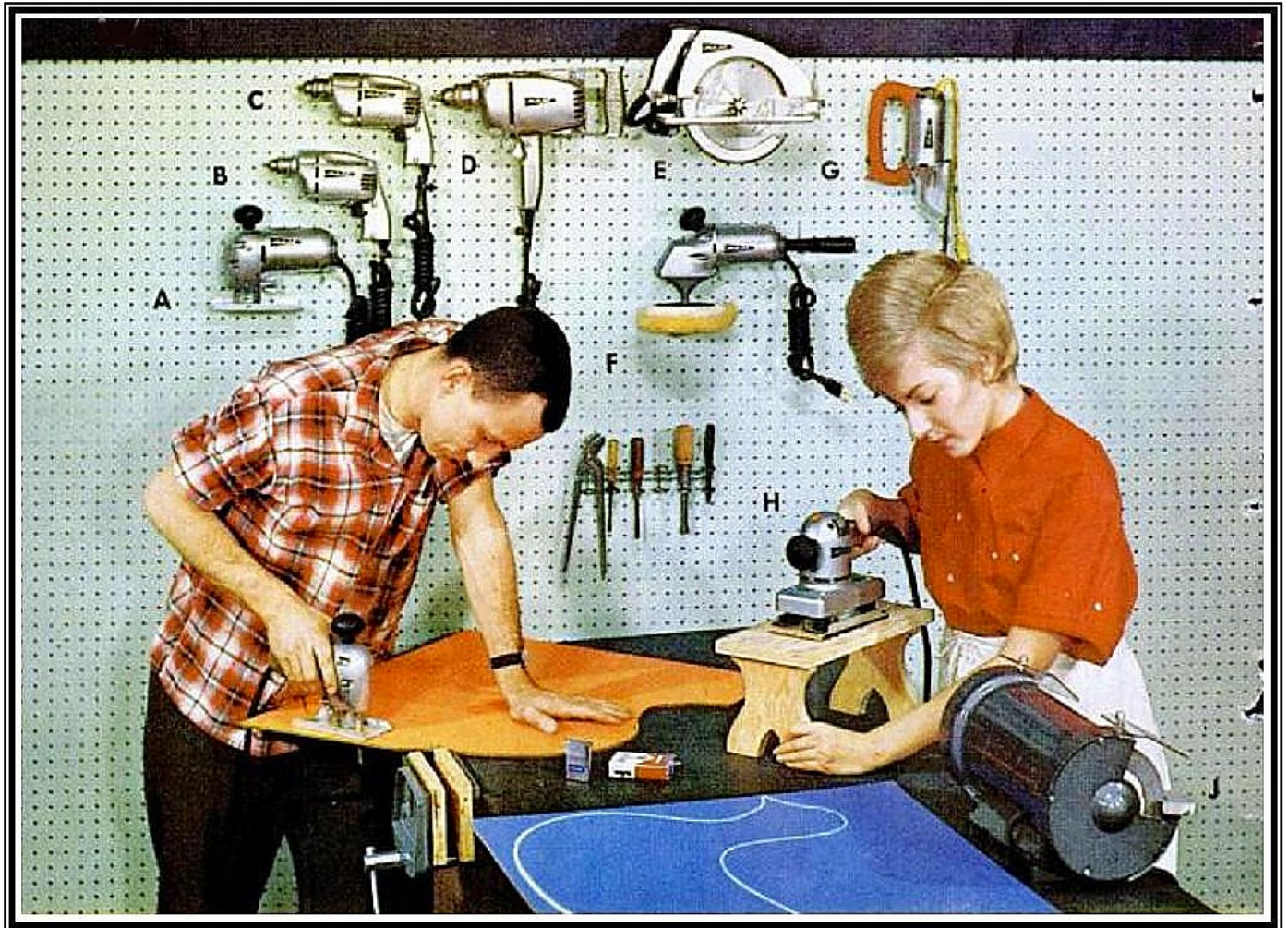


# NEWS

# 117



February 2011

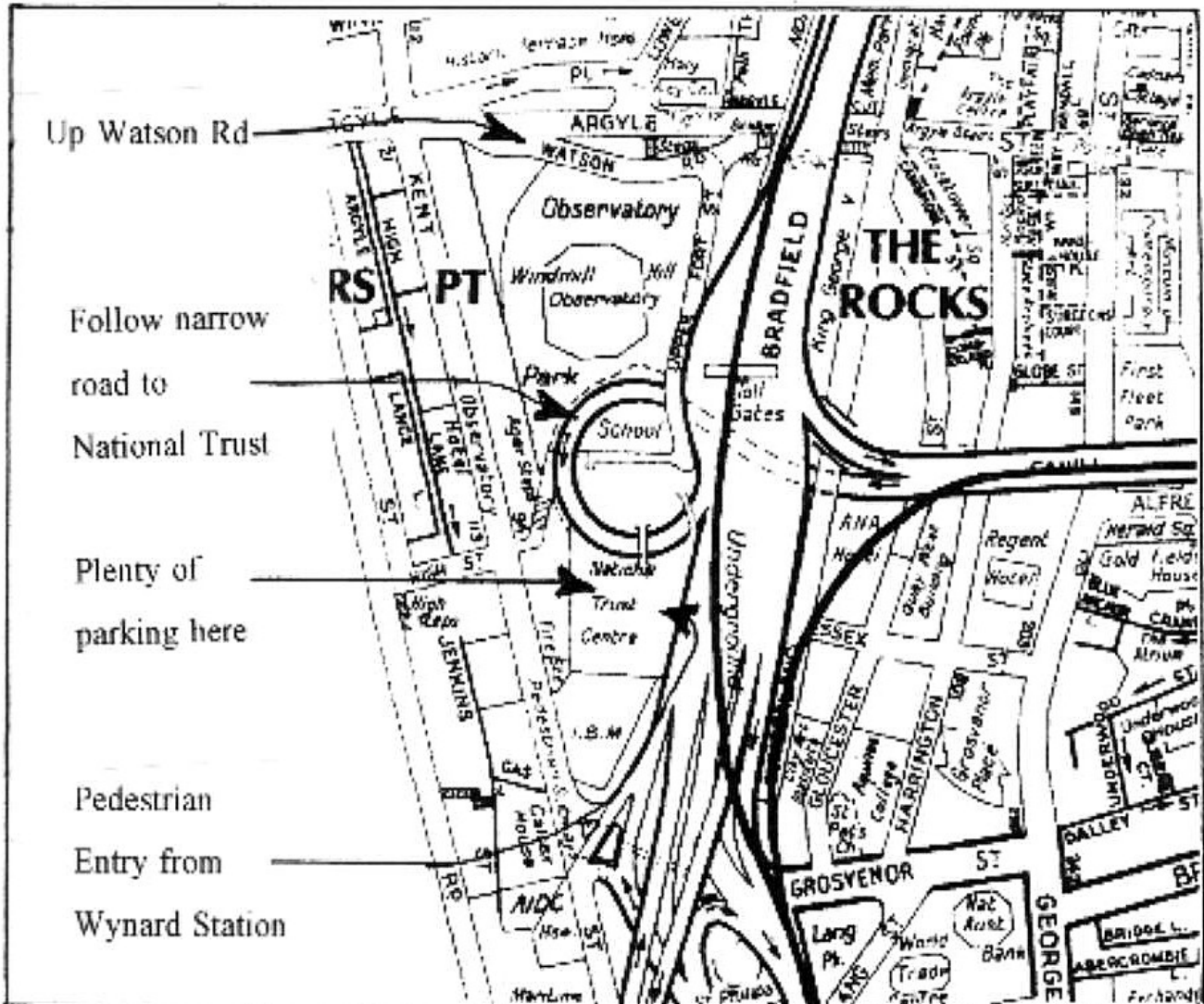
TTTG Inc

[www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)

**Next Meeting: Tuesday February 8**

**Annie Wyatt Room National Trust Centre Observatory Hill**

**Entry \$5. Doors open at 7pm Topic: Repairing Traditional Tools**



**Postal Address**

P.O. Box N240 Grosvenor Place  
Sydney NSW 1220

**Membership \$35**

**Enquires**

Mike Williams 02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie [crosbie.bob@gmail.com](mailto:crosbie.bob@gmail.com)

[www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)

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## Cover



*Popular Science April 1963*

The Jetson family doing home shop? Mom may be having trouble controlling the sander but Pop can use a Jig Saw. *When the wood dust cuts in they can light up a smoke from the pack on the bench.* No OH&S and health concerns here!

### **The TTTG Library**

The Library is in a secure location and books can be reserved by contacting the TTTG Librarian by logging on [www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)

A list of the Library contents is on the web page

### **The TTTG Tool Collection**

Work has commenced on the cataloguing of the TTTG Tools

In time the collection will be expanded by acquiring more tools suitable for demonstration and public display.

TTTG will continue to accept donations of tools and books

### **2011 TTTG TOOL SALE**

*13 MARCH* Asquith Boys H.S.

*Entry \$5* Details pages 5 & 36

## **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday February 8**

**Annie Wyatt Room  
National Trust Centre  
Observatory Hill**

## **Next Meeting**

### **Repairing traditional Tools**

John Daniel has suggested that we hold an event entitled the “President’s Challenge” where a wreck of a plane is restored to working order through the skills of our members. More of the details can be found on Page 15 but John will bring along the “patient” on the night for us to discuss the possible actions to be taken. This will introduce us to the more general topic of repairing tools to working order and many examples of repaired tools will be presented for discussion. The presentations will skirt around the hotly debated topic of “restore or not restore” that rages continually. The evening will instead concentrate on user tools that have to be repaired to work effectively and will cover such areas as plane mouth repairs, plane handle repairs, white ant damage repairs and metal repairs. There will be a plethora of examples to delight the audience, some fully repaired, some “bodged” into usefulness and some in their original sorry state awaiting the enthusiast. I’m sure that the presentation will enthuse many of our members to attend the “Tool Repairs” Workshop in April.

