NEWS 123

February 2012

TTTG Inc.

www.tttg.org.au

Next Workshop

Sunday 25 March

The Tools You Need

This workshop will provide some answers to the this question

What tools do I need to start serious woodworking at home?

How to select the right tool at the right price

Basic tool repair, tool use and tool sharpening

All hand tools as well as power tools and machinery covered

Venue: *Strathfield Men's Shed.*

Old tools will be available to buy at excellent prices

Tools for sale include a STANLEY 55 Plane, numerous small tools as well as several two-man cross cut saws at bargain prices.

TTTG Inc.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The general meetings are held at the National Trust Centre on Observatory Hill, Sydney.

This location is easy to reach by public transport. There is ample parking close to the meeting room.

Parking is free, safe and secure.

The general meetings are in the Annie Wyatt Room.

Refreshments are provided.

The entry fee is $5.

Contacting TTTG

Postal Address

P.O. Box N240 Grosvenor Place
Sydney NSW 1220

Enquires

Mike Williams 02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie crosbie.bob@gmail.com

www.tttg.org.au

NEWS 123 Contents

Next Meeting

Bits and Braces

Tuesday February14

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

Entry $5
'Doors open at 7pm'

At the last meeting the speaker made this observation,

Before the power drill most holes had to be bored with hand tools.

The most common hand tool used to bore holes in timber was the brace. Despite braces having been supplanted by power drills for half a century they remain one of the most common second hand tools.

The number of brace designs and "patents" are legion. In Australia braces were imported in quantity and also manufactured locally.

This meeting is an opportunity to examine a vast array of braces.

The best brace needs a suitable bit for the job in hand and bits were made in multiple sizes and many designs. The speaker will explain the basic types of bits.

TTTG *Membership $35*

For only $35 a year TTTG members receive a quality newsletter and a discount on workshop fees.

TTTG fees will remain at the current rate for at least another year.

Australian Power Tools

Tuesday December 13

Berto, lecturer of Industrial Design at UTS and currently researching a PhD on the history the Power Tools in Australia from the 1940s- 1990, was the guest presenter at the last TTTG General Meeting.

Berto's talk was illustrated with images of Australian-made power tools. The emphasis of the address was the portable power drill.

TTTG members contributed many old Australian Power Tools to the meeting. The audience also made observations on the quality, design and marketing of local power tools as well as directing the speaker to tool trade catalogues containing price lists, descriptions and illustrations of Australian made power tools.

Berto will be invited to speak at a future General Meeting to present his completed research into the history of the Australian-made portable power drill.

The audience was fully engaged in Berto's presentation.

As a token of TTTG's appreciation several items of Australian power tool memorabilia were presented to the evening's guest speaker.

The *TTTG* Auction

There is an auction of old tools at every General Meeting.

Berto's talk at the December 2011 TTTG meeting confirmed my long held suspicion that locally made portable power tools are due to be discovered by a new generation of collectors, and users, of old tools.

It seems appropriate to devote part of this issue to Australian made power tools. The "golden age" of these machines was arguably the 1960s. The power tools made in Australia closely followed the types of power tools manufactured in the United States of America.

The Australian made power tools feature in local tool merchants catalogues and selections from this source are reprinted in this issue of NEWS. The colour images of 1960's power tools are from USA magazines. Arguably advertising may have been the tail wagging the demand dog in this case.

The decision to devote some of this issue of *NEWS* to power tools may have given *NEWS 123* a subliminal theme of *Fifty Years Ago.*

Of course the editor can only give limited space to power tools but there will be more to come in the next issue of *NEWS.* Readers can look forward to more on Australian made Power Tools in *NEWS 124.*

The extracts from Peter Nicholson continue and these appear to have been well received. TTTG intends to eventually publish all the extracts.

Tool Skills Workshops

March to June 2012

Sunday 25 March

The Tools You Need

What tools are needed to set up a home workshop?

Selecting the right tool at the right price, basic tool repair, tool use and tool sharpening.

