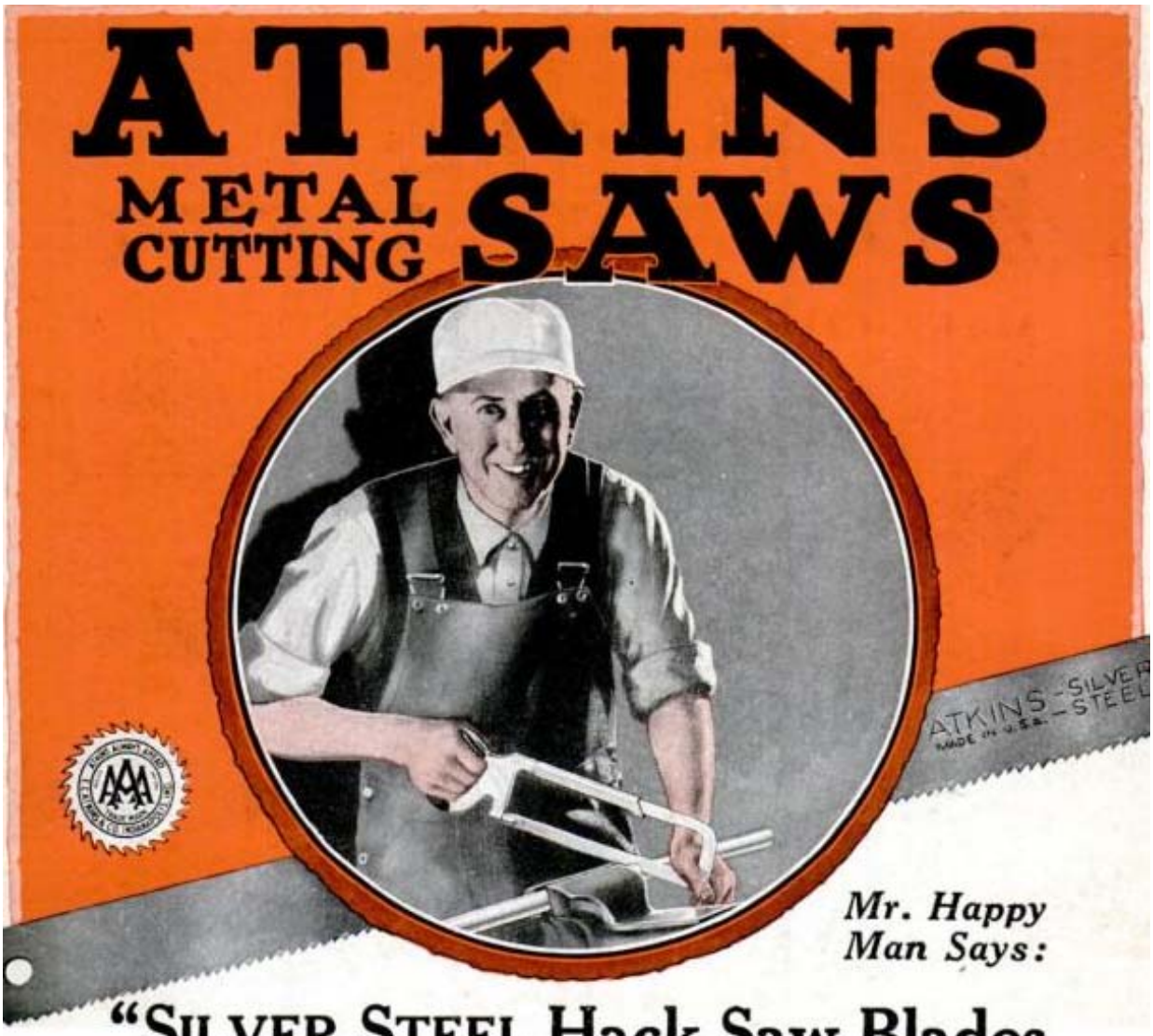


NEWS 108

August 2009

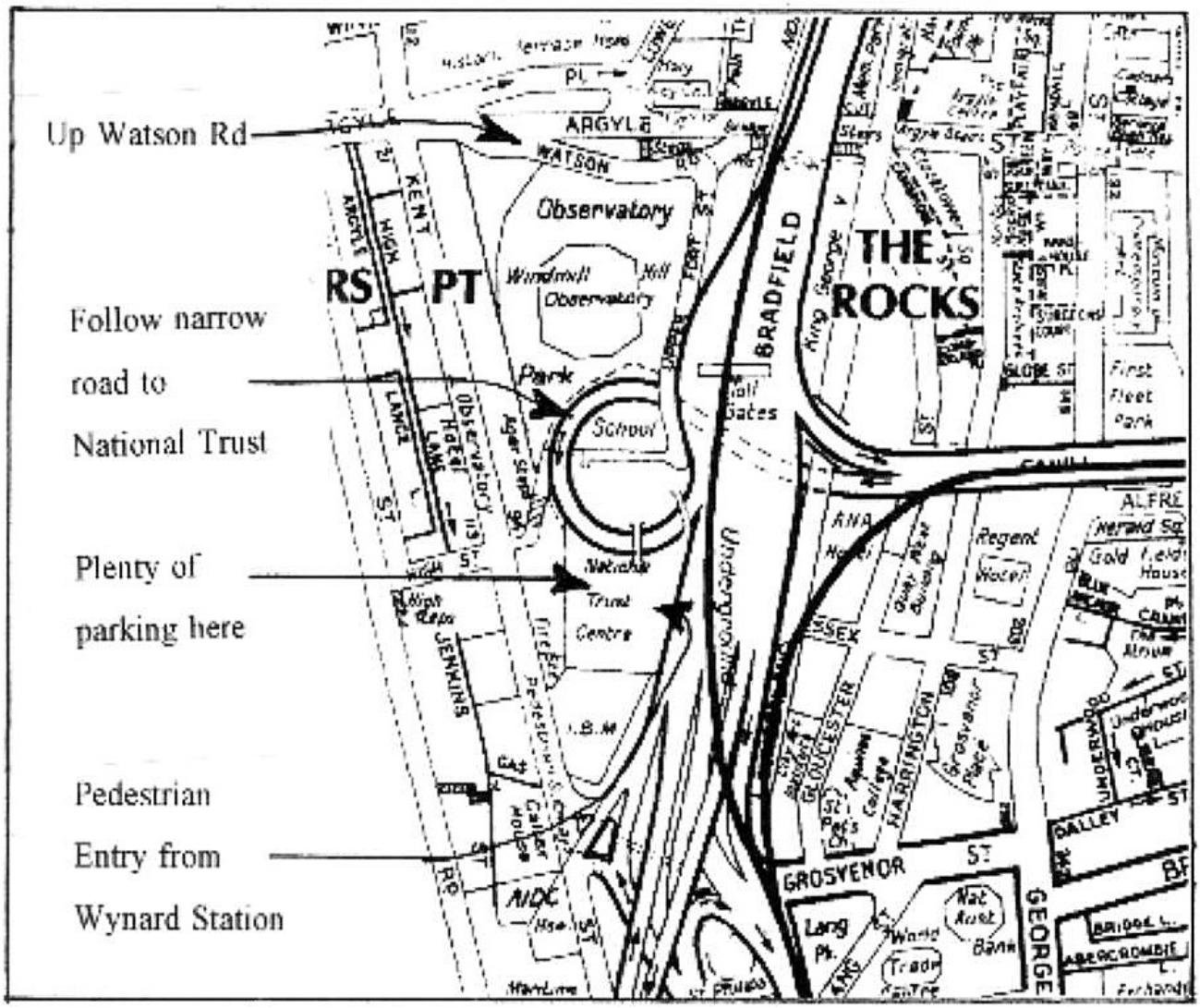
TTTG Inc.

www.tttg.org.au

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11 August National Trust Centre Annie Wyatt Room

***"Doors Open"* at 7pm Entry $5**



Postal Address

P.O. Box N240 Grosvenor Place

Sydney NSW 1220

Membership $30

Subscriptions are now due

See the yellow flyer

Enquires

Mike Williams 02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie r.crosbie@bigpond.com

www.tttg.org.au

NEWS 108 CONTENTS

The 2010 Hands-On Expo

run by Patrick O'Reilly

at the Royal Hall of Industries,

Moore Park

19th to 21st March, 2010

As soon as this was announced the TTTG Treasurer applied for TTTG to be part of this event.

The immediate response was positive

Great Clynt,
Fantastic to have you on board. I will get in touch with more details over the next month or so once things quieten down! - it is going gang busters!

Regards Patrick

Next Meeting

Tuesday 11 August

The Annual General Meeting

The President will declare the meeting open and then invite the Secretary to declare all Committee Positions vacant.

The Treasurer will table the Annual Accounts before standing down.

The Public Officer will then conduct the election. The 2009/10 Committee will be announced immediately after the election, in News 109 and on the TTTG Web Site.

After the election

Presentation of user-made tools

This meeting features a vast array of tools made by tool users.
Most of the tools can be identified but some will get you thinking!

There will be a panel discussion.

The Auction

This auction will offer a large assortment of tools and associated ironmongery.

All lots will be in ***as found condition****.*

Vendors are requested to present sale items in secure boxes such as milk grates!

Warning

Examination of auction lots before the auction must be supervised by a Committee Member.

Plastic toys, old phones and similar will be returned to the vendor. Recideist vendors may be banned from the sale.

The BARGAIN TABLE

Opens before the Auction
All items $1, $2 or $5.
Prices set by the TREASURER!

Previous Meeting

Tuesday 9 June

Rare Bailey Patented Tools

Leonard Bailey was a prolific inventor of numerous mechanical devices. The planes and other woodworking tools he patented made Bailey a household word for quality tools. Many of Bailey's patents were incorporated in the Stanley range of tools. The full story is complex and the early Bailey tools are spectacular.

The meeting examined these themes in the presence of a large collection of rare Bailey Patented tools. As usual the room could barely contain the audience.

The auction saw a better class of scarce ironmongery fall under the auctioneers hammer at ridiculously low prices.

The TTTG Tool Collection

TTTG has amassed a large collection of old tools over the years. In a true sense this has happened almost by chance.

The tools are stored in various locations and the Committee is acutely aware of the criticism some individuals must endure for storing 'other peoples junk".

When the 2009 Sydney Tool Sale is but a memory the Committee intends to try and do something about the tool collection.

The first step will be to collect all the tools in one location. The tools will be access in terms of rarity and conservation needs.

A decision will be made to dispose of any redundant tools.

TTTG Tool Collection Action Day
Date to be announced
Possible venue
Strathfield Men's Shed

TTTG Workshops

The continuing growth of TTTG is in large measure due to the broad scope of the group. TTTG is not an association of tool collectors, though many collectors are members. TTTG caters for anyone with an interest in traditional technology.