### **The Auction**

*The Treasurers’ unexpected absence from the last meeting the postponed the auction.*

The next auction promises to be an event offering numerous inexpensive items to an eager and expectant audience.

*There will be many bargains on offer.*

## **Previous Meeting**

**Tuesday December 14  
The Columns from Burdekin  
House and Colonial Joinery**

*The Annie Wyatt Room is currently the resting place of four wooden columns, standing each side of the fireplace.*

These are four of the ten columns which graced the front of Burdekin House and are of painted Baltic pine. Burdekin House was built on the west side of Macquarie Street, Sydney in 1841 for Thomas Burdekin who was a General Goods Merchant and Ironmonger.

*The house was demolished in 1933 and the columns may be all that remains of this elegant Colonial building.*

The previous meeting discussed the way in which these columns were made, and presented a selection of period tools. Other colonial joinery was used to illustrate the theme of the talk, including the surviving early joinery in the Annie Wyatt Room.

The speaker based the presentation on illustrations from an early twentieth century textbook. For a brief discussion of another early version of how columns were made turn to page 35.

**Lie Nielson**  
**HAND TOOL EVENT**  
**Two Day Event!**  
February 18-19, 2011  
**Sturt School for Wood**  
**Mittagong**  
**TTTG WILL BE THERE**

## **2011 TOOL SALE**

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

**TTTG needs volunteers to help on the day; manning gates, directing traffic and parking.**

**If you could lend a hand please contact Horacio on [HRodrigues@hatch.com.au](mailto:HRodrigues@hatch.com.au)**

## **2011 TOOL SALE**

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Asquith Boys' High School**

**Are you a seller and would like a table?**

**TTTG is providing sellers' tables (1.8m x 0.8m) for your merchandise. Cost of Table Hire is only \$40 each. Access to Hall for Table setup between 7&8am on the day of the sale.**

**Entry and Parking for Sellers is via Jersey Street North.**

**Enquiries and Table Booking:**

**[clyntsheelhy@tttg.org.au](mailto:clyntsheelhy@tttg.org.au) or tel. (02)9416 7134**

## Previous TTTG Workshops

12<sup>th</sup> December 2010

### Hands On Workshop

Strathfield Men's Shed

Everything we set out to achieve was achieved! The TTTG Room now has a floor and a secure door. The majority of the machines were sold and some unwanted tools found new owners.

***The Barnes' Lathe did not sell; any reasonable offer will be accepted.***

The majority of the TTTG Library is now located in one place! The TTTG Librarian is developing a simple system of loaning books by online reservation and pick up at the general meeting.

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011

### Essential Tools for Working Wood

Asquith Boys High School

*What tools do you need?  
How much will the tools cost?  
Where can you buy the tools?  
How do you sharpen the tools?  
How do you use the tools?*

This workshop addressed these questions and provided sound advice on the most cost effective way to start wood working.

*Jim Davey had a large selection of tools and sharpening equipment for sale.*



## PLANES

FULLY FETTLED (TUNED) AND SHARP  
STANLEY BAILEY, BEDROCK & BLOCK PLANES  
FETTLING SERVICE, REPAIRS, WELDING

TRADE PRICES ON:



DMT DIAMOND PLATES - DIA-SHARP PLATES



ICE BEAR & KING WATERSTONES

M2 HSS ACADEMY BLADES, LEATHER CHISEL ROLLS AND COVERS



AGENT FOR CARBA-TEC

CREDIT CARD FACILITIES:



VISA



**Jim Davey**

Ph 02 4447 8822(W) 4447 8790(AH) PO Box 967 Nowra NSW 2541

JDAVEY@bigpond.com [www.jimdavey-planes-sharpening.com](http://www.jimdavey-planes-sharpening.com)

## **The TTTG President's**

### **2011 Armchair Chat**

There was a discussion on the radio the other day about whether the President of the United States of America should give a telecast fire side chat to bring Americans together after yet another gun related tragedy. Well it is a bit hot in Sydney for lighting the fire and TTTG isn't in the aftermath of an unfortunate incident but I thought I might put a few words on paper to fire up the TTTG members.

Editorials in NEWS have long ceased to be a regular feature but sometimes there is information that needs to be sent to the TTTG members. So I will now give a broad over view of the condition of TTTG.

### ***TTTG's Finances***

Due to the TTTG Treasurer's policy of very conservative financial rectitude the TTTG bank balance is very healthy. TTTG took some bold initiatives in 2011 which did increase expenditure. However the cash we have in the bank continues to grow at a steady rate.

### ***What bold initiatives?***

The editor would like to believe that the subtle changes to NEWS are the obvious bold imitative. We have reached the point where the only way to improve the TTTG newsletter is to spend more money on glossy paper. If TTTG gets a sponsor with deep pockets the editor will go in this direction. At the moment he will continue to concentrate on interesting content and attractive layout. The colour cover pages are expensive but worth the cost. Glossy paper would be squandering TTTG's hard earned revenue.

*The TTTG editor is always open to reader's suggestions and welcomes submissions for publication in NEWS. The guideline for authors is to 'keep it simple'.*

While we are considering NEWS, readers may be interested to hear that long time TTTG correspondent John Daniel bought a computer in 2010. John quickly got the hang of the new technology and the editor encourages **JD** to keep on writing.

### ***The TTTG Tool Sale***

The big bold TTTG imitative was holding the first TTTG tool sale in 2010.

*The TTTG Tool Sale is an annual event.*

It was a bold initiative to invest both time and money in developing an annual sale. The committee made the decision to offer a quality tool sale on an annual basis. To achieve this we decided to acquire basic infrastructure to insure smooth running annual sales. For the first sale in 2010 TTTG purchased forty folding tables. For the 2011 Tool Sale TTTG is purchasing a new banner and tool sale signage. In 2012 TTTG will consolidate the equipment for future Tool Sales. In 2010 TTTG, despite the capital outlay, made a modest profit on the tool sale. The return from the 2011 Tool Sale will be known when NEWS 118 is published April.

### ***The TTTG Meetings***

For part of 2010 the TTTG Meetings were held in the old Redfern Town Hall. This proved to be an excellent venue. By the end of 2010 we were back in our long standing venue, namely the Annie Wyatt Room in the National Trust Centre. TTTG hopes to continue to use this venue for many more years. Whatever the venue the meetings have always been well attended.

### ***The TTTG Workshops***

We have taken a few initiatives in regard to the scope of the workshops. The TTTG workshops remain popular but we are never complacent and any suggestions are always welcome.

## 2011 Workshops

February 20

### **Saw Sharpening & Use**

Strathfield Men's Shed

*No one else offers a course on saw filing!  
Learn how to sharpen your saws  
Old saws and equipment for sale*

#### **You need to bring;**

Your lunch

A saw to sharpen

#### **TTTG sells;**

Old Saws

Files and saw sets

Also bring some spare change to buy a few TTTG sharpened files, \$2 each.

April 10

### **Tool Repairs**

Asquith Boys High School

*This is a 'hands on' workshop  
Making handles for planes and saws  
Repairs to wooden planes  
Tools and Spare parts for sale*

Bring the tools you want to repair

May 1

### **Blacksmithing**

Sydney Heritage Fleet

Forging steel with harbour views  
Well equipped workshop  
All necessary tools and materials supplied

#### **How Much?**

Members \$20

Others \$40

Join at the workshop for \$55  
Workshop plus membership

June 5

### **Sharpening Edge Tools**

Strathfield Men's Shed

*Want to get the best out of your edge tools?  
Learn how to grind and hone all edge tools  
Sharpening equipment and tools for sale*

Bring the tools you want to sharpen

July 3

### **Plane Tuning & Sharpening**

Strathfield Men's Shed

*Experience using a really sharp plane  
All aspects of plane care and use covered  
Parts and sharpening equipment for sale*

Bring the planes you want to sharpen

## **Workshop Venues**

\*Strathfield Men's Shed  
Pomeroy Road  
Strathfield

\*Asquith Boys High School  
Jersey Street North  
Asquith

\*Sydney Heritage Fleet  
Heritage Shipyard  
Gate number 4  
James Craig Road  
Rozelle



**#Bring suitable clothing, shoes and hearing & eye protection.  
Sign in 9am, Start 9-15am**

#### **Enquiries**

www.tttg.org.au

Mike Williams

02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie

crosbie.bob@gmail.com

# TTTG CITRIC ACID

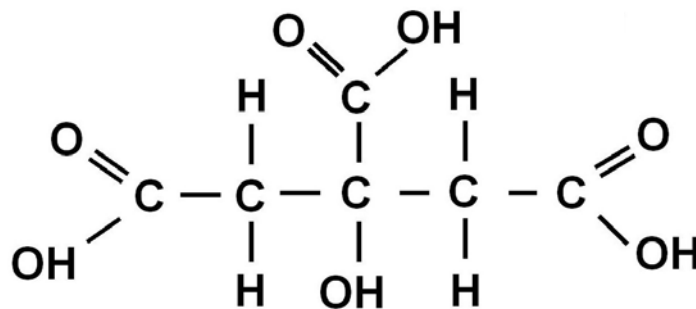
***THE BEST AND CHEAPEST***

**Available at all TTTG Inc Meetings and Workshops**

*Support TTTG and save money!*



*For tough rust  
USE  
TTTG Citric Acid*



ONE SIZE

ONE TTTG PRICE

500 grams for \$5

(Supermarket price 75 grams for \$2.20)

## **THE LEDGER**

### **TTTG's TOOL SALE**

#### **THE Event of the Year !**

**Sunday 13th March, 2011**

**From 9:00 am at Asquith Boys' High School, Pacific Highway, Asquith.**

#### **Entry only \$5**

With over thirty tables at The Sale, customers are very likely to find that elusive tool they've been after plus the other stuff you can't resist.

Bring your money and a bag to carry away the treasures you're sure to find.