Old tools available for purchase.

Venue: *Strathfield Men's Shed.*

Sunday 27 May

Saw Sharpening

This workshop has developed a reputation as the best class on sharpening saws.

Sharpening equipment and old and new saws will be available to buy.

The entry fee includes one saw file.

Venue: *Strathfield Men's Shed.*

Sunday 24 June

Blacksmithing

The TTTG blacksmithing workshop is held beside a bay in the shadow of an iron clad ship.
Large workshops combined with friendly teachers have made this a popular TTTG workshop.

Venue: *Sydney Heritage Fleet.*

Second half 2012 Workshops in *NEWS 125*

Workshop Venues

Strathfield Men's Shed
Pomeroy Road. Strathfield

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

Tea, Coffee and biscuits provided

Bring your lunch Wear safe shoes

How Much?

Members $20
Others $40

Join at a workshop for $55*
Workshop plus membership

Enquiries

www.tttg.org.au

Mike Williams

02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie
crosbie.bob@gmail.com

WANT A SPECIAL WORKSHOP?

If you have a suggestion for a workshop please contact the TTTG Committee.

The easy way is to use the links on the website.
www.tttg.org.au

TTTG in 2012

After twenty years TTTG can claim to be well established and likely to be around for at least a few more years. As far as money in the bank goes TTTG is in a fairly healthy condition. Of course it is a constant battle to generate enough revenue but somehow TTTG manages to stay in the black.

TTTG Fees

TTTG's membership and workshop fees will be pegged at the current rate throughout 2012. The Meetings will still provide light refreshments, a presentation and an auction for only $5. All in all TTTG is pretty good value for money.

TTTG Publications

In 2012 TTTG will be publishing some innovative publications in print form as well as any old tool catalogues that turn up as CDs. The editorial committee hold the opinion that TTTG members have diverse interests and will continue to make old information on trade skills more generally available.

TTTG Workshops

In 2012 TTTG will also continue to teach traditional skills. Skills based Workshops are a pivotal component of the group and the workshops will continue to be improved.

One aspect of TTTG Workshops is the opportunity to get independent advice on tools and the chance to "try and buy" old and new tools.

Selling Tools

Selling tools is one of the services TTTG offers. An annual Tool Sale and regular auctions provide many opportunities for members to buy good tools at good prices. Tools for both users and collectors can be secured through the group at very competitive prices. TTTG also sells old tools on consignment.

The Website

TTTG has deliberately set up a "no frills" web page. If members notify the Web Master of any mistakes or omissions he will correct them but if members expect TTTG to go fully digital they will be disappointed.

The General Meetings

TTTG will continue to hold the General Meetings at the National Trust Centre. Each meeting will be comprised of a talk followed by an auction of old tools. Volunteer guest speakers are always being sought.

NEWS in 2012

The editorial team will continue to improve the newsletter. The cost of printing NEWS is always a problem and the current committee will not be throwing money away. However when circumstances are favourable improvements will be made.

The cover will continue to be full colour and more colour illustrations will be included but fortunately old colour images aren't common!

THE LEDGER

New Member

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

Franco Giacon M637

Franco, we hope you find your membership rewarding and look forward to your participation in our activities.

TTTG TOOL SALE
Sunday 11th March, 2012.

This is THE big event of the year for TTTG. You must **ink** the Tool Sale into your diaries, calendars or into the hand-held devices to which you have become a slave.

This, our third annual tool sale will be held, as before, at Asquith Boys' High School from 9am to 1pm (eager buyers will already be lined up at 9am for the great bargains which are always on sale or maybe for that special tool you've been looking for). There will be plenty of free parking; customers enter from the Pacific Highway entrance; sellers enter and unload early from the Jersey Street North entrance.

For customers, entry will again be only $5 per head. (Young children and wives and partners who are not interested in tools or their use are admitted free.) Sellers may rent one or more tables for $40 each; unchanged from 2011 (tables are supplied by TTTG and are approximately 1800 x 720 mm). Those who rent one or more tables are admitted free together with ONE assistant.