This doesn't limit TTTG's canvass to old hand tools. TTTG members are interested in all types of mechanical devices be they powered by human muscle or by power.

Many TTTG members are tool users. Some are experienced tool users; some are in the process of acquiring experience.

The President and Editor was one of the driving forces behind establishing the TTTG workshops. The success of the TTTG workshops is one of the group's proudest achievements.

The workshops are seeing more young people signing up to TTTG. Groups that cater to tool collectors are experiencing an aging member profile. TTTG has a healthy age distribution among its membership.

TTTG Workshops are 'hands on' affairs. The catering may be rough and ready but the workshops always see happy people leaving with a bit more confidence and hopefully the basis more skills.

2009 TTTG Workshops

Spindle Turning & Pattern Routing

Sunday, 30 August Asquith BHS

This is a workshop on turning chisel handles and plane knobs and using the router to make batches of saw and plane handles. Good spindle turning needs correct tool sharpening and use. The router is a versatile machine tool but is often used in an unsafe manner.
This workshop will expand your approach to the lathe and the router.

Saw Sharpening

Sunday, 27 September Asquith BHS

This is the only workshop available in Sydney teaching handsaw sharpening. The workshop covers all types of traditional saws. All equipment is provided, however if you have saw files bring them with you and bring a couple of saws. With the current interest in saw making there will be a brief lesson on making a first quality backsaw from a hard-point saw!

Using Woodworking Tools 1

Sunday, 25 October Asquith BHS

Planes and chisels

Using Woodworking Tools 2

Sunday, 29 November Asquith BHS

Saws and Setting Out Tools

The two workshops **Using Woodworking Tools 1and Using Woodworking Tools 2** should appeal to people wanting to learn basic traditional techniques. All tools will be included, rules, planes, saws, chisels, hammers, gauges, and drawknives etc.

As with all the workshops the structure will be flexible to make it possible to cater for individual need. Tools will be provided but those attending are encouraged to bring some of their own tools.

2009 Workshop Program www.tttg.org.au

2010 TTTG Workshops

Edge Tool Sharpening Plane Fettling

Saw Sharpening Blacksmithing

Turning and Routing

Dates to be announced later

Wood Show Wisdom

TTTG Inc was at the first Sydney Timber and Working With Wood Show and at all subsequent Working With Wood Shows. The author of this contribution has put in his three days at all these events. He has chosen to not disclose his identity. There are many TTTG Inc members who could verify the accuracy of these observations.

Day one of Show one witnessed the birth of the species ***'old tool instant expert'***. The species has gone forth and multiplied and now visits wood shows in vast numbers. The stance and gait of these individuals is distinctive. So distinctive that to provide a description could well invite accusations of slander or even of defamation.

The ***'old tool instant experts'*** are either

Boastful or Bashful

As ***boastful*** suggests this category of '***old tool instant expert'*** simply has to show how much he knows. This bravado may be an attempt at intimidating others.

As ***bashful*** suggests this category of 'old tool instant expert' is reluctant to share his knowledge. This reticence may be genuine or it may be an empowering strategy or even a cry for help!

'Old tool instant experts' are always male!

At this year's show *boastful* and *bashful* members of the general public were out in force. It has to be admitted that they were a little better behaved than in previous years. No doubt the reduced size of the event generated a charmer atmosphere.

I remember the all time champion *boaster* who started by asking ***'do you know what wooden planes are made from?'*** quickly boasting ***'I do, coconut trees'.***

No doubt everyone who has assisted on the TTTG can tell a similar story ripe with the stuff of true comedy or is it tragedy?

Jim Davey had the fortune or misfortune to be approached by the outstanding 2009 *bashful* expert. I witnessed the event. The individual paced first right then left along Jim's display of old fettled Stanley planes. After a few minutes he spoke to Jim with this question ***'When did Stanley buy out Bedrock'***.

Now Jim Davey is a patient man but he doesn't have much tolerance for what he calls the ***'wood wally factor'.***

To his credit Jim tried to have a rational discussion but he was cut short by a detailed account of how Stanley Tools acquired Bedrock complete with dates.

One can extend a degree of empathy for such self delusional individuals. If only they would stop trying to impress others with their spurious knowledge they would perhaps embrace wider horizons, perhaps form friendships, relax and enjoy living.

When it comes to the *Boastful* old tool instant expert it is hard to extend the hand of human kindness. Perhaps this is a deficiency in the writer's personality.

Jim received more than his share of *boasters* at this show. The perennial ***'how much is that plane?'*** followed by **'I got one on ebay for only $10.'**

There was even a subtle variant on the above scenario. A reasonably sane looking man pointed to a Bed Rock #5 and asked '***Why does it cost so much?'***

Jim started to explain how the Bed Rocks were the premium Stanley planes and how the plane had been tuned to give top performance. The man's eyes glazed over as he said ***'What do you mean?'***

The editor did a spot of planing some nice huon pine. As the full length 50mm wide shavings were landing on the bench he heard the classic line ***'those old planes never work'***

Member Profile

Jim Davey

Jim is the presenter of the two workshops on sharpening edge tools and fettling planes.

Both workshops are well attended and will be repeated in 2010.

Jim has been known to attend other TTTG workshops. The Spindle Turning and Pattern Routing Workshop has been enhanced by Jim's experience in repairing and making plane handles.

Jim sells a wide range of sharpening equipment at very competitive prices.

He also sells the legendary rust preventative ***G15***.

Reconditioned old planes are always available as are old or new replacement components.

The Paul Williams blades are the best made anywhere!

Attend a workshop and meet Jim.

Old Tools at the Wood Show

The TTTG Editor is planing Huon pine.

A few minutes before Clynt took this photo a woman asked for the shavings carpeting the floor near the bench.

We gave her a two plastic bags and she only left the shavings under the bench!

Quite a few observers were surprised at how rapidly and how accurately wooden planes can reduce wood to size and at the quality of the planed surface.

In the background Jim Davey is showing how to sharpen edge tools.

Without exception anyone feeling one of Jim's sharp blades for the first time is amazed at how sharp they are!

This combination of activities attracted large numbers to the TTTG Stand.

Interest in the TTTG Workshops Leaflets promises full classes throughout 2009.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that many people what to learn how to work with natural materials.

TTTG Workshops are an affordable way to experience traditional skills.

Woodworking Tools 1

Sunday 25 October

Sunday 27th September

Asquith Boys' High School

Starting at 9:15 am.

Model Workshop

The model workshop constructed over a number of years by TTTG member Ray Fauls attracted great interest at the Wood Show.

The detail never fails to impress and to simply amaze anyone who examines the model closely!

Above:

Ray Faul with his model workshop at the 2009 Wood Show

Left:

The model workshop in 2002

Saw Sharpening

May 24 Workshop John Daniel

More often than not, when we pick up an old hand saw at a market, we see the desperate attempts of well intentioned 'woodworkers' to get their saws to cut. The results of course are saws, which if human, would be a nightmare to the most competent dentist. The craggy teeth, too much or uneven set and of course, broken teeth on saws that weren't meant to be set in the first place-largely the result of a lack of understanding of the saw's cutting action and the overall need for correctly shaped and even teeth. The saw needs to be sharp, cut cleanly, have clearance, remove sawdust from the kerf, and of course, be comfortable to use.

One can understand the current demand for 'throw away saws' and the 'hard points' especially in light of the cost of professionally resharpening the traditional saws, not overlooking the rapid narrowing of the blade with machine recutting. However, why give up?

Sharpening is well within the comfortable skill range of most folk, well demonstrated in the TTTG Saw Sharpening Workshops.

The May Workshop, following registration, started a little after nine-the keen students, saws in hand were focused to go. President Bob got the ball rolling with his usual motivational preamble. 'Do not waste time sharpening a dead saw' he tells them, 'there are plenty of good old saws out there, you just need to be able to recognize them'. Bob pointed out the properties of a quality saw blade and gave a brief coverage of early reputable makers, not overlooking a few of the current manufacturers of quality saws. This was followed by a brief explanation of the different cutting actions of both the Rip Saw and the Cross Cut Saws, also how subtle variations of rake, pitch and set, affect the saws' efficiency.

Now down to business!

Firstly the blades had to be cleaned, the teeth topped, shaped, set and sharpened. Step by step demonstrations demystified the seemingly awesome task of saw maintenance. The apprentice sawyers now had saws that would cut.

Our workshops are obviously proving popular and fill a need. WE were pleased to be able to welcome five new TTTG members at the May 24 Workshop.

Saw Sharpening Workshop

Sunday 27th September, 9am.

Asquith Boys' High School

Postscript by Bob Crosbie

It is a great pleasure for me team teaching the saw sharpening workshop with John. We both advocate an identical slightly unorthodox method of filing which both simplifies and speeds up saw sharpening.

When it comes to speed few can match John. I freely acknowledge John as the better saw filer.

I also team teach the Spindle Turning and Pattern Routing workshop with John. When it comes to turning chisel handles few can match John for speed. If you can spindle turn chisel handles correctly you can spindle turn anything!

Concerning the practicalities of the saw sharpening workshop, there will be some old re-sharpened files on sale as well as some new files and old saw sets. You can try out the TTTG Saw Vice and thanks to Clynt's drawing you might make one for yourself when you get home. Of course if I see commercial copies of my design I may come to regret being so free and easy!

SAW VICE

At the 2009 Timber & Working With Wood Expo, TTTG Treasurer, Clynt Sheehy demonstrated handsaw sharpening to illustrate the skills that could be learned at TTTG's Saw Sharpening Workshops.

Clynt's saws were held in a wooden saw vice constructed by TTTG President, Bob Crosbie. Bob has made quite a few of these vices, one for the use of each candidate at the TTTG Saw Sharpening Workshops. Apart from the low cost of making one of Bob's wooden vices, another of its advantages over cast iron vices (such as the Disston, Carter or Joplin vices) is that it can contain the full length of a 26 inch (660 mm) handsaw so that during sharpening, the saw does not have to be laterally moved several times during the sharpening process.

Another benefit is that the saw being sharpened is held at a higher level than in cast iron or other saw vices so that any excessive stooping to sharpen is avoided.