**Tables:** Good news for sellers !

For 2010, table rental has been reduced to only \$40 per table (because we bought the tables for last year's very successful Tool Sale). Tables are approximately 1800 x 720.

Prospective sellers, please 'phone me on (02) 9416 7134 to book tables or E-mail:

[clyntsheelhy@tttg.org.au](mailto:clyntsheelhy@tttg.org.au)

or

[treasurer@tttg.org.au](mailto:treasurer@tttg.org.au)

TTTG is pleased to have received very complimentary response from those who have already booked tables for our choice of the mid-March date for our Tool Sale.

Further details about The Sale elsewhere in this copy of NEWS.

### **It Pays to Advertise**

Small non-commercial advertisements by members can be placed at no cost in TTTG NEWS.

For example, to complete a set of Australian Woodworker magazines, I needed four early issues. As the result of an ad in NEWS, I received three of them from a Western Australian member who is well-known to many of you.

We have members all over Australia and quite a few overseas members who value their membership because of the calibre of TTTG NEWS and the at-distance camaraderie TTTG membership evokes.

I now only seek Issue No. 2 of the Australian Woodworker (July/August, 1985).

### **TTTG Workshops**

With the concurrence of the Strathfield Men's Shed, your TTTG Executive has decided to add the Shed (28 Pomeroy Street, Homebush [North Strathfield, opposite Energy Australia]) to the venues where we hold our Workshops. This venue is seen as being more central for Sydney members (and it's an eye-opener !).

TTTG's next Workshop will be our ever-popular Saw Sharpening Workshop on Sunday 20th of February, 2011. This Workshop will be held at the Strathfield Men's Shed where there is tons (tonnes?) of parking up the driveway in the parking lot of the now disused club next door.

Australia is awash with blunt saws; you've probably got one and you know you won't get 'round to sharpening it

at home. Bring along the coarsest blunt handsaw you've got and if you can get hold of a new or sharp three-square (triangular) saw file; say about 160 mm, then bring that along too.

Workshop entry costs \$20 for members; \$40 for non-members, (non-members may join on the day for a total of \$55 to enjoy the numerous delights of TTTG membership). Tea/Coffee and bickies provided; bring your lunch if you need to.

### ***Tool Auctions at TTTG Meetings***

I couldn't make it to the December TTTG meeting (being in hospital from the paralyzing reaction to a tick bite) and we didn't have our normal auction of tools on consignment. Members with surplus tools or hardware can bring them along to TTTG meetings for the auction. You can either donate them to TTTG or have them sold where we take a 10% commission. Tools to be sold on commission should be clearly marked with your name to avoid mix-ups. Please don't bring broken plastic toys or other similar junk.

### ***Mario Dato TTTG's Gourmet Chef***

Whilst I couldn't make it to TTTG's Christmas meeting on the 14th December, 2010, those who attended were no doubt delighted with the epicurean fare provided by our gourmet chef, Mario Dato who never fails to provide exquisite food and fine wines. Your \$5 on entry pays for room rental and Mario's spread.

Mario, in his other life, is perhaps, Australia's greatest maker (by hand) of fashion ladies shoes. He received a very complimentary write-up and photo in "Best Weekend" magazine in The Telegraph of Saturday, 1st January, 2011.

Yes, in The Traditional Tools Group we have members in many trades, crafts and professions. Your trade, craft or profession (or hobby) is definitely of interest to all members and we would like you to give a talk about it at one of our meetings. Please see President Bob at a meeting (or 'phone him on (02) 9869 7487 ) to arrange a specific date for your talk.

### ***TTTG's Library and Tool Collection***

Our library and tool collection is currently housed in a room we rent from the Strathfield Men's Shed next to where we hold some of our workshops. The installation of new floor joists, flooring and ventilation has been completed at the library room; thank you volunteers who carried out this arduous work under hot conditions.

Books in the Library may be found at the Library link on our website [www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)

Contact our Librarian, Rick Mitchell at [zonezero@mountains.net.au](mailto:zonezero@mountains.net.au) to reserve a book which may be collected at a mutually agreeable TTTG meeting or other venue.

Clynt Sheehy  
Hon. Treasurer

## Impulse Buys

In NEWS No 115 the Editor (Bob) in an article titled Repair or replace suggested some considerations when restoring a hand plane. As a follow-up I thought my experience in cleaning-up this impulsive buy would be acceptable.

Strange how a purchase is a must have in a dimly lit shed ,and then at home in the broad light of day one wonders why it was ever brought home, well that was the case with this plane. It's a Mathieson No 9B screw stemmed plough, which had seen better days.

*I suppose I saw its potential but I didn't really need the work, however having committed myself, I had to get on with it.*

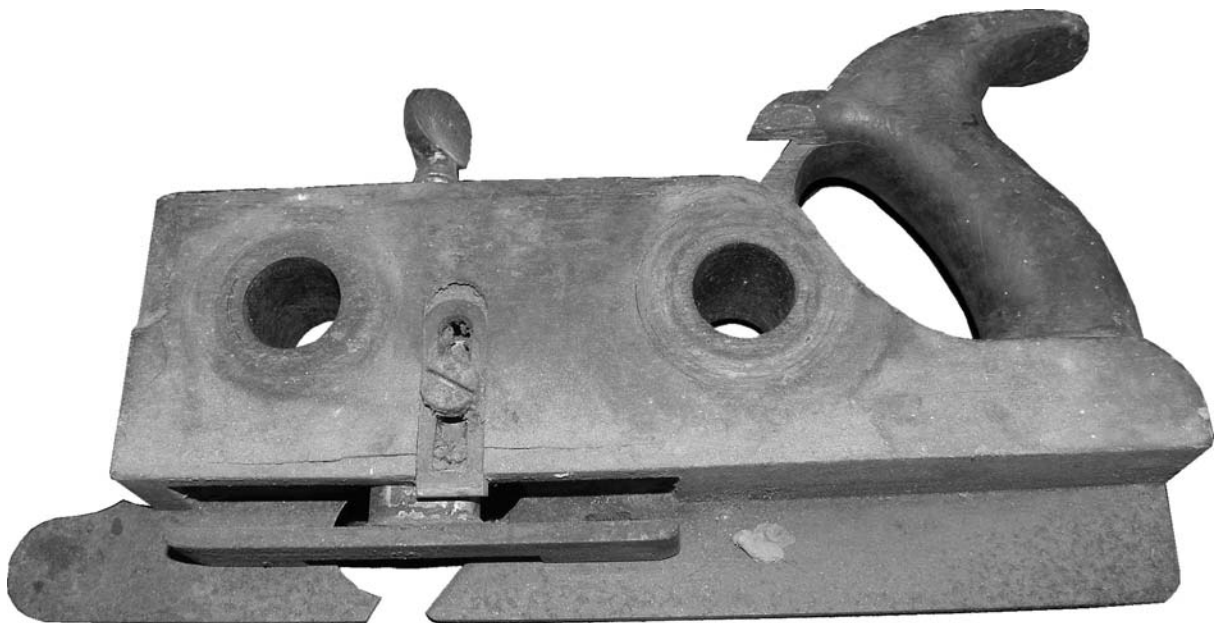
I had a choice, I could leave as is, refurbish it to factory fresh, or do any necessary repairs then restore it to a useable condition while keeping as much of natural aged colour and honest wear that one would expect to find on a tool of its age. No guessing which path I took.

## Where to start?

I don't intend making this short story into a saga as a lot of it is common sense; however I will focus on a few areas that may be of interest.

The first step was to assess the task ahead. The plane was disassembled taking care not to inflict any further damage; during this manoeuvre, patience is a plus. In the case of this plane many parts resisted disturbance, especially the screws holding the skate. One must remember during manufacture the screws are left proud then finished flush, so it is important to replace them in their original position, especially where a screw has been misaligned and after finishing has resulted in a shallow slot or an uneven head. A correctly fitting screw driver is essential to avoid screw damage.

The next task was the removal of all the loose surface dirt and the built-up grime from years of storage to reveal the extent of the task ahead. I must get on with it , was the thought as again I questioned my



impulse buying.

### The repairs

The most obvious damage was the missing wood on the handle. As can be observed from the photos, I removed the damaged wood using a fine dovetail saw and bevelled edge chisel. The ends of the recess were slightly undercut to help to secure the inset. The wood was carefully chosen to match colour, grain direction and grain character/texture. I used a carving gouge to shape the inset, finishing off with various abrasive papers wrapped around a length of dowel. I could have used my Dremel however as time wasn't a factor, I preferred a hands-on approach. The cracked wood on the opposite side of the repair was cleaned and the loose wood glued back in place; nothing was to be gained by replacing it.



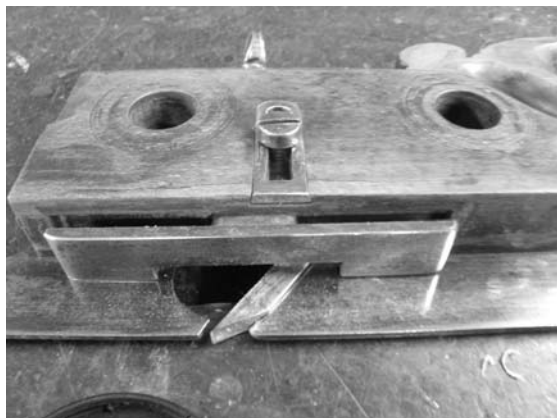
The depth adjustment side screw wear plate/slot and surrounding wood was the next challenge. After removing the plate I carefully cleaned out as much dirt as possible. I needed several trial crampings with various shaped off cuts before I applied the glue. When cramping small pieces into position, the line of sight is often compromised so it's important to doubly check. On the finished repair the split line is still evident; however it won't affect the use of the plane.



A replacement wedge was fitted using the Mathieson profile of the period.