People wanting to book tables for our sale should get in touch with me on (02) 9416 7134 or at treasurer@tttg.org.au or at clyntsheehy@tttg.org.au

Everyone who comes to the tool sale will have an enjoyable and rewarding time.

LINNWOOD

The Traditional Tools Group is usually represented on open days at the historic house, Linnwood, 25 Byron Road, Guildford. TTTG is one of several organisations represented at these open days which go from about 10:30 to 3 pm.

This year, the star feature at Linnwood open days will be historic automobiles displayed on Linnwoods vast grounds. TTTG won't have a stand on Linnwood's first open day on 11th March as it coincides with our Tool Sale at Asquith Boys' High School. But after you've attended the Tool Sale, if you're driving south you may wish to pop into Linnwood to look at the display of early Ford V8s ("If it isn't a V8, it isn't a *Ford*".)

TTTG aims to be represented at the other Linnwood 2012 open days which will feature:
Sunday 8th July: Studebaker, Packard, Willys-Overland, Hudson.
Sunday 9th September: World War II Jeeps (hundreds of 'em).
Sunday 11th November: Rolls-Royce.

WORKSHOPS

See notices elsewhere in this issue for details of forthcoming TTTG Workshops.

Clynt Sheehy

TTTG Treasurer

Correspondence

Dear Ian.

Looking among my used by date saws I pulled out one with a nice handle but a gap in the blade the size of a 5 cent piece.

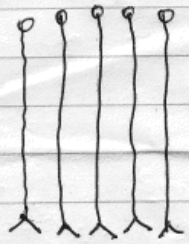
After taking off the handle, just for curiosity I gave the old blade a rub with emery. The etching that came up was quite a surprise.

There are figures of 5 men in different dress one who is holding a saw, looks colonial, another Victorian English, and three in some sort of national costume.

They are standing on a plinth, on which there are two lines of writting. The first line I cant make out but the lower is, "The International Saw.

There are scrolls to the right and left of the figures

AWARDED.
LONDON. 1852.
PARIS. 1855.
Not Clear. 1862.
Vienna. 1873.



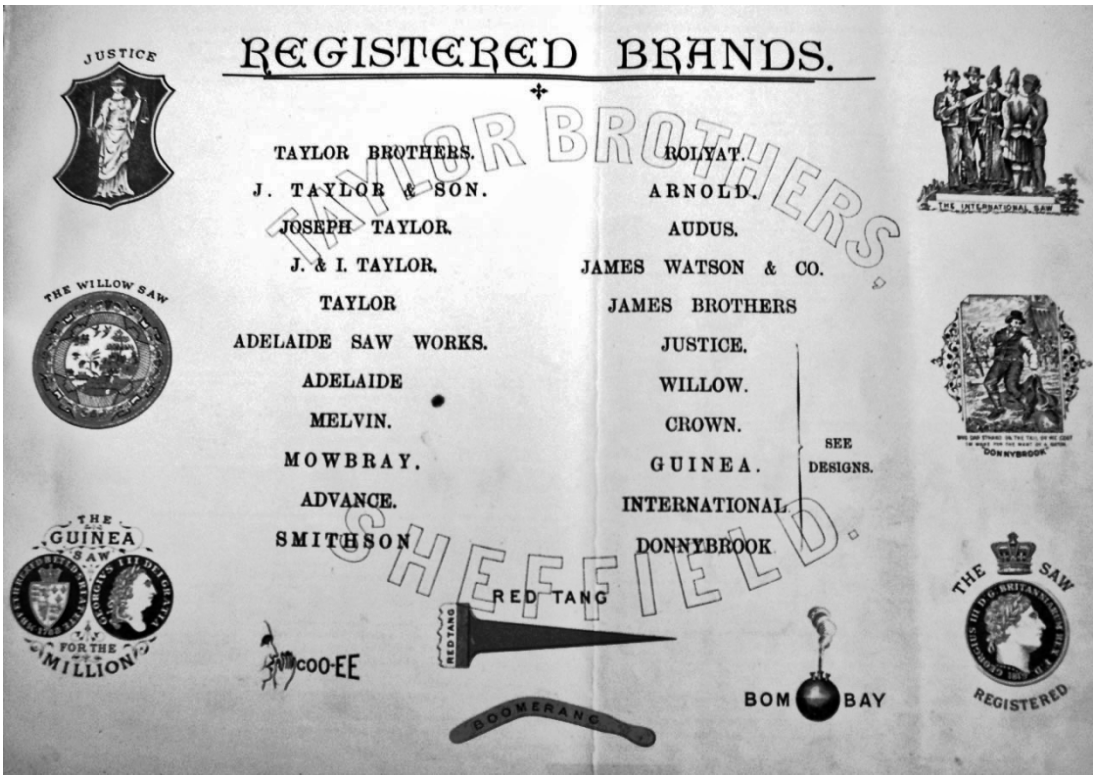
MEDALS.
SYDNEY 1879.
MELBOURNE 1880
ADELIADE. 1881
NEW. ZEALAND. 1882.