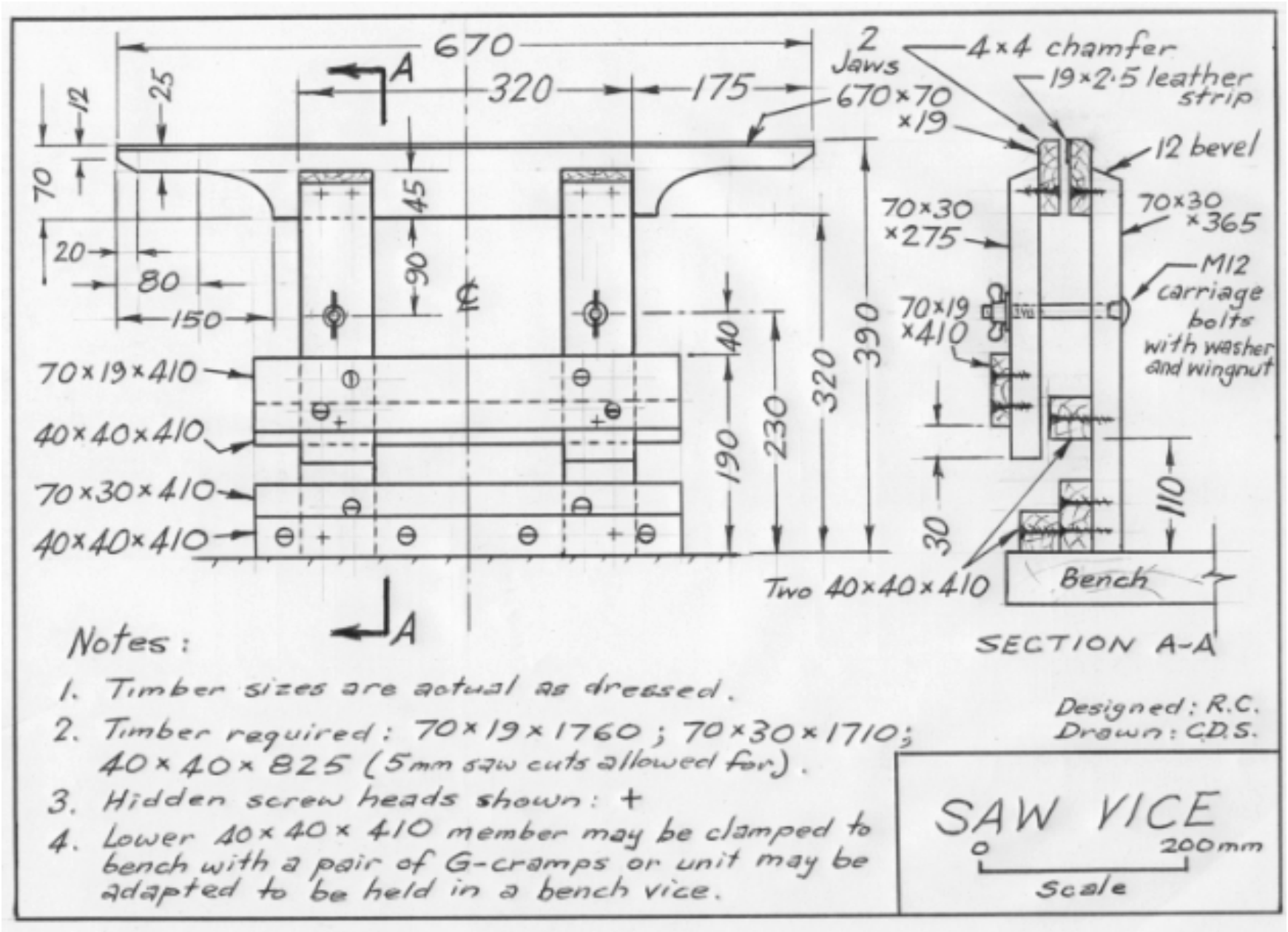
Several TTTG members who visited our stand at the Wood Show asked if plans of Bob's saw vice could be published in TTTG NEWS. Accordingly, a drawing of the vice has been reproduced on the facing page of this issue of NEWS.

Saw Sharpening Workshop

Sunday 27th September

Asquith Boys' High School

Starting at 9:15 am.


670
320
175
A
12
25
70
45
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80
150
90
70×19×410
40×40×410
70×30×410
40×40×410
40
190
230
320
390
2 Jaws
670×70×19
4×4 chamfer
19×2·5 leather strip
12 bevel
70×30×275
70×30×365
M12 carriage bolts with washer and wingnut
70×19×410
30
110
Two 40×40×410
Bench
SECTION A-A
Notes:
1. Timber sizes are actual as dressed.
2. Timber required: 70×19×1760; 70×30×1710; 40×40×825 (5mm saw cuts allowed for).
3. Hidden screw heads shown: +
4. Lower 40×40×410 member may be clamped to bench with a pair of G-cramps or unit may be adapted to be held in a bench vice.
Designed: R.C.
Drawn: C.D.S.
SAW VICE
0
200mm
Scale

JD's

John Daniel

More on Hack Saws

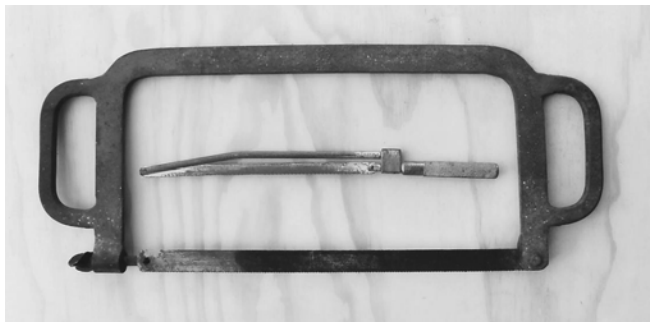
In News 106 there was an interesting article on Hack Hand Saws and by coincidence, a feature in the Tool Chest (the quarterly publication of the HTPAA). Both pieces display photographs/advertisements of many examples of hack saws not commonly seen. I thought it an opportunity to add to this growing bank of information by photographing a few hack saws that I've found over the years

The earliest example in my shed is identical to the one shown by Doug McIver in the Tool Chest. This one is stamped STUBS preceded by a horizontal 'P, and at a guess, came out of the same factory as Doug's saw'

Ken D. Roberts in his book "Some 19th Century Woodworking Tools' lists a Peter Stubs who acquired the Warrington Steel Works in 1826 at Rotherham, near Sheffield, and at the time was well known for its file manufacturing. Did Peter Stubs make these hack saws?
The horizontal 'P' could be a clue.

Ken D. Roberts notes that there was a practice of manufactured goods being exchanged for steel, enabling the steel producers to market goods made by other firms. He also states that early in the 19th Century Peter stubs of Warrington offered goods other than his own manufacture. This raises more questions in trying to precisely date or identify the maker of a piece from this period of industrial growth, however, one can be reasonably confident in saying that these Hack Saws were manufactured somewhere between the middle and late 19th Century. I doubt that manufacture would have carried into the 20th Century, unless of course a town blacksmith was commissioned to make a one-off.

The next hack saw is a user-made double handled frame fitted with an 18 inch power hack saw blade. It is quite heavy and obviously purpose made. Was it used as a hack saw for metal cutting, or alternatively, used in an abattoir for breaking down carcasses?



The smaller saw is a Year 10 High School Metal Work project very similar to Doug McIver's user-made example. This was a great project for students, not only giving them experience in a variety of skills but also providing them with a useful and efficient finished product.

Next, many firms including Tyzack, Disston and Eclipse produced a variety of pad/hack saw handles. To capture customer attention, much thought was given to grip and comfort, not overlooking the opportunity to add a little advice as shown on the Eclipse pad saw holder.

Advertising on a product was a clever company ploy.

Presentation also was not overlooked, well documented in the photograph of the hinged steel box. The graphic artist's use of colour, symmetry of layout, and overall presentation, bestowed importance on the humble hack saw blades enclosed within.

A company's pride in their product translates into confidence in the purchase.

Back to the early hack saws. The original concept of a replaceable blade held in the frame has carried though to this century, and although technology and research may have improved on the ergonomics of the frame and the variety of blades available, I very much doubt that the longevity of the earlier examples will be challenged.

The Tool Chest is the journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia. *Many* TTTG members are also HTPAA members.

For more about HTPAA go to

www.htpaa.org.au

Tool Chest Issue 92

More on Saw Collecting.

Reviewing other Journals

News attempted for many years to review the publications of similar associations. TATHS and HTPAA continue to review other journals.

The editor has abandoned such reviews for two reasons;

a) These reviews to be meaningful need to be comprehensive.

b) Such comprehensive reviews consume several pages.

Pragmatically the editor doesn't have the time to write comprehensive reviews. Also there is always too much material to include in each issue of News.

The thirty six pages and the colour pages of the previous issue of News were hard won by the editor. The Treasurer always cautions against avoidable expenditure.

That said reviews of other journals are a valuable means of communication. The editor will include regular comprehensive reviews if someone else writes them!

Wanted

TTTG Reviewer

The editor needs a volunteer to read the publications of similar associations and to write regular reviews for News.

The reviews should be comprehensive but not a critical critique of the content.

The reviews should provide a brief synopsis of each journal's content.

The reviewer can be anonymous!

Any reviews providing a critique of an article will be published with authorship.

The editor awaits volunteers!

Restoring Plane Irons

Clynt Sheehy

Introduction

When I joined TTTG in 1993, I thought I was a fairly good sharpener. I could get a pretty good shaving from my #4 (bought new in 1974 for $9.50) although I had to frequently clear the shavings jammed between the blade and cap iron.

However, during my years as a TTTG member, I acquired more sharpening skills, particularly in recent years from Jim Davey and Bob Crosbie at TTTG's Plane Tuning and Sharpening Workshops. I feel that however good a sharpener you are, you'll learn more at these workshops.

This present article goes through the procedures I use to restore a plane double iron from the "as found" rusty and often pitted condition to a state where, when installed in a well-tuned plane, it will take off a tissue paper thin shaving.

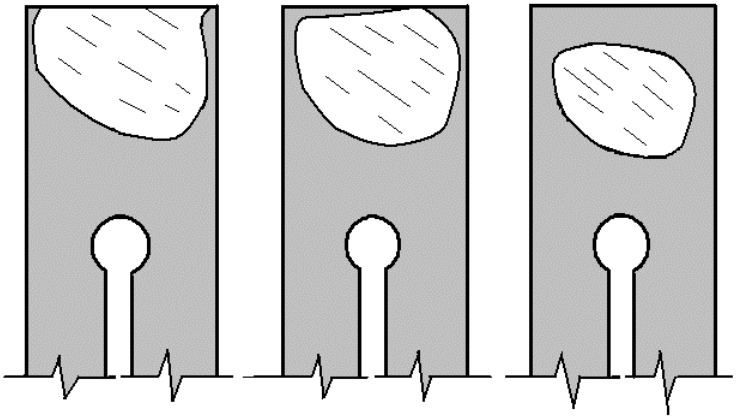
De-Rusting

Purists may wince, but I use a 100 mm angle grinder fitted with a cup steel wire rotary brush to remove the powdery loose rust. This leaves a surface which, unlike hand wire brushing and coarse abrasives, does not show scratch marks. The surface appearance is of a tool that has been used for many years but has not been left lying idle to develop powdery rust. Make sure you wear eye protection when using rotary wire brushes.