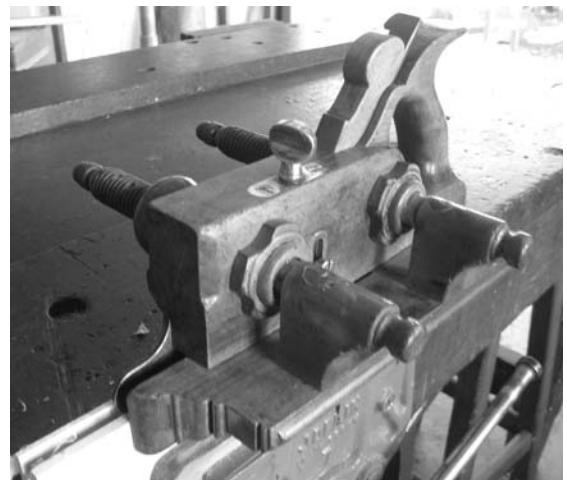
The skate was derusted then buffed, the brass fittings cleaned and polished and the screws cleaned ready for reassembly.



The plane was then given a final clean with a mixture of raw linseed oil, gum turpentine and a dash of Tung oil; Methylated spirits may be added to facilitate the removal any stubborn residue. A good rub down with an old towel helped to achieve a desired result.

*All the plane needed now was a sharp blade then reassembling.*

Putting workload aside, perhaps my impulse buy may have been a wise subconscious decision. The end result is now a tool that performs well and would not be out of place in an artisan's workshop.



## **Tool Repairs**

April 10

Asquith Boys High School

*This is another 'hands on' workshop.*

*The focus activities are making handles for planes and saws and repairs to wooden planes.*

**JD's Impulse Buys** is a good example of what is possible and what we teach.

*Tools and spare parts will be for sale at the workshop.*

*Bring your impulse buy from the **March 13 TTTG Tool Sale** to the **Tool Repairs** workshop..*

# PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

John Daniel

## PART ONE

There has been a lot of discussion of late in regard to the restoration / preservation of tools. President Bob seizes every opportunity to create debate on the topic, then nurturing the ongoing discussion. Such an opportunity came his way when helping member Ray Gurney relocate from his Aladdin's cave (better known as Ray's shed) and Committee meeting place, due to redevelopment of the site. Bob, with his usual good nature, with a few other willing TTTG members were on the spot to give a hand. Not missing his perceived good fortune when spotting a relic, Bob seized the chance to put in motion a club challenge. The relic was a cast iron infill panel plane made around the turn of last century, and relic it was.



The plates removed, the damage revealed



The plates on, the potential apparent

The relic: 14 1/2" long taking a 2 1/2" blade originally held in place by a wedge. The plane, even in its present state, has a comfortable feel about it and there is little doubt that it would have been an efficient tool in its day. Now, has it had its day?

*This is the poignant question, however not one for me to answer, I'll sit on the sideline and watch the game.*

## THE CHALLENGE

The challenge is to assess the magnitude of the project (my job) and on Bob's instructions, pass it on to Jim Davey to weld and fettle. Next a participant will flatten the sides before passing the plane down the line to be in-filled, then further along to have blade fitted etc. You get the concept. On completion of the finished project the committee will decide on its final resting place.

## ASSESSMENT

The plane as is:

As can be seen in the photographs, the body has separated at the mouth, possibly due to a sudden stop when the plane hit the floor. Out of a sense of loss, grief, or the cost of replacement of a good tool the body had been re-aligned and held in place with two well-shaped side plates. The side plates are perhaps the main redeeming feature of this tool.



*I recommend the side plates be de-rusted and be screwed back on the plane at the completion of the refurbishment.*

## Old Files

No doubt there are collectors of old files but interesting as file chronology may be, this writer values old files as workshop tools. New files, and rasps, are expensive and the variety available is limited. Old files are very inexpensive and the variety of sizes and types is vast.

### ***“Old files and rasps are worn out.”***

To the general public this is a universal belief and it is one to be encouraged as it supports the corresponding conviction that old files have little monetary value. The vast majority of old files and rasps are blunt and rusty and appear to be useless. A small minority of old files are worn out but even these are not useless.

### ***Old Files can be sharpened***

Acid can be used to resharpen blunt files. The stronger the acid is, the quicker the job. Nitric acid will recut a file in minutes but it is nasty stuff. Citric Acid takes longer but it is a lot safer.

I always sharpen files in batches of at least several dozen. The process is very simple. The files are placed in an old laundry sink, hot water is poured in and a \$5 bag of TTTG Citric acid is added. The next day I wash the files in a bucket of hot soapy water and give each file a good brushing with a steel brush. The more rusty files often need a second soaking in fresh hot water and citric acid. The files are dried and sprayed with G15. A hot summer day is the best time to do this as the files quickly dry in the hot sun.

I do not sort or clean the files before the immersion when I'm doing a batch but for a few files I would clean the old files first. This is one job where volume really cuts costs, an example of economy of scale.

Often even heavy rusted files will come out of the soup as good as new. This is especially true of 'cast steel' files.

## ***Dead files***

Files are dead when they can no longer be resharpened. Some files have damaged teeth from incorrect use or heavy rusting. Pickling in acid will not restore damaged teeth. Dead files can have a second life as they can be used to make some tools.

## ***File Steel***

Modern files are made from alloyed steel while older files are made from 'cast steel'. If I want to make a tool from an old file I prefer 'cast steel' as this makes hardening and tempering more predictable. Files can have the teeth ground off to make some types of tools, such as scraper burnishers and engineer's scrapers. With such tools modern files are fine. If you want to make a tool that needs to be forged or needing a different temper you will need to soften the file. Files made from 'cast steel' are easily softened in a fire but alloyed steels will sometimes crack unless the teeth are ground off first.

*#Learn metal working skills at the Blacksmithing Workshop*

*#Re-sharpened files are on sale at TTTG Workshops.*

*#TTTG Citric Acid is available at TTTG Workshops.*

## ***File care***

Files only work when they are sharp and clean. Files should be free of oil and rust. It is good practice to break files in on brass and to apply pressure only on the forward stroke.

As soon as a file is blunt you should stop using it and sharpen the file. A handful of files soaked in citric acid are a lot cheaper than buying one new file.

# DULL FILES IN YOUR BASEMENT GIVING YOU NIGHTMARES?



REPLACE THEM  
WITH CLEAN,  
SHARP, LONG-  
LASTING, EFFICIENT  
NICHOLSON FILES,  
AND SLEEP NIGHTS.

Send for your free copy  
of the filer's handbook,  
"File Philosophy."



**NICHOLSON**



Nicholson File Company, Providence, Rhode Island  
Files • Rotary Burs • Hacksaw and Band Saw Blades  
Hole Saws • Ground Flat Stock • Industrial Hammers

Popular Science February 1966

## KIAMA WOODCRAFT EXPO

MASONIC HALL, KIAMA NSW

**26-27 MARCH 2011**



ADMISSION FREE

- DEMONSTRATIONS AND SALES of big variety of Woodcrafts & related skills
- DISPLAY & SALE of timber (SLABS, BURLS, BLANKS, ETC)
- TOOLS, MACHINES & related items
- ADVICE & INSTRUCTIONS on general tool care and maintenance



## WHAT DO YOU WANT?



Popular Science January 1966

Sometimes obvious questions are worth asking. The editor makes all types of assumptions when NEWS is being put together. Maybe I get it right, maybe not.

### **Some of the editor's assumptions:**

**-Readers want** to know about the next meetings and workshops.

This is a bit of a no brainer and I'm confident this is what readers want.

**-Readers want** to know about special events and sales.

Again a bit of a no brainer and I'm confident this is what readers want.

**- Readers want** to know about books, magazines or web sites worth reading.

I think this is a reasonable assumption and I do include reviews but not in every issue of NEWS.

**-Readers want** to see really rare tools.

Some do but TTTG is not merely a tool collectors group and I try to keep this in some sort of perspective. When you see rare tools on the front page of NEWS you will know this editor has moved on.

**-Readers want** to know how to use tools.

I think this is reasonable assumption and I often include extracts in NEWS from old magazines and books. This can generate adverse comments but if the material is interesting I tend to find a space for it.

**-Readers aren't** that interested in what other associations are doing.

Most publications similar to NEWS always include reviews of other publications. My view is that many TTTG members are also members of, for example, HTPAA.

**-Readers aren't** all woodworkers.

I try and offer something for the metal workers as well!

### **THE QUESTION IS**

***“Does the editorial committee provide the content you want?”***

Send your comments and they will be published under **Correspondence**.

#### **TTTG Membership**

\$35 per year (1 July to 30th June)

*\$30 for Centre Link pensioners*

Meetings                      \$5 donation

Workshops                      Members \$20  
   Others \$40

Tool Sales                      \$5 Entry

## A Saw For All Occasions

*Mike Williams*

Some time ago I was asked by a friend who was moving to help him clean out his garage. His father and grandfather had owned a small hardware shop and my friend intimated (to ensure my help and cooperation) that there might therefore be something of interest to me. However it turned out to be like many garages that had evicted the family car in favour of items of hardware which themselves had outgrown their usefulness but which someone had decreed “might come in handy someday” or “too good to throw out”. The latter comment might have been true when the item was consigned to the garage but dampness and 50 years had taken a terrible toll.

There were some general purpose tools which I took along to one of our meetings to auction on consignment for him and mountains of rubbish which were ceremoniously conveyed to a waiting skip. There were some unopened packets of small brass screws, the remnants of his forbears stock which I was given for my trouble but very little else of personal interest. However, in the afternoon, my eyes fell upon a small saw on a shelf at the back of the garage and I remarked that I thought that it looked kind of cute.

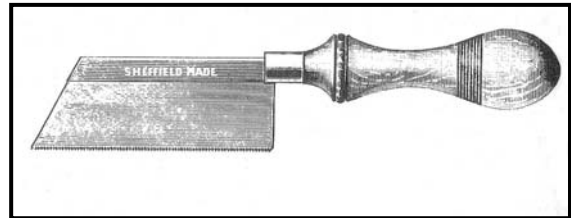
“Take it”, my friend replied, “as it is, all I have managed to give you so far are three boxes of screws.”