NOT. CLEAR.
THE INTENATIONAL SAW.

I dont remember where I got the saw. most likely at a garage sale or market, buying it just for the handle

Regards.

George. Stamper.



This catalogue illustration from the 1880s is likely to be the maker of George's saw – both in terms of "International" brand, and the top right illustration of the five gentlemen. Ray Gardner provided the illustration. *Peter Evans*

Old Power Tools

WANTED

Don't throw out your old power tool!As part of my study I'm collecting unwanted power tools.

Email me at

berto.pandolfo@uts.edu.au

I'm interested in hearing old power tool stories.

Do you have any old power tool manuals?

Can I have a copy?

Floor CrampsJ. Woodhead Brisbane

John Voysey sent the following to the *NEWS* editor by email.

Whilst browsing I came across your Traditional Tools article regarding a floor cramp stamped J. Woodhead, Brisbane. There is a question about who was J. Woodhead? *As a matter of interest I am writing to say that I served my fitting and turning apprenticeship with John Herbert Woodhead of Annerley Road, South Brisbane, from 1949 – 1958.*

John Herbert Woodhead was the son of J.Woodhead who invented the floor cramp.

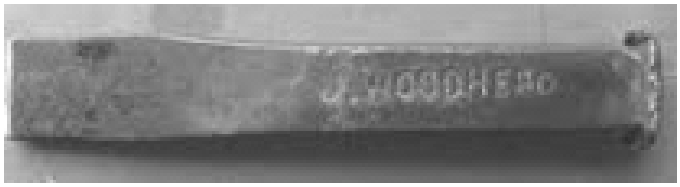
J. Woodhead was English and a Fitter & Turner, Toolmaker and Blacksmith. He did maintenance work for the UK woollen mills.

Whilst working for his son I was told that in J. Woodhead's time in the UK every machine manufacturer had their own thread standards for nuts and bolts. Anyone requiring nuts or bolts would have to purchase them from that particular manufacturer.

One of J. Woodhead's skills was to be able to reproduce these same threads on a lathe by configuring the gear change wheels.

All floor cramps made by J. Woodhead were stamped with his name – he actually made the stamps himself.

He made all his own tools and I have attached a picture of one of his chisels.



By the time I worked for his son the manufacturing of the floor cramps had long ceased but from time to time builders would request spare parts for the floor cramp/grippers.

Amazing how I came across your website – Was having a trip down "memory lane" and remembered about J. Woodhead's floor cramp, so Googled it, and up came your site. Found it very interesting.