First I lock the plane double iron in an engineer's vice and de-rust the head of the cap iron screw. I then unscrew this screw (you may need to use penetrating oil or WD spray to facilitate this) and separate the blade from the cap iron. Next, using the rotary wire brush, I de-rust both the blade and cap iron and put the latter aside for further treatment which will be described later in this article.

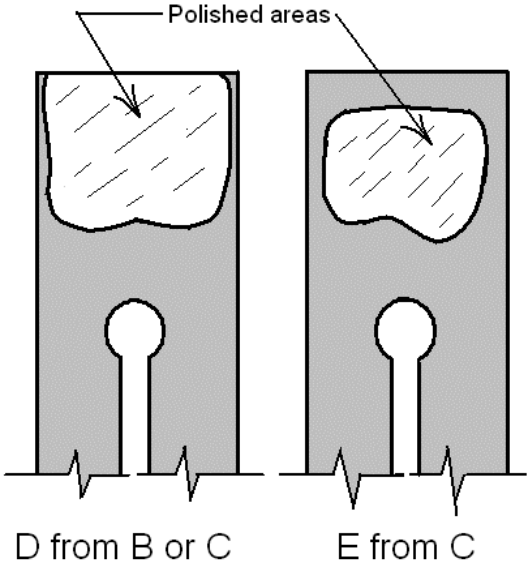
Flattening the back of the Blade

In this article, I refer to the back of the blade as being the face on the other side to the bevel face. Using an old, worn, coarse diamond plate, I determine just how flat the back of the blade is by rubbing the back of the blade held flat on the plate (say 50 rubs). After this, examination of the back of the blade could reveal the following polishing:-



(Striated areas denote polished backs of blades)

In the event of Case A, I would continue to polish the back of the blade on fine, then extra fine diamond plates on opposite diagonals, proceeding from one plate to the next when the micro-scratches from the previous plate have been removed.

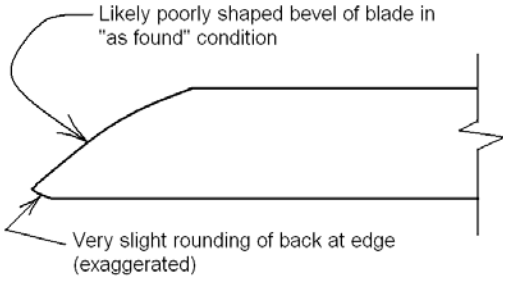


In the case of B and C, I would continue to flatten the back of the blade on an extra coarse diamond plate rubbing on the opposite diagonal. The upshot of this may well be as illustrated on the bottom of the previous page.

In the case of D, above, I would continue to flatten the back of the blade on coarse, then fine, then extra fine diamond plates on opposite diagonals, proceeding from one to the next when the micro-scratches from the previous plate have all been removed.

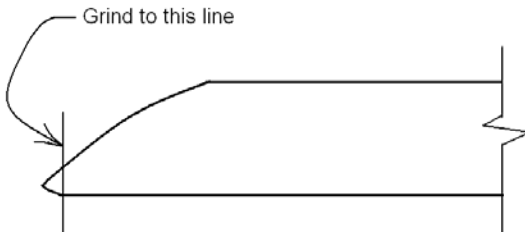
In the case of E, above, I would persevere with the coarse diamond plate for a while in the hope of achieving a D-type outcome. If after prolonged rubbing no appreciable improvement occurred, consideration might be given to later applying a back bevel as described later in this article.

Even in an A or D-type situation, it is very likely that under microscopic examination of the back edge, it will now look like this:-



Before grinding the bevel, I square the edge of the blade after marking it as close as close to the edge as possible with a fine felt-tipped pen using an engineer's square averaging from each side of the blade. I then grind to this squared-off line to remove the very slight rounding on the back of the blade near the edge. I believe this step is crucial to achieving a sharp edge on a restored old blade.

Suggestion: For more on removing the dubbed over back often found on old blades see my article on Page 26 of TTTG News No. 90, August 2006.

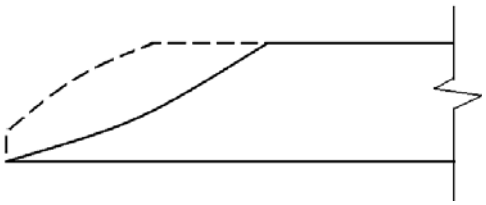


Sometimes there is excessive pitting on the millimetre or so of the back of the blade which projects beyond the end of the cap iron due to exposure to moist conditions in that area or perhaps due to the slight bi-metallic effect between the mild steel cap iron and the tool steel blade. This squaring-off can eliminate this pitting.

The square-off grinding normally only has to be done for the initial blade restoration; in fact, with subsequent maintenance bevel grinding, unless the edge is chipped, a tiny flat (say 0.1 mm wide) could be left on the edge (to save steel) which would be removed in honing on the bevel side.

Before proceeding to the next step, you must be able to see your face clearly in the polished mirror back of the blade. Old timers used to say that an edge tool gets better with age. I believe this is due to their having followed statements in woodworking text books that say that after honing the (bevel side) of the blade, the blade should be given a few rubs on its back to get rid of the wire edge. In fact, the blade edge is like a knife edge; the sharpening of one side is just as important as sharpening the other. The polishing of the back side takes much longer than honing the bevel side but is equally as important.

Grinding the Bevel



Next I hollow grind the bevel on an electric bench grinder fitted with a Norton Blue Max aluminium oxide wheel.

For normal planing of cabinet timbers, a 25 degree bevel is recommended by most references. I don't dip the blade in water during the grinding process as this can cause micro-cracking of the steel. Instead, I hold the blade on the tool-rest against the grinding wheel with a thumb or fingers immediately behind the blade's cutting edge. When it gets too hot for the thumb or fingers, I let the blade cool down. If you've got a bunch of chisels to grind, alternate them on the wheel with the plane blade.

<u>Caution:</u> *Always wear eye protection when grinding.*

Another Way of Grinding the Bevel

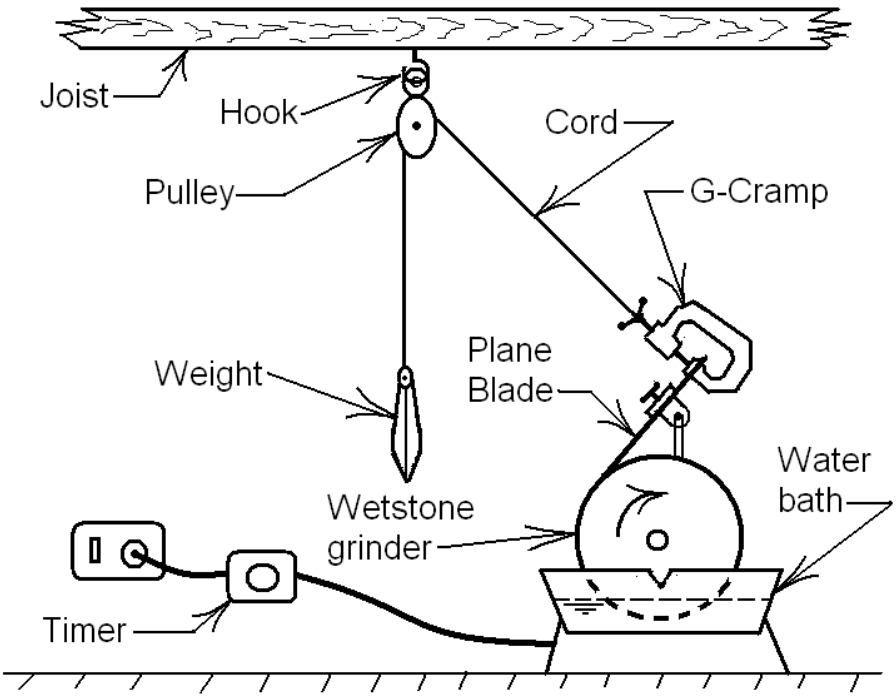
Even on a high speed bench grinder, it takes a long time to grind the steel away to remove the rounded bevel, mainly because of the necessity to keep the blade cool to avoid it losing its temper.

An alternative would be to use a slow-turning wet-stone electric grinder running in a water bath but this would take even longer than using a bench grinder.

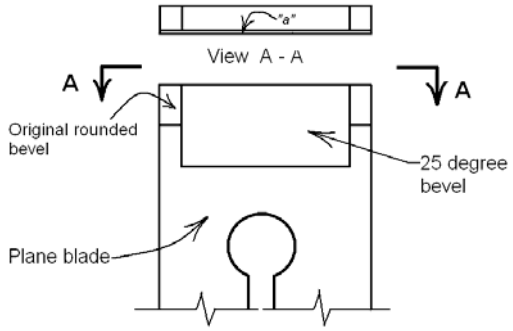
In recent years, lower cost alternatives to the incredibly expensive Tormek grinder have become available such as the Scheppach TiGer 2000 and the Triton, both available (when "on special") for less than $200 (that is until GMC, the owner of Triton, collapsed).

The Scheppach and the Triton appear to be identical; they both have 200 mm diameter (by 40 mm wide) wheels turning at 120 rpm.

For improved wet grinding I have set up the following arrangement;



This is a 'set and forget' system which, without overheating the blade, will grind the blade as below.



The two small remaining sections of the original rounded bevel may be subsequently ground off on the high speed bench grinder together with the remaining "safety" flat area "a" to leave the plane blade bevel ready for honing on the fine and extra fine diamond plates.

Sharpening

Prior to sharpening, I round the corners of the blade edge to about 1 mm radius on the old coarse diamond plate (holding the blade vertical on the plate with the edge raised a degree or two up from the plate.

With the assistance of a Veritas Mk II honing guide fitted with the camber roller, I sharpen the blade on the bevel side (to an angle marginally above the 25 degree grinding angle) on the fine and extra fine diamond plates using WD spray on the plates. (I don't like letting water anywhere near tools, if possible.)

There are two advantages of using a cambered roller on the honing guide:-

1) For honing blades with straight edges (e.g., trying plane blades), the honing guide balances between the centre of the roller and the edge of the blade, facilitating a uniform sharpening bevel to be applied to the edge.

2) For sharpening blades for planes to be used on large flat surfaces, a slight camber can be applied to the blade edge. This avoids plane tracks being left in the surface of the timber.

Note: For jack planes and scrub planes whose blades have pronounced cambers, I sharpen the edge freehand.