*Photo of the small saw that I found*

The little saw sat on my workbench at home for several months but I still had no idea of what it was used for until I happened to be browsing through my copy of Salaman\* and *there it was!* Salaman listed it as an Electrician’s Saw and it was apparently made for that trade

for cutting soft metal and wood but specifically it was used before 1918 or thereabouts for cutting the wooden “capping and casing” in which the electrical wires were run at that time. The saw blade is only about 3 inches long and I was struck by the similarity in size and handle decoration to mine.



*Salaman’s sketch of an Electrician’s Saw*

Now this tool could only have been in existence from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (when electricity started to appear in the home) until just after the First World War, but in that time it had achieved an absolutely standard form in terms of blade shape and handle decoration. Probably this owed a great deal to the pride in the Trades at that time. An electrician (a very high-tech trade at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) couldn’t have a saw that a carpenter or other tradesman might have used; it had to be distinctive as befitting his profession.

There are many other instances of trade-specific tools such as hammers and screwdrivers, all of which perform the same basic function as one another but differ in some way or in decoration and which can be identified as belonging to a particular trade.

I have no idea why the blade slopes forward like it does in the Electricians Saw; perhaps to more accurately start a cut in skirtings to fit a power point? Maybe one of our readers can answer this question.

\*Dictionary of Woodworking Tools by R.A. Salaman (revised edition 1989 Unwin Hyman Ltd)

## SPANNER SIZE BASICS

### ***BSW, W, BS, BA, AF and metric; what do they mean?***

*Clynt Sheehy*

At a recent TTTG workshop at which second-hand tools were sold, I bought a few "Whitworth" spanners as you don't see them now as frequently as in the past.

Other spanners in the \$2 box were AF and a couple of metrics.

On talking to a young newer member who was thinking of buying some spanners, it became evident that he was unaware of the "standard" sizes which are (or were) available.

Forty years after the introduction of the metric system in Australia, hardware store bolts may have any of several different "standard" head sizes requiring different "standard" spanners (although the bins in which the bolts are displayed are labelled as if the bolts are metric standard). With hardware store bolts now mostly made in China, with exports aimed at the American market, this situation in Australia may continue for some time.

The following is a highly simplified explanation of "standard" spanner sizes. For members seeking more information, there are many books (such as the famous "Machinery's Handbook") and websites with more detailed information.

**BUY SPANNERS FROM TTTG**

**TTTG ALWAYS HAS LOTS!**

**TTTG AUCTION PRICE**

**"TWO DOLLAR AVERAGE"**

### ***"Standard" Spanner Sizes***

The sizes on spanners marked **W** (Whitworth) or **BS** (British Standard) refer to the nominal bolt diameter in inches. (One inch (depicted as 1") is 25.4 mm).

Spanners marked **AF** (Across Flats) refer to the width in inches across the flats of a hexagon or square bolt head.

Spanners marked with a metric dimension refer to the distance across the flats of the head of a metric bolt.

The **BA** (British Association) sizes refer to spanners for screws with a nominal across flats dimension of 1.75 times the screw diameter in millimetres.

**BA** screws are small (less than ¼" (6.35 mm) diameter) and are (or were) used in electrical and other small components. The BA screw diameter is determined by a factor proportional to a power of the logarithm of the thread pitch in millimetres. You don't have to know any of that other than the higher the BA number, the smaller the spanner.

### ***Bolts and Spanners***

Bolt diameters and bolt head dimensions are related by the various standards.

#### Whitworth

Whitworth bolts have (or, in fact had) the so-called "large hexagon" heads as used in Britain, the British Empire (and in America) in the very early days.

On technical drawings, bolt heads were drawn with an across flats dimension of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times the bolt diameter. Thus a half inch ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ") Whitworth bolt would have a head dimension of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{3}{4}$  =  $\frac{7}{8}$ "

#### British Standard

With improvements in the strength of materials and manufacturing techniques, the size of bolt heads could be reduced.

British Standard bolts have heads with an across flats dimension one size smaller than Whitworth bolts of the same nominal diameter. Thus a ½" BS bolt would have an across flats head size of about 13/16".

Sometimes spanners are marked with both Whitworth and BS sizes. Thus a spanner might be marked 7/8"W - 1" BS. Spanners are normally double-ended, for example ¾"W - 7/8"BS x 7/8"W - 1" BS. Complicating the picture is that whilst there are very few "true" Whitworth bolts about, spanners fitting the previously commonly available BS bolts would be marked with only their Whitworth size.

### **Spanner Interchangeability**

Among the various bolt standards, very few spanner sizes are interchangeable. Examples are ¾" AF and 19 mm; 11 mm, 7/16" AF and 3/16" W (¼" BS) can usually be interchanged. (And there is a brand of spanner called "Metrinch" which is interchangeable over a metric size and the close imperial size. They work by bearing on the face of the hexagon nut rather than on its corners. It's not a new idea; Cyclone Australia made them back in the 1950s.)

*My first car, a 1955 Morris Minor, which I drove between 1958 and 1971, had both AF and BS bolts. My next car a 1971 Austin Tasman, which I had between 1971 and 1987, had all AF bolts. My next car, a 1984 Falcon wagon, which I drove between 1987 and 2001 had both AF and metric bolts. My present 2001 vintage car has all metric bolts.*

It is quite inconvenient to have crawled under a car only to find you have the wrong spanner. In my geriatricity, I no longer crawl under cars if I can avoid it, but I used to take a few spanners and a cheap pair of vernier calipers when I got under a car to minimise the number of times I'd have to crawl out and get a different spanner.

### **The Chart**

Many years ago, in the days before PCs were ubiquitous; I prepared the accompanying chart which shows BA, W/BS, AF and metric spanners in increasing sizes.

After a while, you'll know the correct spanner just by looking at the nut or bolt head; in the meanwhile, the chart may prove useful.

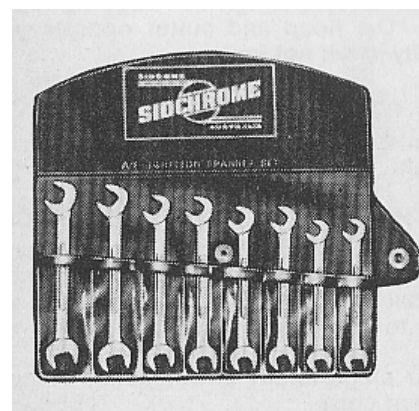
If you don't know to what standard the nut you're dealing with was made, and a spanner doesn't quite fit, then select the next size up on the chart. If a spanner is just a bit too loose, select the next size down.

### **What type of spanner to use?**

In decreasing level of security: socket, ring, combination ring and open ended, and lastly open-ended.

*If the worst comes to the worst, use a shifting spanner (or as the Americans call it "a crescent wrench").*

We haven't yet touched on tube spanners, pin spanners, hook spanners, hex wrenches, flare nut spanners, basin wrenches, vice grips, fire hose spanners, and the other several thousand patented adjustable wrenches.



INCREASING SPANNER SIZES ACROSS THE STANDARD RANGES					
SPANNER	NOM. BOLT	SPANNER	NOM. BOLT	SPANNER	NOM. BOLT
11 BA	1.5	5/16" W - 3/8"	9.525 (3/8")	1 3/8" AF	Non. Std.
10 BA	1.7	5/8" AF	11.1125	35 mm	Non. Std.
3.2 mm	M 1.6	16 mm	Non. Std.	36 mm	M24
9 BA	1.9	21/32" AF	Non. Std.	1-7/16" AF	Non. Std.
8 BA	2.2	17 mm	M10	7/8" W - 1"	25.4 (1")
5/32" AF	2.184	11/16" AF	Non. Std.	38 mm	Non Std.
4 mm	M2	18 mm	Non. Std.	1 1/2" AF	25.4 (1")
7 BA	2.5	3/8" W - 7/16"	11.1125	41 mm	M27
3/16" AF	2.845	19 mm	M12	1 5/8" AF	Non. Std.
6 BA	2.8	3/4" AF	12.7 (1/2")	1" W - 1 1/8"	28.575 (1 1/8")
5 mm	M2.5	25/32" AF	Non. Std.	1-11/16" AF	28.575 (1 1/8")
5.5 mm	M3	20 mm	Non. Std.	46 mm	M30
5 BA	3.2	13/16" AF	Non. Std.	1-13/16" AF	Non. Std.
6 mm	Non. Std.	7/16" W - 1/2"	12.7 (1/2")	1 1/8" W - 1 1/4"	31.75 (1 1/4")
4 BA	3.6	21 mm	Non. Std.	1 7/8" AF	31.75 (1 1/4")
1/4" AF	4.166	22 mm	M14	50 mm	M33
7 mm	M4	7/8" AF	14.2875	2" AF	Non. Std.
3 BA	4.1	23 mm	Non. Std.	1 1/4" W - 1 3/8"	34.925 (1 3/8")
5/16" AF	4.486	1/2" W - 9/16"	14.2875	2-1/16" AF	34.925 (1 3/8")
8 mm	M5	15/16" AF	15.875 (5/8")	55 mm	M36
2 BA	4.7	24 mm	M16	2-3/16" AF	Non. Std.
1/8" W - 3/16"	4.7625	25 mm	Non. Std.	1 3/8" W - 1 1/2"	38.1 (1 1/2")
11/32" AF	4.826	1" AF	Non. Std.	2 1/4" AF	38.1 (1 1/2")
9 mm	Non. Std.	9/16" W - 5/8"	15.875 (5/8")	60 mm	M39
1 BA	5.3	26 mm	Non. Std.	2 3/8" AF	Non. std.
3/8" AF	6.35 (1/4")	1-1/16" AF	Non. Std.	1 1/2" W - 5/8"	41.275 (1 5/8")
10 mm	M6	27 mm	M18	2-7/16" AF	41.275 (1 5/8")
0 BA	6	5/8" W - 11/16"	17.4625 (11/16")	65 mm	M42
11 mm	M7	28 mm	Non. Std.	2-9/16" AF	Non. Std.
7/16" AF	6.35 (1/4")	1 1/8" AF	19.05 (3/4")	1 5/8" W - 1 3/4"	44.45 (1 3/4")
3/16" W - 1/4"	6.35 (1/4")	29 mm	Non. Std.	2 5/8" AF	44.45 (1 3/4")
12 mm	Non. Std.	30 mm	M20	2 3/4" AF	Non. Std.
1/2" AF	7.9375	11/16" W - 3/4"	19.05 (3/4")	70 mm	M45
13 mm	M8	31 mm	Non. Std.	1 3/4" W - 2" BS	50.8 (2")
1/4" W - 5/16"	7.9375	1 1/4" AF	Non. Std.	2-13/16" AF	47.625 (1 7/8")
14 mm	Non. Std.	32 mm	M22	2-15/16" AF	Non. Std.
9/16" AF	9.525 (3/8")	33 mm	Non. Std.	75 mm	M48
15 mm	Non. Std.	3/4" W - 7/8"	22.225 (7/8")	3" AF	50.8 (2")
19/32" AF	Non. Std.	1-5/16" AF	22.225 (7/8")	2" W - 2 1/4"	57.15 (2 1/4")

