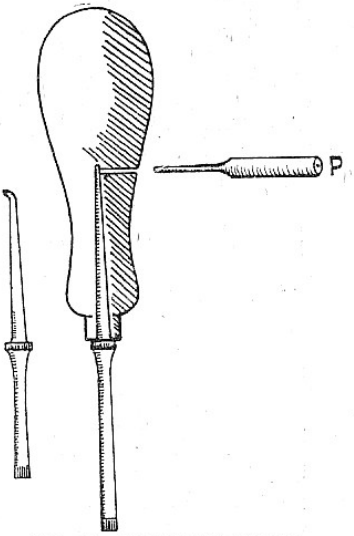


FIG. 5. BRADAWL TANG.

FIG. 6 (right). USE OF TAPERED ARBOR IN LATHE.

HOW CHISEL, FILE AND OTHER TOOL HANDLES ARE FIXED.

Woodworker February, 1939

Review

Workbenches *from Design & Theory to Construction & Use*
Christopher Schwarz
ISBN-13:978-155870-840-2(hardcover : alk. paper)
Popular Woodworking Books 2007

I read a description of this book in Popular Woodworking and thought it might be worth reading. So I went to Lie-Nielson's website (Australia) and ordered a copy. Paid electronically on a Saturday and received the package 7am the following Tuesday morning. Real service!

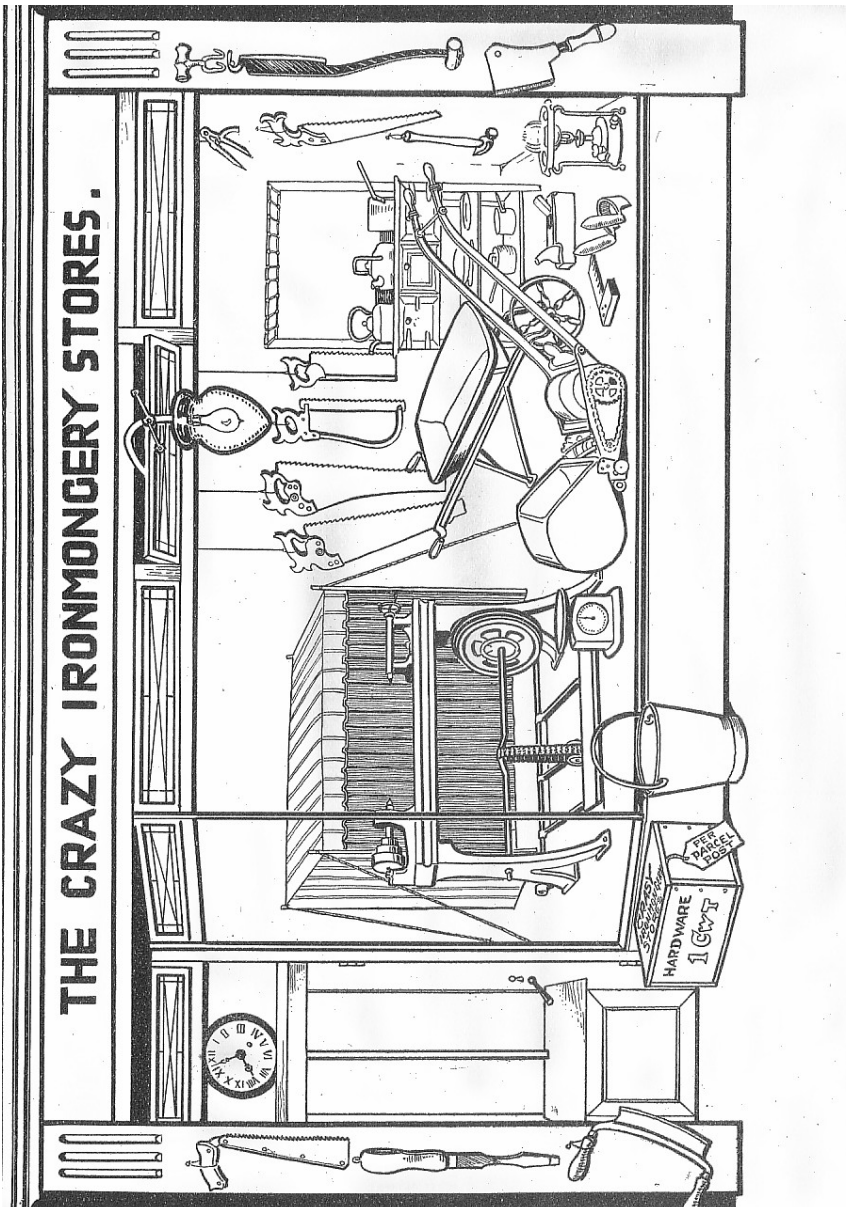
Popular Woodworking is arguably one of the best of the American woodworking magazines. In particular it always features articles on traditional techniques. A few years ago I read an article by Schwarz (the editor) on entry doors and was so shocked by the inferior construction recommended that I send an email. The reply was interesting in that in defending the article Schwarz revealed a sound knowledge of traditional joinery. Editors are often compromised by the claims of advertisers!

There are a number of books on making benches so why did Schwarz write another? His motivation is clearly an interest in traditional, that is old, techniques and a conviction that good benches can be made from readily available materials at reasonable cost. In contrast to other current authors he advocates making benches from soft wood.

What he has done is research the traditional English and French workbenches and produced two bench designs. The French design, based on Roubo, has been published before in other magazines. The English design, from Nicholson, has not been published in magazines for the last three decades. This is the standard joiner's bench, once common but fast disappearing.

The discussion of these two bench types is refreshingly analytical. The design of the English bench is particularly interesting. I think he has introduced some unnecessary complications and some of his joinery could be improved. But these criticisms are minor.

The book is highly recommended. I brought the companion DVD which I will eventually look at; the book stands alone.



The Editor's Christmas Competition. This was a "Spot the deliberate mistakes" competition which appeared in Woodworker December, 1934