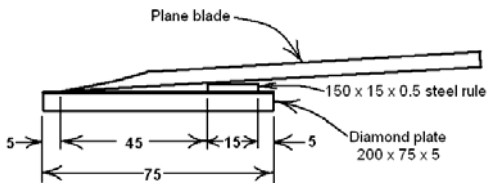
With the blade still held in the honing guide, I now rub the back of the blade flat on the extra fine diamond plate and again a couple of times on the bevel side and back side (using draw strokes). If in the mood, I might give the blade a final touch-up on an ultra fine ceramic stone.

After restoring the plane iron, as set out above, it gives me great pleasure to effortlessly shave a batch of hair from the back of my left arm; something I couldn't achieve before joining The Traditional Tools Group.

Back Bevels

If after a prolonged attempt to flatten the back of the blade by rubbing it flat on the diamond plate, the polished area remains elusively distant from the cutting edge, consideration might be given to applying a back bevel to the blade. (A back bevel might also be able to eliminate pitting on the back of the blade near the cutting edge.

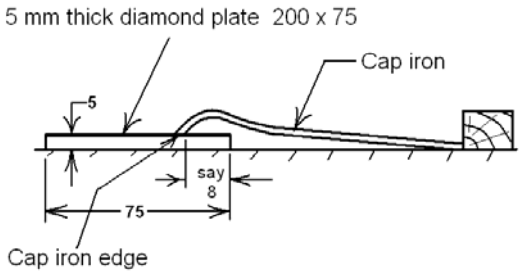
The back bevel is applied by rubbing the blade back and forth along the length of the diamond plate as below (i.e., by rubbing the blade into and out of the page in this diagram).



In this example the applied back bevel would be 0.64 degrees which would change the effective frog angle for a standard cast iron plane from 45 degrees to 45.64 degrees. This is of no consequence and in any case is in the right direction on the way towards an optimal frog angle for Australian hardwoods or gnarly timber (say 50 to 55 degrees).

Fitting the Cap Iron

At the beginning of this article, I told of how I used to have a problem with shavings jamming between the blade and cap iron on my #4. This was because the cap iron was not properly fitted to the blade. To closely fit the irons together, the contact edge of the cap iron must be flat like the back of the blade. This may usually be achieved as in the following diagram (i.e., by rubbing the cap iron into and out of the page).



The cap iron edge is flattened by moving the cap iron back and forth along the diamond plate. As the cap iron is made of mild steel and its edge is narrow, it does not take much effort to flatten its edge.

At the TTTG Sharpening workshops, Jim Davey is often asked "How far should the cap iron be set back from the blade edge?" Jim replies: "A millimetre or two." The enquirer is often taken aback by this response as some textbooks quote precise distances for different timbers and plane applications. In fact, as well as its duty of turning back the shaving away from the blade, a major function of the cap iron is to stiffen the double iron combination allowing a much thinner (and cheaper) blade to be provided by the plane maker.

To expedite and facilitate the turning and egress of the shaving, the rounded part of the cap iron should be polished transversely and longitudinally on the diamond plate (the latter with a drawing, rolling action) before the final polish on a dressed rotary stitched mop.

Lastly, the cap iron is screwed to the blade (with the cap iron screw) to form the double iron, that is the blade and cap iron combination.

Conclusion

After you go through the steps set out in this article and have fitted the double iron to a well-tuned plane, I'm sure you'll be delighted by how much better your plane works. ***The plane will sing like a bird!***

The sharing of ideas and techniques among members of TTTG is one of the major benefits of TTTG membership. I would welcome any suggestions as to how I can improve on the techniques I've pontificated on in this article.

TTTG Workshops on Planes

Sharpening Edge Tools

Sharpening and Plane Tuning

Both workshops repeated in early 2010

The Next TTGG Plane Workshop

Sunday October 25

Using Woodworking Tools 1

Sharpening and using bench planes

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

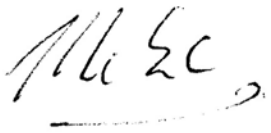
It's a long time since I have had time to annoy you, but your article on Block Making News 107, got me going as I have a little more to add to it. I have copied this out of my seven volume Machinery's Encyclopaedia, 1917 with 1925 supplement. I also have a 1960 single volume that I bought when doing my Fitting and Turning Apprentice-ship at Gore Hill that I still use at work.

I copied these six pages from the Machine Tools section and I think our members should be given the chance to read this in its complete form. Machine development has always interested me and I think this article sums up the history quite nicely. I believe that it is a fair and accurate summary of the dates and Key players involved.

Should you go ahead with this and there is positive feedback, I will dredge the memory and books on some other stuff that may be of interest. Such as measurement etc.etc.

One last thing, I do like the new A4 magazine, I think it will help to display all sorts of drawings and articles that have been, shall we say, Knocked Off.

All the Best,



M. C. HENDRIKSON OAM

Mikes' material will appear in a future issue of News.

If there is interest I will reprint more extracts from Rees' Encyclopaedia in future issues of News.

COVER PAGES

The image on the ***front cover*** is from Popular Mechanics February 1927.

Atkins Saws advertised aggressively in the 1920s. From 1925 to 1927 Atkins Saws ran a series of full page colour adverts in Popular Mechanics.

The other aggressive advertisers running full page colour adverts were the tobacco processors. In terms of graphical quality the Atkins adverts are as good as Fatima, Camel and Chesterfield.

The full colour Atkins adverts featured the character Mr Happy Man. In the adverts Mr Happy Man was shown using an Atkins Saw. The comic aspect was intentional!

It was hard to select the Mr Happy Man for the cover page and the advert for large cross saws with Mr Happy Man wearing a beaver hat almost made the News cover.

Inevitably other Atkins' Mr Happy Man will appear in future issues of News.

The ***back cover*** has an announcement for the 2009 Sydney Tool Sale & Swap.

Please read this carefully. If you want to be a vendor at this sale you have to contact Henry Black.

The 2009 Sydney Tool Sale is sponsored by TTTG and members get in at a reduced rate. Clynt will have the membership list at the door. Non members can sign up on the day provided they give Clynt money!

Note also that there is no early entry.

2009 Sydney Tool Sale & Swap Aug 16

Strathfield Men's Shed 26 Pomeroy St, Homebush (North Strathfield)

Gregory's / UBD Map Reference: C-6 on Map 341

RECORD No148 DOWELLING JIG

David Lynch Esq

The First time I can find the Record No 148 Dowelling Jig is in a 1971 publicity leaflet and it is listed as Patents Pending.

The No 148 was supplied with ¼" and ⅜" and two standard Slide Rods accepting boards up to 6" wide.

Additional bushes $\frac{5}{16}$" and rods of 12" and 18" capacity were also available.

In 1973/4 the Record No 148 Dowelling Jig was re-numbered M148 when Marples came part of Record Tools.

The M148 came complete with a detailed instruction manual, six pairs of metric and imperial hardened steel drill bushes ¼", $\frac{5}{16}$" and ⅜". 6mm, 8mm and 10mm. 6" slide rods and a separate G-Clamp.

Additional Slide Rods were also available in sizes 12", 18", 24", 30" and 36".

Extra bush carriers and fence were also available enabling additional dowels holes to be drilled.

The Record-Marples No M148 Dowelling Jig will cope with virtually every application where a dowel joint can be used.

This jig is fully adjustable in all directions. It is also a very easy jig to use with no marking out necessary.

The last listing I can find of the M148 is from a 1993 catalogue.

Edge to Edge

Shoot both boards with a trying plane. Man-made boards should not require planing. Both boards can be held in the vice together with face side marks outside. Set up the Jig as for normal carcase work, drill, invert the Jig and reposition it on the edge of the second board. If only two bush carriers are being used, reposition them, as necessary and repeat the procedure. Where the length of board is greater than the capacity of the Jig, remove the adjustable head and hold the Jig in position by hand and drill as described above (Fig. 15). In order to progress the Jig along the edge of the boards, remove the reference head. The first bush carrier can be located over a piece of dowel placed in the last drilled hole to accurately position any number of subsequent holes (Fig. 16).

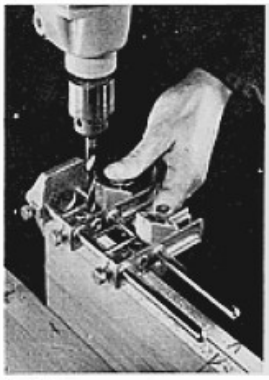


Fig. 15

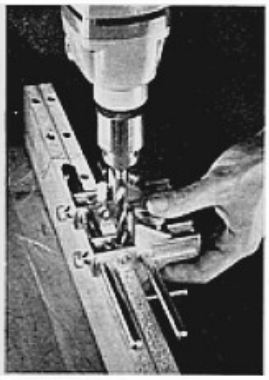


Fig. 16

End clamping of boards

This can be carried out in a similar way to edge to edge and end to end jointing, the boards positioned in the vice as Fig. 17.

After drilling one half of the joint, always remember to invert the Jig in order to keep its register faces against the marked faces of the job. This will bring flush all faces of the joint.

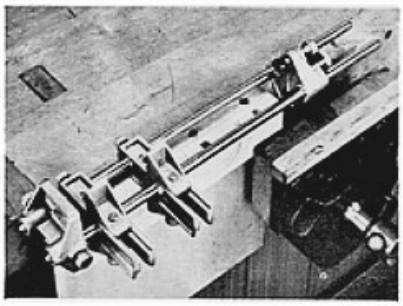
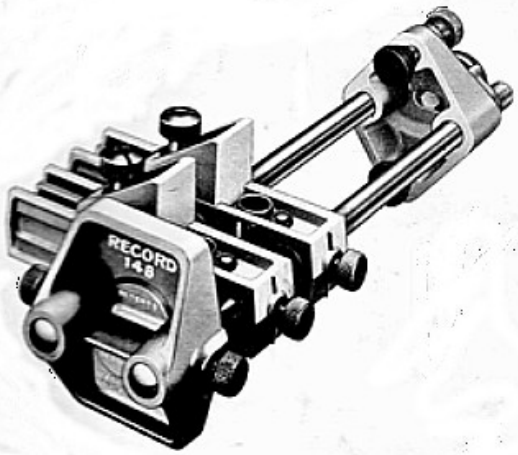


Fig. 17

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



Record

No. 148 DOWELLING JIG

RECORD RIDGWAY TOOLS LTD., PARKWAY WORKS, SHEFFIELD S9 3BL

News 109

Record Flooring Cramps

For more on Record Tools go to David's Web Site

There is a link on the TTTG Web Site

www.tttg.org.au

THE LEDGER

New Members

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

Michael Cosby	**M 529**
David Lynch	**M 530**
Maurizio Nannetti	**M 531**
Greg Etherington	**M 532**
Stephen Taylor	**M 533**
Darren O'Connell	**M 534**
Greg Varady-Szabo	**M 535**
Mario Pagano	**M 536**
Ray Walton	**M 537**
David Swaney	**M 538**
Catherine Seto	**M 539**
Len Traynor	**M 540**
Rosie Meharry	**M 541**
Michael Lightfoot	**M 542**
Phil Greenwood	**M 543**
Robert Balmer	**M 544**
Phillip Jacklin	**M 545**
Max Grant	**M 546**
Robbie Ashhurst	**M 547**
Chris Dukes	**M 548**

Secret Member

A member has sent me a Money Order for $30 (probably for a subscription) but the member has failed to include his, or her, name and address. The MO was purchased at Asquith Post Office on 13th July, 2009 (MO 35540176 74). Please let me know who you are at treasurer@tttg.org.au

Why we need your E-mail address

After each mailout of TTTG NEWS, we usually receive a few back stamped "Return to Sender, Not Known at this Address". When moving house a member has so many organizations to notify that it would be easy to forget TTTG. If we have your E-mail address, it's easy to contact you and find out where you now live.