Another snippet that sprung to mind was, in J. Woodhead's younger days, when Unions were starting to gain strength, he chose not to join, so the company he worked for as a Turner decided to dismiss him saying his work was sub-standard. They produced shafts claiming they were his poor work. Upon inspection J. Woodhead pointed out the shafts were not his as he always placed his own identification mark on his work. He took great delight in telling the company what they could do with their job. The above info was of course related to me by his son.

John is a union man and agrees with the editor that probably "the boss fitted him up".

Jim Littlefield is a long time TTTG member. Jim has emailed some information in response to an article in *NEWS 122.*

This may or may not be of News interest, that's up to you.

Grease-Pots

Having recently spent several weeks in bed with a mysterious illness, I took the opportunity to do a bit of reading, and re-reading.

Included in the re-reading were George Sturt's The Wheelwright's Shop and Walter Rose's The Village Carpenter.

In both books there is reference to using 'grease' as a tool lubricant.

"He had a little grease-box – that too hand-made –hanging above the row of chisels over his bench. But come to think of it, every bench had this. A big auger hole in a shaped out block of tough beech served the purpose admirably. You could thrust your finger (I wonder why I preferred the middle finger?) into the grease –pot close at hand and easily take out the grease for anointing both sides of your saw or the face of your plane." (The Wheelwright's Shop page 109-110)

In The Village Carpenter, "All these (tools) were arranged in a large flag carpenter's basket lined with canvas, in the inner pocket of which would be found a nail punch, a pot containing grease for the saw and a file for sharpening it."(page62)

If you have an opinion on anything printed in *NEWS* contact *the editor*!

I mention this only to suggest that grease (tallow?) may have been used in some cases as a tool lubricant as well as, or instead of, linseed oil and these quotes may support the "popular American writer and TV personality" (mentioned under Tool Revisionism in TTTG News 118) in his contention that tallow was used to lubricate planes.

Admittedly, the second quote only mentions the grease being used on saws.

I would add that browsing through back copies of TTG News reminded me of what a great publication it is, packed with useful and interesting information. Well done Bob.

Editor's reply

Jim, great to hear from you and I hope you have beaten the mystery illness. I'm willing to concede that anything is possible! Tallow was used on saws and often dabbed on screws before driving. Tallow used on wood would be pretty messy. All I can say is that both these books are based on memory and this can sometimes be confused. One of the writers, not sure which one, also mentions using milk on oilstones.

All I can be certain of, having sold, examined and handled lots of old tools, is that I'm never amazed by what has been applied to tools. It also needs to be said that I was a bit reluctant to write the article in reply to the Popular Woodworking article on the use of tallow.

Popular Woodworking is by far the best woodworking magazine and just seems to get better!

Matt Pryor is a carpenter working on heritage buildings and one of TTTG's younger members.

Matt sent this by email,

Found this during excavations on job site in the Rocks. It is clearly a marking tool of some description, but as to the trade that used I am unsure. It does not mark on paper or timber, however it marks steel and stone. It appears to be made of stone, possibly slate. I thought it may interest you.

Can anyone identify this object?

What is it?

TTTG members often suggest a *Wot's it?* as a regular feature in *NEWS.*

Apart from having the potential of threatening the sanity of the editors this would be a popular inclusion. However to make it happen we need contributions!

If readers send photos of mystery tools they will be included in *NEWS.*

Bits Blitz

Bob Crosbie

There are lots of old brace bits out there and they are very hard to sell. For a number of years I have been putting the old brace bits I have purchased "*at the right price*" into a shoe box with the good intention of eventually deciding what to do with so many bits. The shoe box is a work boot box so it holds many brace bits. If the brace bits are rusty I give them a soaking in Citric Acid, a wash in soapy water and a spray with G15 before placing them in the shoe box. If they are fairly clean I just spray them and throw them into the shoe box.

Bit Braces are also hard to sell and cheap to buy so I have acquired a few excellent braces. I rarely use a brace as I have two pedestal drills. Both machines are Australian made and a pleasure to use.

The *TOUGH* drill is usually set up as a hollow chisel mortise and the other machine, a *Richardson,* for drilling. The hand held drilling is usually done with a cordless or, if more power is needed, with an old Black & Decker.