NOTES:

Metric Spanners from AS 1041-1972 interpolated for non-standard sizes.


AF Spanners from BS 192:1971 for Unified hex bolts (extended by American Standard Open-Ended wrench Openings from "Machinery's Handbook") - see also BS 2708:1956

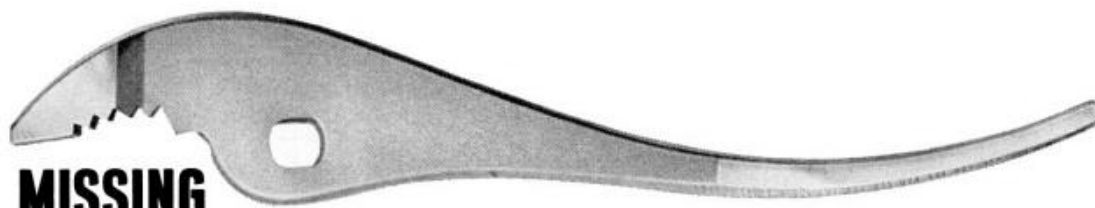
BS Spanners from BS 192:1971 (Table 3)

BA Spanners from BS 1842:1952



**It's not a Crescent wrench . . .  
unless it says so on the handle**

On a bridge, in a garage, at home on a workbench — it's the only adjustable wrench pros and do-it-yourselfers ask for by name. Crescent — now the name on a full hand tool line of pliers, screwdrivers, sockets and wrenches. Look for Crescent on the handle at hardware outlets everywhere. **CRESCENT** 



**MISSING  
SOMETHING?**

The most important part of this plier is missing . . . the half stamped with the name CRESCENT. If you've purchased pliers or any other hand tool lately without looking for the name CRESCENT on the handle, you've been missing something, too. You've missed the satisfaction of owning and using the tools that are the trademark of master craftsmen throughout the world. CRESCENT tools are made better to work better and last longer. They cost a little more, and they're worth it. Ask for CRESCENT tools by name at your hardware store.



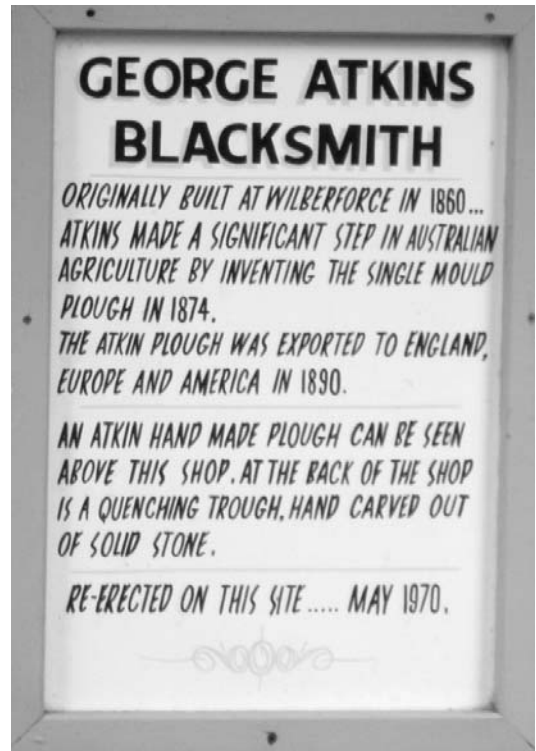
CRESCENT TOOL COMPANY, JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK A Division of Crescent Niagara Corporation

## Australiana Pioneer Village Wilberforce

Patrick Berry

The Australiana Pioneer Village is back in community hands, the Friends of The Village, having been given a 5 year lease on the site last year by their local council. The Council have also budgeted \$100,000 per year to help towards the cost of maintenance and running the Village. In October last year, the Village hosted a T-Model Ford day at which the photographs here were taken. The Village is scheduled to re-open officially on Australia Day this year and much work is going into meeting this date.

The Village covers quite a large site and consists of a number of genuine pioneer buildings and artifacts which have been painstakingly re-located and positioned into a cohesive whole. For those of you who are interested in pioneer social history, a visit to the Australiana Pioneer Village can be a rewarding experience.





# ARE YOU A "DOER" OR A "WATCHER"?



Stanley Tools  
advertisement  
Popular Science  
December 1930

The "watchers" get their pleasure out of watching the game, wishing they could play as well as the expert. Little do they realize that it is the "doers" that get the real thrill of the game. The duffer often has more fun than the expert.

Woodworking is like that. Why admire the handiwork of your neighbor? You can become just as proficient yourself. All you need is a small space in the attic or basement and a moderate assortment of tools.

## **WANT TO BECOME A DOER?**

If you want to learn real skills you should consider attending one of the TTTG Workshops.

TTTG offers workshops on:

- \*Basic Tools
- \*Edge Tool & Saw Sharpening
- \*Plane Fettingling
- \*Tool Repairs

**For details see pages 6, 8 and 14**

Remember, to do good work you need *good tools*. Why not a Stanley Tool Chest for Christmas? Then you will have a real workshop started. There are 10 different Stanley Tool Chests from which to select.



Don't forget there are 25 Stanley Plans which show how to make 25 useful articles. They cost only 10 cents each. The Stanley Book "How to Work with Tools and Wood" is a useful guide for the beginner. It costs only \$1.00.

Ask your hardware dealer for a copy of the Stanley Tool Chest Catalog No. S35e and a list of Stanley Plans. If he hasn't them, write to us.



TOOL CABINET,  
No. 862

THE STANLEY RULE & LEVEL PLANT  
New Britain, Conn.

# STANLEY TOOL CHEST



**HOLTZAPFFEL & Co.**

**N° 64,**

**CHARING CROSS,**

**OPPOSITE TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON,**

**(LATE OF COCKSPUR STREET,)**

**MANUFACTURERS OF**

**ENGINES, LATHES,**

**MECHANICAL AND EDGE TOOLS,**

**ENTRANCES TO THE MANUFACTORY,**

**N° 127, LONG ACRE; and N° 3, CHAPEL COURT.**

---

**1834.**

**ADVERTISEMENT.**

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HOLTZAPFFEL & Co. avail themselves of the opportunity of this fourth reprint of their Catalogue, to return to their numerous and distinguished Customers, and the Public in general, their grateful thanks for the very flattering encouragement and patronage they have received since their establishment, a period of forty years.

They still continue to extend the general usefulness of their Stock from a variety of sources: by the addition of many novelties of value, and by various improvements on former constructions.

## Holtzapffel & Co

Holtzapffel & Co is synonymous with ornamental lathes but the retail shop in Charing Cross London sold a vast assortment of hand tools, materials and mechanical devices.

The ornamental lathes and other machines were manufactured in the Manufactory with entries in Long Acre and Chapel Court. At the retail shop Holtzapffel & Co had rooms fitted up for the use of amateurs.



The 'advertisement', foreword, in the Holtzapffel & Co 1834 Price List provides a cameo view of the shop in Charing Cross London.

Among the tools listed were;  
 520 ——— Iron Planes for Metal - - - - -  
 520 a ——— Iron, Mitre, and Rebate Planes, for Joiners, &c.

### NEWS 118

#### Holtzapffel and the London Tool Makers

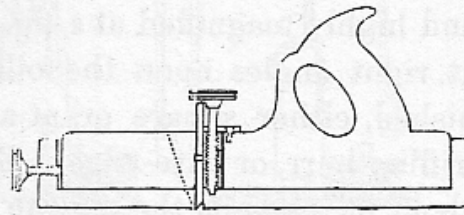
#### Wrought Iron Dovetailed Planes

*With photos of rare mitre and other planes*

## Holtzapffel's Smith's Plane

The smith's-plane for brass, iron, and steel, fig. 330, has likewise a perpendicular cutter, ground to 70 or 80 degrees; it is adjusted by a vertical screw, and the wedge is replaced by an end screw and block, as shown in the figure, which is one-eighth size. In the planes with vertical irons, the necessity for the narrow mouth ceases; and in the smith's plane some of the irons, or more properly cutters, are also grooved on the faces, by which their edges are virtually divided into several narrow pieces; this enables the instrument to be more easily employed in roughing-out works, by abstracting so much of the width of the iron, and by giving it a greater degree of penetration, but the finishing is done with smooth-edged cutters, and those not exceeding from five-eighths of an inch to one inch wide.

Fig. 330.



Holtzapffel's Turning and Mechanical Manipulation Volume 2 contains a description and illustration of a 'Smith's plane for brass, iron and steel'. The above extract is from the 1875 edition reprinted by The Astragal Press New Jersey in 1993.