Also if a time or venue for a TTTG event has to be changed at short notice then having your E-mail address would expedite letting you know. If you don't remember having previously sent us your E-mail address or if you've changed your E-mail address, please let me know at treasurer@tttg.org.au

When was that plane made?

At TTTG workshops, the question is often asked "When was my (cast iron) plane made?". There are several websites which can be helpful in dating metal planes:

The Stanley Bench Plane Page, http://www.hyperkitten.com/tools/stanley_bench_plane/

For details of Stanley Planes see The Superior Works: Patrick's Blood and Gore, http://www.supertool.com/StanleyBG/stan0a.

Stanley Plane Dating Flowchart, http://homepage.mac.com/galoot_9/ascii_dating_chart.html

RexMill.com Bench Plane Type Study, https://home.comcast.net/~rexmill/planes101/typing/typing.htm

For Canadian-made Stanleys try Canadian Stanley Bench Plane Trademarks, http://www.oldtoolsshop.com/Galoots/rBrophy/cdntm.html

For English-made Stanley-Bailey Planes, have a look at http://www.woodworkforums.com/archive/index.php/t-12634.html

For Record Planes, http://recordhandplanes.com/dating.html (see the link Record Hand Planes under NewLinks on TTTG's present webpage www.tttg.org.au

Linnwood

This photo shows TTTG Treasurer Clynt on one of the verandas at Linnwood demonstrating saw sharpening. Before taking the picture the photographer asked the numerous spectators to clear the decks to improve the lighting.

If you have not visited Linnwood you make a visit a high priority.

The building contains fine late nineteenth century joinery. Much of the original work is intact. The building has been somewhat neglected and has suffered from various adaptive usages over the years.

The next open day at Linnwood

Sunday September 13 'History Fair'

TTTG regularly attends the Linnwood open days. Members are encouraged to volunteer to assist on the TTTG Table.

TTTG and Linnwood

The Committee is planning a special TTTG meeting at Linnwood.

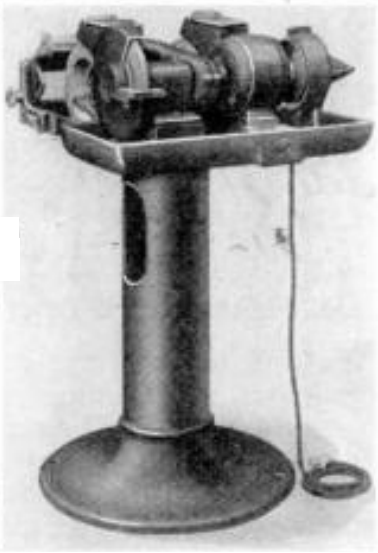
This will involve a conducted tour of the older section of the house with discussion on the architectural features.

A selection of Joiner's tools will be used to illustrate how the joinery was made.

Details will be announced late 2009

Oilstone Grinders

Plane bits, chisels, gouges, and other woodworkers' tools, which usually are ground on grindstones and edged on oilstones, may now be sharpened on an oilstone grinder. The machine is equipped with two oilstone wheels, kept constantly saturated with kerosene, or other oil, which flows, by capillary action and centrifugal force, from the centers of the stones to their outer surfaces, thus keeping the pores free cutting. The stones are effectively guarded, and are arranged with a table that acts as a tool rest. The table is also equipped with a sliding tool-holder, which has a micrometer feed. A cone, and a leather stropping wheel are mounted directly on the motor shaft.



Popular Mechanics March 1924

By 1912 Norton Abrasives included oilstone wheels in their catalogue.

Clearly Oilstone Grinders must have been developed before this date for the wheels to be mass produced by Norton. However there are few references to this category of machine.

Herman H Hjorth's 1933 USA textbook, Basic Woodworking Processes, has a good description of oilstone grinders.

The machine he illustrates used kerosene as a coolant. The grinding wheel was porous and drops of kerosene were drawn into the spinning wheel.

The 1912 Norton wheels may have been such porous wheels or they may have been circular oilstones.

Tool Review

- Incorporates all of the critical characteristics of a classic fine joinery saw, yet is executed using modern production processes and state-of-the-art materials.
- The 0.020" thick high-carbon steel blade features 14 rip-cut teeth per inch, having 0.003" of set per side.
- The teeth have a rake angle of 14° and an included angle of 60°.
- The revolutionary spine is injection molded under high pressure using an advanced material, incorporating stainless-steel powder for weight, glass fiber for stiffness and a polymer resin binder.
- The blade and stainless-steel handle-mounting bolt are completely over-molded, creating a solid one-piece blade/spine/mount assembly.
- A single brass fastener secures the bubinga handle, the shape of which has been derived from antique saws in the Lee Valley collection.
- The saw has excellent balance, cuts easily and true and has a comfortable pistol grip that makes the saw feel as if it's an extension of your arm.

The Veritas Dovetail Saw is a modern saw made to traditional specifications.

In two respects it is superior to traditional back saws.

The spline is lighter than a brass back and as rigid as a steel back. It is better than both in that it will not corrode and will not work loose.

The handle can work loose but unlike traditional saw handles it can be quickly and effectively tightened.

The saw's appearance is new but the saw's function is timeless.

This saw is perfectly balanced and cuts as well as the finest old saw.

The editor has had this saw tested in the field by some Year 12 high school boys.

Four months of sawing dovetails in 22mm mahogany and general fine joint cutting and the saw is still straight and sharp.

The editor has demonstrated the saw at TTTG Workshops. Everyone who can use a saw correctly comments on the balance of the saw and the thinness of the kerf.

The saw may seem expensive but for such quality it is an excellent investment.

Order this saw from Jim Davey at the TTTG Sharpening Workshop July 26.

Magazine Review

Planes based on old Bailey patterns are being made by quality manufacturers. Clifton and Lie Nielson make planes based on the Bed Rock plane. These are top quality planes made in the UK and USA and are expensive.

Inevitably copies of these planes are being made in China, India and Mexico.

There have been several recent magazine reviews of these lookalike planes.

Fine Wood Working August 2009 reviewed Woodcrafts' Wood River Planes.
The article is worth reading even though some of the conclusions are at variance with this writers experiences.

In a FW blog a more detailed comparison of all the bedrock type planes was given.

This is reproduced below.

Popular Woodworking June 2009 review 'Bed Rocks from Abroad' examines Borg and Wood River Planes comparing them with Lie-Nielson and Clifton. This is a more detailed and useful review.

Popular Woodworking's editor stresses that he buys the tools that he reviews and distances himself from any commercial advantage. He also has some traditional skills and a personal interest in old style hand tools.

Both reviewers found serious faults with Wood River planes. All the faults come down to inferior machining and poorly re-designed and assembled components.

A common conclusion from both reviewers suggests that fifty percent of these cheap planes are faulty.

In a few slow moments at the recent Expo Jim and I discussed these planes. Jim was keen to examine the new premium Stanley planes being made in Mexico. A few days after the Expo I had an email from Jim with his observations after examining these planes.

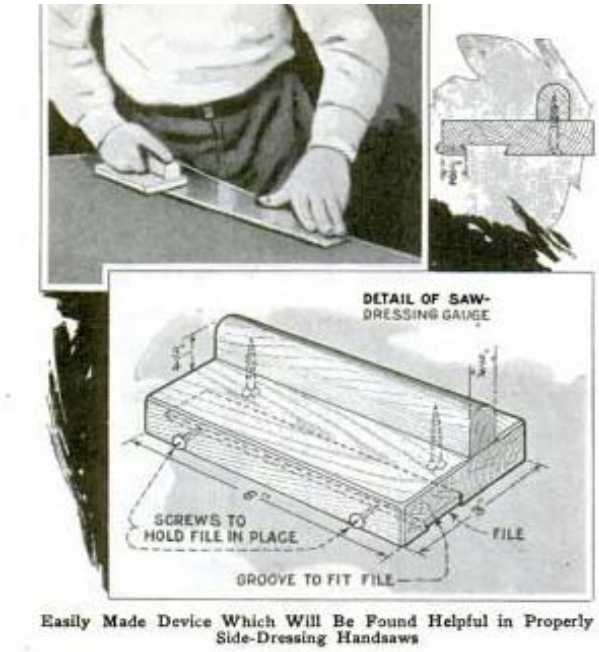
Jim Davey comments on the new Stanley and Wood River planes

Checked out the latest Stanley (made in Mexico) planes yesterday and "you get what you pay for". Pressed metal Lateral adjustment lever and poor machining let them down. It is a similar story with the new Wood River planes being made in China.

	Width x Length	Weight	Chipbreaker	Blade	Width of frog	Frog material	Lever-cap material	Knob size	Handle thickness
Bedrock No. 5	2.400 x 14	4 lb. 8 oz.	0.072 x 2 x 4-7/8	0.100 x 2 x 6-7/8	1.995	Steel	Steel	All the same	0.900
Lie-Nielsen No. 5	2.435 x 13-15/16	5 lb. 4 oz.	0.062 x 2 x 5-1/4	0.118 x 2 x 6-1/2	2.100	Bronze	Bronze	All the same	1.000
Wood River No. 5	2.448 x 13-15/16	5 lb. 9 oz.	0.112 x 2 x 4-7/8	0.120 x 2 x 7-9/16	1.940	Steel	Steel	All the same	0.950

Fine Woodworking's blog comparison of Bedrock, Lie-Nielson and Wood River No. 5 Planes

Saw Side Dressing Tool



Easily Made Device Which Will Be Found Helpful in Properly Side-Dressing Handsaws

The editor has always used an oilstone to side dress saw teeth. This has always been a perfunctory affair at best. The results of this light swipe on the oilstone have always seemed satisfactory but this insert from 1929 has raised my doubts.

To see if there is a better way the editor has made up one of these devices. The outlay in materials and labour has been minimal. This is a real scrap box job!

All you need to make this device is a piece of 150mm X 75mm stuff, and a piece of 150mm x 20mm stuff, preferably nice bits of hardwood such as jarrah or oak. That said any reasonably dense timber will do.