When I use a brace it is most likely to be holding a screw driver bit, a taper reamer or a countersink. That said if I had no power I would be happy to use a brace with the correct bit to drill any size hole in wood. I have long had a desire to have a full set of brace bits for when I may need them!

I recently faced up to the problem of the shoe box of old brace bits. The box was full to the lid and starting another box didn't seem to be such a good idea. Something really had to be done. *Time to face up to the need to act.* If I sorted out the best brace bits and decided which ones to keep I could sell the others, maybe with a few braces as well. Seemed like the way to go so I settled down to a few hours of mind numbing tedium.

The first step was to degrease all the brace bits in methylated spirits. Some of the bits also needed rust removed and these were soaked in citric acid in solution. As the bits came out of the citric acid they were rubbed with a green kitchen pad and immediately washed in warm soapy water. Scouring and washing brace bit must be among the top most boring and dirty jobs. After drying the brace bits I then soaked the bits in methylated spirits, this is probably unnecessary but it does insure all moisture is removed and rust will not reappear. The end result was a shoe box full of dull blackish brace bits of numerous sizes and patterns. From the rumbled assortment I selected the brace bits I intended to keep. The selection wasn't easy. I tried to assemble sets from one maker but I also tried to avoid keeping too many duplicate sizes.

I was surprised how many Mathieson brace bits ended up in my "tool kit". If my accumulation is representative of the origin of brace bits in NSW tool exports to Australia by Mathieson must have been immense.

The auger bits I kept were bright finished by using a polishing wheel, and a paste abrasive, in a Dremel die grinder. Forged brace bits, such as centre bits, were fire finished by brushing on linseed oil and heating the oil with a gas torch.
Eventually I will sell the other bits.

J D's John Daniel

Challenge accepted

An Edward Preston No 1367 $1^{1/2}$ inch Registered Shoulder Plane was found in the bottom of an old tool chest from England (*It pays to speak to your hairdresser NEWS No.116).*

The Preston Shoulder Plane in the box

Out of the box in a sorry state

The plane was in a sorry state and a challenge ahead. I'm fortunate to have a mate who also has an interest in tool preservation, is a perfectionist craftsman and a deft hand at welding; the bonus, Mike likes a challenge.

And what a challenge!

The plane had obviously been dropped, breaking the screw cap/handle and chipping a section out of the cap locating notch. The handle section of the screw cap was missing leaving no option but to make a new piece, and then use it to complete the plane, easier said than done. De-rusting and cleaning the plane body was straight forward with the repair to the chip on the locating notch impossible to detect. Rebuilding the screw cap was the real challenge.

Grey cast iron was chosen to make the handle section of the screw cap. An example of the plane was found in a Preston catalogue which was scaled up to give an accurate profile, while an actual example of smaller model was used to judge the proportions for cross section and width; these were carefully drawn out and the layout templates were made.

The set of templates

Next the sculptor went to work, first marking out the cast iron, followed by cutting out, then designing a jig to hold the sculptured piece in place while welding new cast iron to old.

After some demanding file work and a final clean and polish the plane was complete.

The repaired lever

Underside of repaired lever

What repairs?

The plane is no longer hidden under relics at the bottom of the tool box, that's no place for a top drawer tool; it's now in pride of place and within easy reach. To sum up, I'm still smiling and that says it all.

Repairing Cast Iron

Cast iron can be welded, but it is a job for an expert!

Broken cast iron planes should not be brazed.

Source of Saw Files

Peter Evans

Brett Gregory in Katoomba NSW is organising group orders, offering significant discounts, of hand cut rasps, and machine cut files from the French maker Liogier.

You can browse the website in English http://www.liogier-france.fr/?lang=en/.

For the files there is only information on the "Milled" range, at this stage.

High quality files and, in particular, hand cut rasps are still made by a few French makers. As well as having a reputation for quality the files are generally expensive.