Several of these planes marked Holtzapffel have surfaced at old tool auctions.

The plane bodies appear to be cast iron.

The Holtzapffel & Co 1834 Price List has "520 \_\_\_\_\_ Iron Planes for Metal"

I do not have access to earlier editions of Holtzapffel's Turning and Mechanical Manipulation Volume 2 but I will assume that the entry for *Smith's Plane* appeared in the early editions. The 1834 Price List entry for "Iron Planes for Metal" suggests this is reasonable assumption.

The description provides the clue to the purpose of these planes. They were for use by metal workers for reducing and finishing brass, iron and steel. At the time brass would have referred to cast brass or rolled brass plate, iron to wrought iron bar or plate and steel to crucible or cast steel or possibly to blister steel bars.

The slotted cutters were toothed cutters to remove material quickly. The plain cutters were for finishing cuts. In fact scrapers mounted in a frame to control depth of cut and to assure a flat finished surface.

Such metal scraping planes were probably used by engineers before the 1840s. After this decade the introduction of shapers and planing machines combined with Cort's improvements to the techniques of producing and rolling wrought iron plate made such planes largely redundant.

## Is this what happened?

### Concrete Slabs Can Be Nailed and Planed



Concrete made with a special cement being planed and, at left, receiving a nail to hold a strip of wood



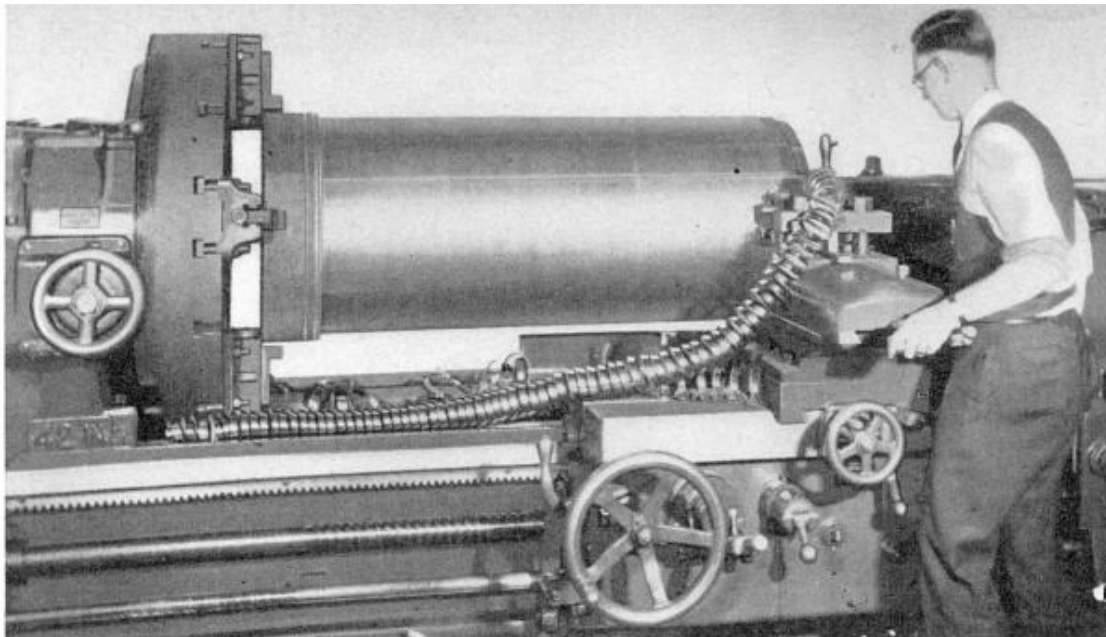
**A** CEMENT mix now available produces a concrete slab to which wood and other materials can be nailed. Light in weight, the nailable slab is designed particularly for use in roofing, as it forms a suitable base to which slate, tile, copper, or other roofing materials may be nailed. The slabs can also be planed.

We have all come across old tools in really bad shape, sometimes it isn't obvious how they ended up in this condition.

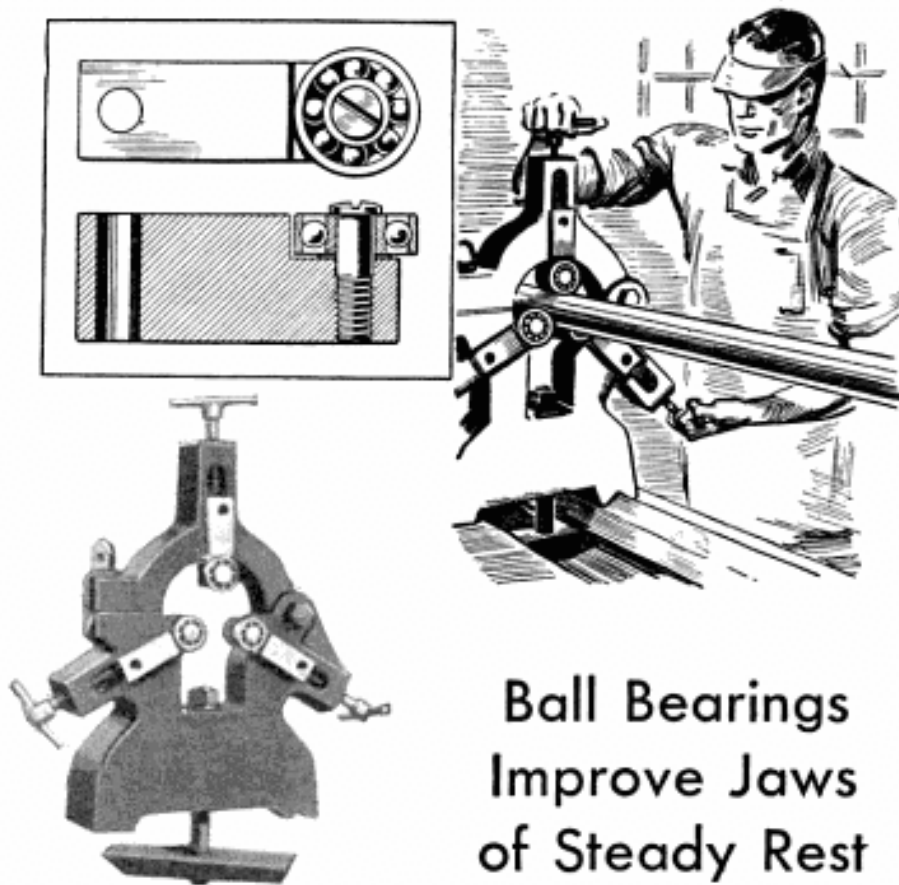
*Popular Science July 1938*

### How it should cut

*Popular Science June 1939*



## Improved Lathe Steady



### Ball Bearings Improve Jaws of Steady Rest

BY ALTERING a lathe steady rest as illustrated above and adding three ball bearings, work may be turned in it at high speed without being scored by the jaws. Dimensions will have to be adapted, of course, to suit the steady rest, but in this case  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " ball races were fastened to the jaws in such a way that the rim of the races would bear against the work to be supported.

If the ball races available happen to be too large to slide through the slot provided in the steady rest, new jaws may be made, which is not a difficult task, or the ball races may be fastened in such a way that they do not have to slide in the slot.—GEORGE S. WALKER.

Popular Science December 1939

#### ***Wanted: Your Workshop Tips***

**Workshop tips taken from old magazines seem popular with readers.**

**How about sharing your workshop tips? You send it and we will print it!**

## Bluing Tools

### MOLTEN NITRATE COLORS TOOLS BLUE

**T**HAT steel-blue color of the newer razor blades can easily be reproduced on small tools such as wrenches and on angle pieces, rivets, and various small steel fittings. The process consists of exposing the iron or steel article, which must be free from rust, to a definite temperature that favors the formation of this particular blue-colored iron oxide. This is accomplished by immersing the article in molten potassium nitrate or sodium nitrate. The chemical can be melted in a tin can, using the heat from a Bunsen burner. The flame is then lowered, and the article immersed. This will chill the molten chemical and form a crystal covering on the metal, but increasing the heat slightly will cause the coating to melt. Too high a temperature is not desirable. If the chemical is just kept molten, this automatically controls the temperature. The work is allowed to remain for a minute and is then removed and cooled.

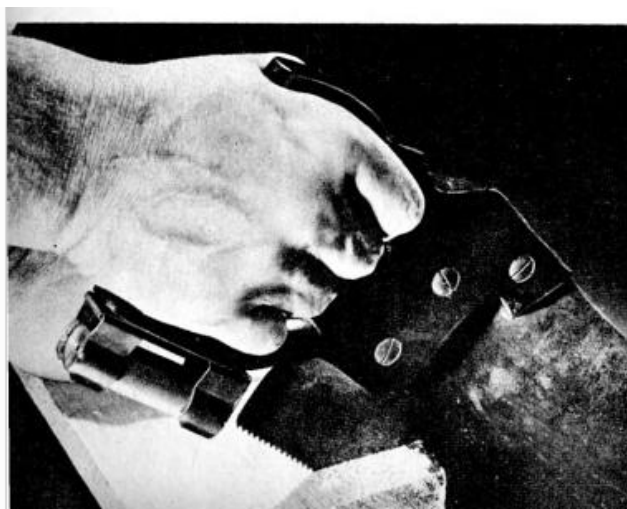


The tool is merely left for a minute in a bath of molten potassium or sodium nitrate

Popular Science May 1934

### OH&S Warning

While effective, this method of bluing is hazardous and TTTG does not recommend this historical technique be replicated.



**POUF!** That's what a little device called Clerline, attached to the handle of a saw, does to the sawdust that accumulates over the line the workman is trying to follow. With every stroke of the saw, a jet of air is directed at the mark being followed, keeping it clear and making it easy to cut straight. There is a considerable saving of time and energy over the method of stopping to mouth-blow away the sawdust. This easily attached blower is made by Clerline, Weedsport, N. Y. It does not affect the balance of the saw.