Of course the size of file really dictates the dimensions so feel free to change the sizes to suit the file!

I suggest a hand second cut or hand smooth file as the sides are parallel. The groove is easily cut by various hand methods such as using a small grooving plane followed by a router plane.

I will bring the device to the workshop!

Gauge for Side-Dressing Handsaws

Ordinarily the sharpening of saws is a difficult task for the amateur. The accuracy and smoothness with which the sharpened saw cuts depends as much on the operation of side dressing as it does on the filing of the teeth. A slight variation in the setting of the teeth causes the saw to cut roughly and to "run," and it is therefore necessary to side-dress them with a slightly worn file. Doing this by hand is not likely to produce an accurate job as it tends to dress the teeth unevenly. It is much better, therefore, to use the gauge shown in the illustration. It consists of a hardwood block, with a groove plowed on one side to receive a file or a piece of a file, which is held in place by means of two brass screws inserted in the edge of the block at right angles to the groove. A handle is attached parallel to the groove which holds the file. Tilting the gauge so that the block does not ride on the saw destroys its efficiency. The difference between the depth of the groove and the thickness of the file represents the amount of set that will result. In case the gauge is to be used for saws needing varying degrees of set, simply cut the groove deep enough to take care of the greatest set, and use shims to raise the file for the smallest set. Saws to be used in dry hardwood require very little set, while saws that are to be used in soft, wet wood need more set, besides having coarser teeth.—K. L. Julson, Butte, Mont.

Popular Mechanics February 1929

Saw Sharpening Workshop

27 September

Accurate sawing needs sharp saws!
Learn how to sharpen and set saws
All basic tools are provided

Files and some old saw-sets for sale

Your saw will be as sharp as new!

Side dressing clearing explained.

Blacksmithing Workshops

The TTTG blacksmithing workshops are always well attended. Given the limits of the venue the workshops cover a large range of blacksmithing skills. However it has to be admitted that lack of space and equipment does sometimes constrain the scope and activities of the workshop.

News Venue

TTTG has arranged a new venue for the blacksmithing workshops. In future these workshops will be held at;

SYDNEY MARITIME MUSUEM ROZELLE

The next blacksmithing workshop will be announced in News 110

Some of our happy blacksmiths at our last Blacksmith Workshop at Asquith Boy's High

A Versatile Vice

Mike Williams

Whilst in the UK recently, I came across an interesting vice which my brother-in-law was using to hold bits of wood which he was sawing up for firewood.

Of fairly large proportions, (it must have weighed at least 30kg) it had a very strange arrangement on the moveable jaw which my brother-in-law demonstrated.

The moveable jaw was in fact composed of two halves, both of which could rotate if a square piece of rod was removed. The idea behind this was that the jaws could rotate to hold securely, quite large round objects in a vertical direction. Furthermore, the half jaws could be rotated the other way to hold smaller round objects the same way.

Fig 1. One side of the vice showing "Brevete", French for "Patented".

As far as my brother-in-law knows, the vice belonged to his grandfather who had worked in the aircraft industry at Handley-Page. The brand name Noveto is probably a phonetic contraction of Nouveau étau or French for New vice, confirming its French origins. I took several photographs for later research but my brother-in-law has now found an entry in Dec 2nd 1937 issue of "Flight" where Burgess Products Co Ltd of Leicester announced that they had just introduced the Burgess-Noveto vice to the aircraft industry "designed to grip any irregular shape". Was this vice ever used outside of the aircraft industry and have any of our readers seen other examples?

Fig 2, the other side of the vice with the brand "Noveto 110"

Fig 3. With the square bar removed to allow the jaws to rotate.

Fig 4. The jaws rotated to hold a large pipe section.

Fig. 5. Counter-rotated jaws to hold a smaller pipe

Request

Peter Evans

Old Auction Catalogues

I am interested in examining old auction catalogues, and wish to borrow copies for review and for selective scanning.

If there are any members who have old auction catalogues that I could borrow, please let me know either at peterevans@tttg.org.au or 0419 245 699.

Old Tool Books

I would also like to borrow copies of the following books;

-Tool Tales.
Kean, Herbert P. 2002

-Scottish and English Metal Planes. A summary of history and inventory of Spiers and Norris planes.
Roberts, K. 1991

- The Cutting Edge - an exhibition of Sheffield tools Exhibition Ruskin Gallery 4 July to 3 October 1992.
Barnes, J & Hey, D.
Ruskin Gallery, Sheffield. 1992

- Woodworking Tools: Christie's Collector's Guide,
Proudfoot, C & Walker, P. 1984

- Thomas Napier The Scottish Connection
A study of Thomas Napier, Plane maker of Edinburgh
Bates, A G.
EAIA & MWTCA Publication, 1986

- The Wooden Plane.
Martin, R.
E.A.I.A., 1977

- The American Cabinetmaker's Plow Plane Its Design and Improvement 1700-1900
Moody, J.1981

- Wooden Plow Planes A Celebration of the Plane maker's Art Rosebrook D. & Fisher D. 2003

- Plane makers and Other Edge Tool Enterprises in New York State in the Nineteenth Century.
Roberts, K. & Roberts J.1971

- The Stanley Little Big Book - A Comprehensive Pocket Price Guide For Rules, Levels And Other Stanley Tools
Blanchard, C. 2007

- The Axe and Man
Heavrin, C. 1998

- Embossed American Axes: A Photographic Guide.
Grismer J.T. & Kendrick C.H. 1986

- Patented American Sawsets: An Illustrated Patent Directory 1812-1925
Friberg, T. 1996

The American Patented Brace 1829-1924
Pearson, R W.1994

- North Brothers' Manufacturing Company Product Guide
Ward, J W. Baraboo, Wisconsin, 2000

- Stanley Tape Measures, the First 40 Years
Wanamaker, G. 2008

-History of the Woodworking Plane: From the Stone Age to the Development of Woodworking Factories in the Early 19th Century. 2 volumes.
Greber, J M.
Translation Burchard, S W.
Reprint 1991

NEWS 107 Comments

TTTG News 107 asked the reader to comment on the format and the layout of News. News 106 had two columns but News 107 had a single column. In truth this reversion to single column was an attempt by the editor to get some feed-back from the readers.

Brian Read* TATHS Editor *has taken the time to comment on News 107.

I'm in the middle of editing TATHS News Letter 105 and it is not going well, so I am possibly hyper-critical at the moment, but here are my thoughts as you requested. I'm always talking about the layout - not the content, which is nearly as good as ours - like your cricket team!

I like the change to single columns in general, particularly in the colour sections. It enables illustrations to be spaced better on the pages than the two column style I use, and still leaves room for a reasonable slab of text alongside.

JD's pages 8 and 9 are a good example. Not certain about page 15 though - I feel that a centre picture has fallen out and left a big white hole. I think I would have brought the two images closer together. I prefer fully justified text but that is a personal quirk that I know is not universal. Left justified works on the left hand page but to my mind is a little ragged looking on the right hand one.

The modern text is very sharp and clear, although has the printing plate been over-inked a little? This is a problem I have with our printers from time to time and it shows up in slightly blurred pictures and very shiny lettering when bold.

I'm writing this with a strong side-light on the News 107 and page 18 and 19 are positively glistening but the lettering on the scanned material is fuzzy at the edges.

Pages 21and 25 look a bit blurry - was this expanded to fit or is it off the net? It's always a trade off of file size against printed out clarity and what looks good on screen can be poor on the page.

How do you scan your old material? I use 400dpi or, if I am expecting to have to expand the image a lot, 600dpi. My printer says 300dpi is quite OK for the final image but this gives me room to crop and blow-up where it is needed. Does take up a lot of disk space though. Do you use any form of correction for the original halftone images? I can't seem to find one that works.

I like the fact that you haven't tried to remove the background colour in the scan on page 26, it frames the text neatly and saves the problem of proofreading it.

I am surprised that you haven't kept all the colour images on the same side of the sheet. My printer says this is the easiest way to reduce costs because you only need one colour printing plate not two. I have gone to the extent of folding a sheet of paper, coloured on one side, in the same way that the printer folds his printed sheets and making sure that I keep to that when laying out. I put a temporary coloured header-bar at the top of the blank Newsletter layout in the DTP program I use to remind me. I have to remember to take it off again before converting to a PDF file for the printer though.

Bob Crosbie, TTTG Editor, replies to Brian Read

Brian, thank you for your comments, they are gratefully received. Well Brian so far it is you, me and one other reader in favour of the single column text but the arguments in support of two columns come down to the notion that they make News look more like a proper publication so for the present we will revert to the two column format although we will try to invoke single column when it suits the illustrations as per your suggestion.!

You raise interesting questions about the production of our publications. Perhaps some discussion of how News is printed might be of some interest to readers.

As editor I select the material for News. This often means writing a far amount of the content. Once I have selected the material I format each page and do the layout. Increasingly images and even old text is derived from digitalised sources. The scanning quality of this material is variable which explains some of the

washed out images you refer to in your comments on News 107.

I prefer working from print material. The reality is that old books and magazines are frequently only available in public or private collections often with difficult or restricted access. Sometimes they turn up by chance as donations or at sales.

Mike Williams, TTTG Sub-Editor, replies to Brian Read

Once again, many thanks Brian for your valued comments. You probably realise that I did not sub-edit News 107; this task was ably done by our Treasurer whilst I was away in the UK, probably at the same time as I was having a beer with you in Derby. Our Treasurer was probably not *au fait* with some of the little tricks that I have acquired as sub-editor over many years of editing News!

I agree with you that in some cases, where there are a number of pictures of different sizes, single column format allows you a much greater degree of layout freedom and there have been times when I have reverted in the past to single column just to achieve this. As you know, it merely involves inserting a section break and changing the format within the new section. Surprisingly, (well to me at least) two-column format usually fits more text into a page than single column**.** This is because the paragraph breaks only extend across half the page so every paragraph break saves one line of text.

The fuzziness of some of the reproduced text is due to our source material. As you will be aware vintage brochures and magazines were usually printed on fairly low quality paper and any attempt to increase the image size adds to the fuzziness, however fine a resolution you have used to scan the original.

It is not quite so obvious in reproduced photographs unless they contain a myriad of sharp edges. I use sharpening software to try to redress the effect but sometimes this is unsuccessful as it makes the type (and some parts of photographs) rather specular. I then either retype out the text or, if there is a large amount of it, use some character recognition software to recreate the text.

I agree that the images on Page 27 of News 107 could have done with a bit of sharpening and contrast enhancement, as could have several others. I'm not sure whether our Treasurer had sharpening software at his disposal.

News is a team effort. The Editor and the Sub-Editor are the most visible players but the regular contributors are the back-bone of the publishing process.