Liogier are relatively inexpensive for saw files, and also needle files.

Saw files in small sizes are very difficult to find anywhere, and just about unobtainable in Australia.

Brett Gregory organised group rasp orders last year, and is now preparing a group order including saw files. Examples of the prices (landed in Katoomba) are - 4" Extra Slim $9.16, 5" X Slim $9.83, 6" XSlim $11.63. For Slim 4" is $8.79, 6" is $11.22.

The price for a 6" Slim from hard ware shops is probably not much different to this, note handles not included. Depending on the type of file, files are available from 100mm to 300mm.

Ian Wilkie in Brisbane, who makes backsaws on a regular basis, has tested the files over recent months, and is very positive about the quality of the files.

You can see Ian's first impressions of the files here: http://www.woodworkforums.com/f152/triangular-files-saws-132174/#post1411406.

You can read a review of the rasps at http://www.woodworkforums.com/f152/rasp-road-test-141118/index2.html#post1374792

You may have to be logged in as a member to view the pictures.

Those who are interested can contact Peter Evans at peterevans@tttg.org.au for general details, or go directly to Brett Gregory at brettinkat@gmail.com for a copy of the spreadsheet that contains details of all files and rasps available for the next February group buy.

TTTG is not involved in the group buy and is passing the details to members for their information.

The TTTG Home Base

The TTTG Committee has moved the Library into a separate room and rearranged the tool collection in the Strathfield Men's Shed.

This is the first step in achieving two important objectives for 2012.

The first objective is to make the TTTG Library holdings accessible.

The second objective is to improve the TTTG Tool Collection.

There will be more information on the TTTG Library in NEWS 124.

In 2012 TTTG will improve the tool collection by concentrating on filling the missing spaces in the two important TTTG Tool Boxes.

These tool boxes are

A Pattern Maker's Tool Kit

A Joiner's Tool Chest

Both boxes date to the 1920s. The Joiner's Tool Chest was made in the NSW Railway workshops.

The Pattern Maker's Tool Kit has most of the original contents.

The Joiner's Tool Chest has some of the original tools but many of the other tools have been dispersed over the years.

TTTG is looking for the following tools for the Joiner's Tool Chest.

Stanley planes (mid 1920s)

#4 Smoothing

#7 Try Plane

#16 Block Plane

#45 Combination Plane

Disston Saws

D8 Hand saw, 14" Tenon Saw

Other tools

Chisels, try square, brace bits

Any appropriate tools dating to the late 1920s will be considered.

Donations will be acknowledged

The TTTG Library

www.tttg.org.au

TTTG has the basis of a comprehensive library of publications on traditional machinery and hand tools.

TTTG is currently moving the TTTG Library to one location.

TTTG is in the process of cataloguing the TTTG Library

By the middle of 2012 the TTTG Library catalogue will be available on line.

Contact Rick Mitchell via the web site to borrow books.

Ken Hawley on Martin

TTTG News 121 included extracts from Thomas Martin's *Circle of the Mechanical Arts* on the production of files and saws in the second decade of the nineteenth century. ***Ken Hawley has contributed more information.***

FILEMAKING

This early 19th century journalists' story of file making is only partially correct, there are omissions and some errors. The most blatant of these are.

Paragraph 3

Steel For all files, cast steel of 1.2% carbon content was used. Saw files later had 1.4% carbon, as they needed to be harder. Large rubbers, sold by weight, were made of Cementation steel, cast steel being too expensive.

Paragraph 13 Para 4

Stripping was a draw filing process, done mostly on three square files. The surface had to be flat across the file blank, to cut the tooth to an even depth. Although many engineers cannot file a flat surface, stripping was often done by young children. Many people when trying to file a flat surface will produce a rounded one, the natural movement of the arms produces this effect, engineers and fitters used to be taught how to file flat, yet kids did it! For the stripping of three square files a piece of one inch wood was needed say 300mm long and 75mm wide. The file blank was laid across the gap in the wood (stripping block), because the blank is resting on the point and tang ends (point contact), so when a file is applied, the blank will rock in sympathy with the file as it is drawn over the surface of the blank. This produced a dead flat smooth surface, ready for cutting. Cheap and simple!