POPULAR SCIENCE

Copyright

Popular Science January 1945

With the renewed interest in handsaws will someone reinvent this gadget?

## Selling Power Tools: 1950's Style

When I saw this advertisement, *Popular Science March 1953*, I started to think of reasons to reprint it in NEWS.

To be honest I find it hard to resist the women in these old adverts but that aside the psychology of selling is a bit hypnotic. Nowadays the spin merchants are a just bit more subtle, but it is the same game.

This advert promises everything; the chance to win lots of money combined with the promise of hard work made easy. So easy in fact that even a woman can use this incredible new power tool. When these sanders first hit the market they were promoted as combined sanders and massage tools. These 1950s sales guys knew every trick in the book of selling.

**\$1,000.00 CASH**

**ENTER** **1,000.00** **CASH**

**SYNCRO SANDER CONTEST**

**IT'S FUN! IT'S EASY!**

**NOTHING TO BUY!**

**WIN One of These 43 CASH PRIZES**

- ★
- 1st Prize \$500
- 2nd Prize \$200
- 3rd Prize \$100
- 40 Prizes \$5 Each!
- ★
- Contest STARTS MARCH 1
- ENDS MAY 31, 1953

**HOW TO ENTER:**

1. Don't buy anything—just find correct Missing Words for Jingle:

**SYNCRO SANDERS HAVE A LOT OF FEATURES OTHERS HAVEN'T GOT; S\_\_\_\_R, L\_\_\_\_R, \_\_\_\_\_FREE PLUS AN HONEST \_\_\_\_\_EE!**

"Missing Words" are below sander picture in the type following "Syn-cro Features." Look for them now!

2. Finish Sentence "I LIKE SYNCRO SANDER BECAUSE" in 15 additional words or less.
3. Give hardware store name.

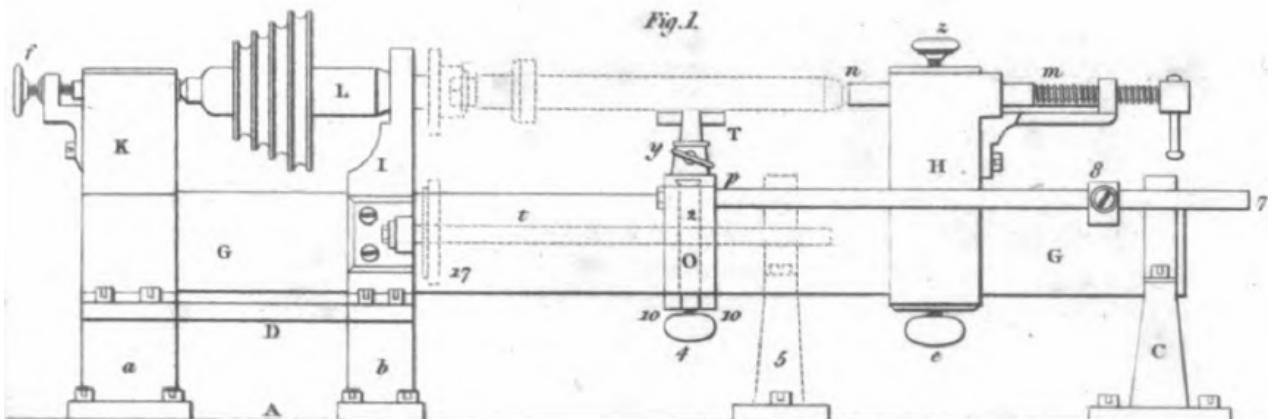
**ENTER NOW!** Write completed Jingle, Sentence, store name, your name-address on paper—mail! or send Coupon for FREE CONTEST FOLDER—or get at hardware store! Have fun—and win!



**No. 504 \$19.95 At Dealers**

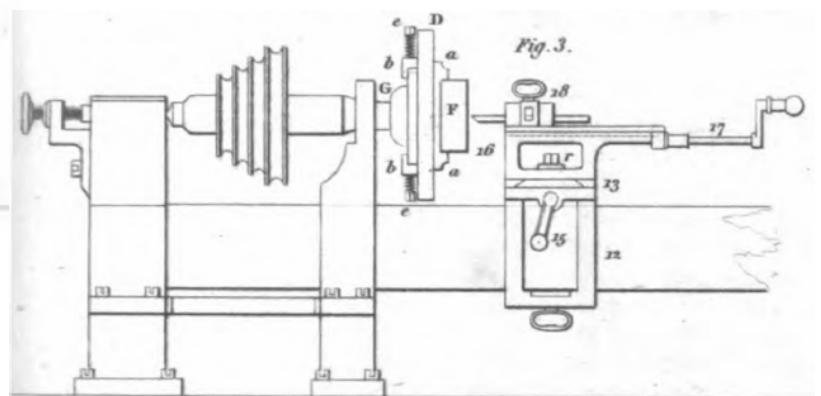
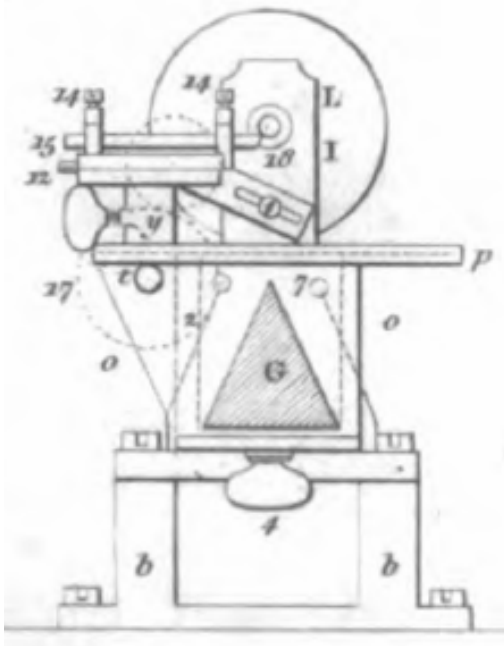
**SYNCRO FEATURES:**  
Sands 10 times faster than hand-sanding. SMOOTHER finish, too! Proven best for vertical

## Metal Turning Lathe 1813



Thomas Martin's *Circle of the Mechanical Arts* published in London in 1813, has an extensive examination of all types of turning and the tools used by turners.

The description of metal turning is a usual source of information on the early centre lathes developed by the engineer Henry Maudslay in London in the late eighteenth and early twentieth century.



### 1860s Birmingham Centre Lathe.

TTTG is looking for a home for this lathe. It is in poor condition but all there!

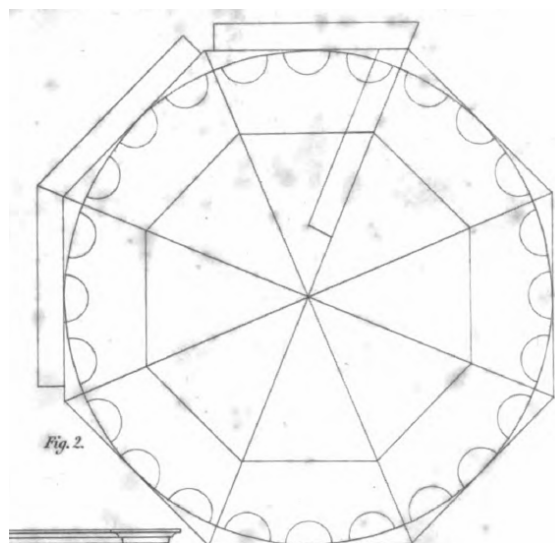
*This would be a great restoration project for a skilled metal worker.*

## Timber Columns

When I gave the talk on this topic at the last TTTG meeting I distributed a page from a text book published in London in 1910. This page included a drawing of a column made by gluing up staves based on a hexagon. This method has some practical advantages. For a large column the principle can be extended by making the column with twelve staves. The setting out is simplified as it is easy to draw a six sided figure and then superimpose a second hexagon to set out twelve staves, all it takes is a pair of dividers set to the radius of the column's maximum diameter.

Thomas Martin's Circle of the Mechanical Arts published in London in 1813 gives another method based on the octagon. Staves based on an eight sided figure would have the practical advantage of allowing narrower and thinner staves, even if the setting out would be slightly more time consuming.

Whether the columns are made based on an octagon or a hexagon the assembly would be in two halves. This allows the final joints to be fitted before the column takes on its permanent form.



**The shaft of a column should be glued up in eight or more staves, according to its intended dimensions; but care should be always taken to have the joint in the middle of a fillet, and not in a flute, which would impair its strength very much.**

**Figures 2, and 3, shew a plan of the upper and lower ends, or the horizontal section at top and bottom. If eight pieces are sufficient to form the column, let an octagon be described round the ends, and let lines be drawn from each angle of the octagon to the centre; when the bevel of the edges of the staves will be given for the joints, which must be quite straight from top to bottom, though the staves be narrower at the top, as shewn in fig. 3. These staves must be of sufficient thickness, because their outsides have to assume a curvature proportioned to the swell of the column by means of a diminishing rule; next glue the pieces together one after the other as the glue dries; block them well at the corners in the inside, which will greatly strengthen the joints; and proceed in this manner to the last staff; but all the blocks must be glued on and dried, before the last staff can be fastened. Pieces, however, may be glued quite across for the last staff, and fixed to the inside of the two adjoining staves, or they may be fixed by screws to each staff: in which case the under side of the last staff must be planed so as to rub well on the cross pieces.**

### ***The Burdekin House Columns***

#### ***How were they made?***

Closer examination would be necessary to determine exactly how these columns were made. The fact that they are still together is silent comment on the quality of the construction and the workmanship.

These columns were made in a forgotten joinery work shop in Sydney in the early 1830's. The timber used is imported Baltic pine (red pine or Scot's pine), the preferred contemporary 'best practice' timber for this purpose.

*If asked I would be happy to revisit the Burdekin House Columns.*



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