The Editor's Task and Request for Contributions

TTTG encourages readers to submit contributions to News. The editor always suggests contributions are best submitted as plain word documents with separate images.

Ideally the author should pencil-in suggestions for the inclusion of images.

Contributors often put a lot of effort into formatting their contributions. **This wastes considerable time** as the document invariably has to be reformatted to fit it into the rest of the newsletter. As Editor, I have to have the right to edit all the copy .When this editor receives an electronic document he follows this procedure. First save and print out the contribution. Then read the contribution and evaluate the words and the images. Next paste the document as unformatted text. And then delete all images. The text is then formatted with the images copied and pasted from the original text and any corrections made to grammar, spelling and punctuation.

John Daniel, author of ***JD's***, is my most reliable contributor. He has his articles typed and prints individual photos with suggestions for placement pencilled on the back! I send John a proof copy and he either approves or suggests any minor changes he wants me to make.

Sometimes the editor has to make hard decisions. Unnecessary footnotes may have to be removed or spurious claims deleted. This can lead to some criticism from the authors. Occasionally a heavily edited article has been praised on publication, the editor's role being ignored!

Saws and Saw Handles

A letter from Ken Hawley

I received recently a copy of TTTG News 106 April 2009 which has your article regarding Saw Handle Making. Whilst I cannot answer all your questions, I have some comments which may (I hope) be of some use to you.

Saw Nibs

As an aside, regarding saw nibs, without doubt this has always been a decorative feature, in the eighteenth century forming part of the toe of the saw. Over the years the pattern has changed and has lost its sense of purpose and has become somewhat meaningless, however these are my thoughts on the subject. The rest of this letter mostly regarding saw handles.

Saw Handles

The saw handle trade has been in existence in Sheffield since the mid 1750's. The earliest reference to the Saw Handle makers' protection Society is in 1847, when a pricelist or statement 'agreed upon by deputations of Six Journeymen and Six Masters'.

This statement gives: -
1) Prices for saw handle making
2) Prices for handling [saws]
3) Prices for 'making up' saw handles.

A later edition of 1891 shows 'Prices for cutting out and planing saw handles by machinery'. There is too much detail to be gone into here, much of it is in the language of the trade and period and so can be difficult to understand and to interpret, but we are getting there!

It also omits what tools were used to do the job with, and make a difficult job easy, the saw handle maker's floats and rasps, the special S.H.M Centre bits in six sizes for countersinking screw holes etc and many others are in the Hawley Collection.

Saw Handle Patterns

Saw handles up to World War Two were made in two patterns:-
1) With Crooked Horns,
2) With Straight Horns or London Pattern.
Any other terminology is spurious and should be avoided.

Saw Handle Qualities

The handles with crooked horns were made in several qualities each with a range of sizes:-

1st quality is {London} Spring handles in full or plain pattern.
2nd ditto is Cast Steel handles.
3rd ditto is German Steel handles.
4th ditto is Lupton Handles. (don't ask!)
5th ditto is Common Handle

The Price Lists for these are for making only.

Saw Handling

Saw Handling is a separate job with only one price list issued for most qualities with extras for working ebony and hard woods etc large screw countersinking.

Many other tools came under this trade, not just saws, Mincing Knives, Sugar Cane Knives, Sleekes for Tanners, Paper Knives, they also made plane handles.

The last Sheffield handle maker

I don't propose to go into production details here, except to say that in the early 1990's I filmed the last saw handle maker at work in Sheffield, Douglas Pope. He used modern machining techniques, the finishing was done on hand abrasive belt threaded through the hand hole, the sides were sanded on a four feet diameter sanding disc.

Regarding the 1937 Woodworker magazine article, Messrs Spear and Jackson would be horrified to think that Marples (who never made saws) made handles that were 'unbreakable'!

Saw Pricing

Pricing saws will probably remain a secret forever, there are too many operations, people, discounts, and plussages on price lists as time went on, these still using the nineteenth century price lists in the mid twentieth century as a basis for the discussion!

We know exactly how much wood chisels and brace bits cost to make at William Marples, The Hawley Collection have the warehouse cost books.

I rescued the ledgers, invoices, purchase sales, letters etc of B&J Wilcox Saw Makers that had been abandoned, they will throw much further light on how the Sheffield Saw Trade worked. I do know that they exported saws to Australia. One letter from Australia is asking how they are getting on after the Germans blitzed Sheffield on several occasions. I hope to live long enough to look at this material again!

The USA

The USA has a distinct advantage over the UK in that its home market was many times larger than ours. The USA put tariffs on imports making it difficult to do business at an economic rate, however thousands of tons of saw plate were sent from Sheffield for them to be made up. In times of depression in Sheffield many of our workmen emigrated taking their skills with them. Sheffield also had union problems in the mid nineteenth century. The Saw Grinders Union were not above murder to make their members comply with what they thought should be done. It took a Parliamentary enquiry to sort the problem out.

Perhaps it is not well known, but someone has to pay for wars, the USA in both wars benefited greatly, the UK had to pay them for all the material sent over, we have been paying the debt back for years! That is why the UK had to export all it could after World War Two.

Sheffield then and now

Now, in 2009, there is virtually nothing left of this once vast manufacturing city. I started work aged fourteen in 1941. I saw it at its peak and I now see it a shadow of its former being.

The Hawley Collection

I am sorry that this information leaves much to be desired and it is time consuming to pass much of this information on to you, maybe after the next year you may wish to pay us a visit and see for yourself some of what we have including (I am told) six hundred saws for wood, examples of saw plate production, in the block up to finished, saw handle marker's tools, patterns, catalogues, price lists etc.

Price Fixing

Incidentally the selling price of saws was fixed, up to 1970 when the Government abolished retail price maintenance, by the Saw Manufacturer's Association.

The system had been in place since the eighteenth century. I looked at a late nineteenth century price list for saws to the Far East and prices were quoted as being list price less 75%!

Some Terms from the Saw Handle Makers' Statement

-ON COMMON SAW HANDLES

'Open Back & Untongued'

-ON SPRING CAST STEEL HANDLES

'If Swaged'
refers to the back formed to a Vee with a central ridge.

*THE TERM LONDON PATTERN IS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE STATEMENT OF PRICES.

Ken Hawley's Letter

Ken's letter is in my opinion the best source of information on saws so far written and should be read as a supplement to the publication The Cutting Edge, An Exhibition of Sheffield Tools. The letter contains some comments meant only for my ears but I am going to generalise these observations as I believe they are a caution for students of saws.

'I don't usually write letters to people but when I read the article in News 106 I realised that someone was asking the right questions and getting all the wrong answers!'

Ken is very critical of a prominent author on saws and has expressed a forthright suggestion as to the disposal of his books. He has asked me not to name the author. Much that has been written recently on saws uses this author's terminology and assumptions. The situation is worsened by the online discussions that tend to perpetuate unsubstantiated assumptions. Research is not quoting opinions posted on the web!

As the author of the article in News 106 I was greatly encouraged by Ken's reply to continue asking the right questions and to remain critical of spurious arguments.

The Hawley Collection

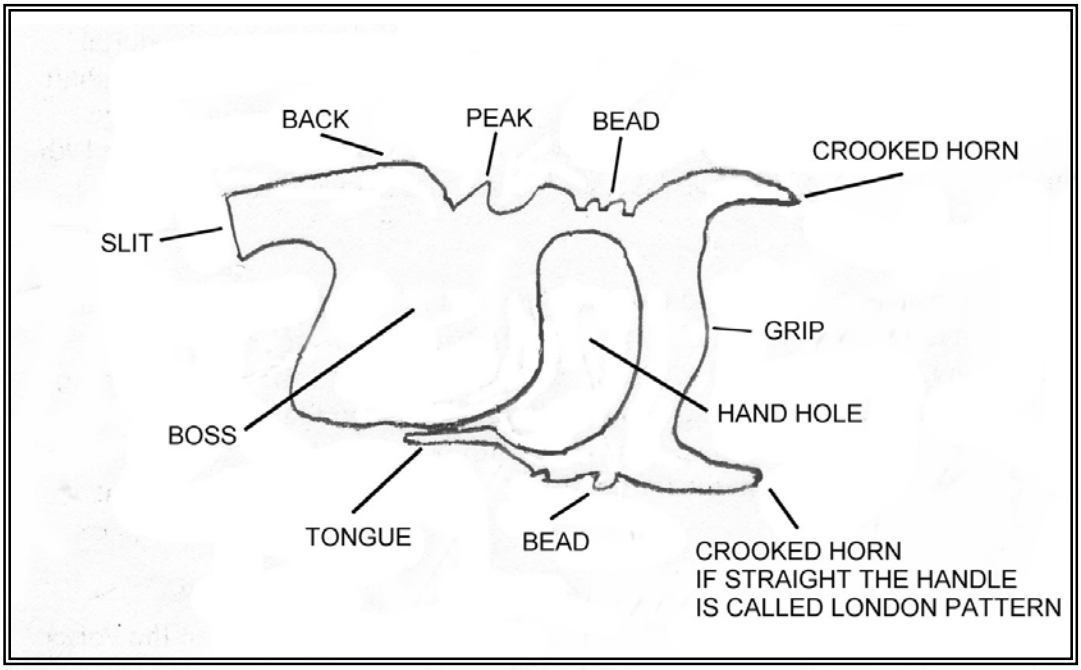
The Hawley Collection is owned by a Trust and is housed in a building at the University of Sheffield. Next year however we hope to have moved to a new building, currently under construction, at the Kelham Island Industrial Museum.

We shall have enough room to display some of our collection-we don't have room to do that where we are! We probably have in excess of one hundred thousand items. Today in the library it was noticed the storage racking had failed due to the weight of catalogues! The racking is heavy supermarket racking and the weight had punched a hole through the floor with one of the uprights. I decided to put safety stays in place rather than remove the catalogues to do a complete repair.

We have several thousand catalogues of tools and cutlery sourced from across the world, our earliest is 1806 up to 2009.

I spend five days a week there from 9.30am to 2pm. There is so much to do and learn. I never tire of it.

Ken Hawley



THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP INC.

SYDNEY TOOL SALE & SWAP

SUNDAY, 16th AUGUST, 2009

Henry Black's 2009 Sydney Tool Sale & Swap
in conjunction with The Traditional Tools Group Inc.

The Sale will be held at the Strathfield Men's Shed

26 POMEROY STREET, HOMEBUSH (NORTH STRATHFIELD)
Gregory's / UBD Map Reference: C-6 on Map 341

DOORS OPEN AT 9 am **$8 Entry ($5 TTTG Members)**

DO NOT MISS IT!

Persons wishing to sell their tools at the sale should contact Henry direct:

Phone: 9744 7875 After Hours E-mail: lil_blackie@hotmail.com