Page 14

File cutting hammers The size of file cutting hammers varied between 4oz and 81bs.*The Hawley Collection has 27 different weights of cutting hammer all the same shape.*

File cutting chisels File cutting chisels are generally triangular in shape; the head may be only .125 to .250 inch in diameter. The chisels' cutting edge being slightly wider than the file blank to be cut.

Cutting The file blank is placed on the stiddy (anvil) resting on a piece of lead (to protect the teeth already cut) with the tang towards the cutter. Cutting starts at the point farthest away. The chisel is held in the left hand at a slight angle with the chisel head away from the cutter. The hammer is raised 300mm – 450mm (this varies) and dropped onto the chisel, with little assistance except for guidance. This produces a furrow and raises a ridge. The tooth raised stands proud above the surface of the blank. The chisel is lifted, brought forward, lowered and positioned behind the previous struck tooth. The chisel is repeatedly pushed up to the back of the proceeding tooth progressively down the blank rapidly. This gives a constant pitch of tooth. It is the weight of the hammer falling from a consistent height which gives consistency of pitch

Page 15

Hardening was in salt water. A potato was often tossed into the salt solution to test for use. If the potato floated it indicated there was sufficient salt. Half round files would come out bent like a banana, due to the unequal file section. To overcome this problem the hardener bent the file the opposite way before hardening, so the files came out straight.

The files could be straightened immediately after hardening (without cracking or breaking) due to the residual heat retained in the centre mass of the file. Cold water splashed on one side would influence a bent file to straighten. After scouring the file teeth, the file is, 'proved' for hardness, using a strip of hardened steel drawn quickly down the file. If it is soft, the teeth will show up as white where the prover has turned the teeth over.

Page 16 **Illustration**

Almost certainly this photograph is of a file forger in Warrington Lancashire. Note the steel rods against the rear wall. The man in the photograph was in a cine film taken by Sam Hannah in the 1950/60s (I think) at a Lancashire file makers. The film has been unavailable for some years. *The Hawley Collection has many tools for hand file cutting, occasionally I 'go through the motions' and demonstrate how to cut files by hand.*

Page 17 **Saw Making**

After circa 1765, all saw plates were made by the sheet rolling process, which produced saw plate of even thickness. The first sheet rolling mill in the Sheffield area was 10 miles up the River Don at Wortley Tin Mill, when tin plate was produced from wrought iron made at Wortley Top Forge. It is almost certain that sheet steel would be rolled for the then new Sheffield saw trade which lasted for 200 years or more.

I am not sure I agree with the comments about the engravings.

Saw making was no worse than many other Sheffield Industries.

Saw grinders (heavily unionised) were amongst the highest paid workmen in Sheffield. Some union members were not against maiming or killing those that they thought threatened their livelihoods. It took a Parliamentary Enquiry in the 1850's to begin to resolve the conflict.

Page 17

Top left illustration This is a representation of, 'Paring' the plate to shape. **Top right illustration**' 'Toothing'.

Bottom illustration

'Scorching', (initial grinding) is on the left of the picture

'Drawing' fine grinding in mid picture. The right of the picture shows long or pit saws being scorched.

Industrial Images from the penny magazines

The editor is preparing a publication based images of factories published in nineteenth century popular journals.

Numerous illustrations of the new industries were published and the detail in many of the images is surprisingly good. The interpretation of the reporter may often be a little confused by the illustrator often accurately captured machinery, workshop layout and work processes.

The editor should have more details ready by the time News 124 is out.

We intend to ask Ken to comment on the illustrations selected.

Ken Hawley's comments have encouraged the editor to reprint more contemporary accounts and images of industrial processes in *NEWS.*

My Black and Decker

Leonard Traynor

A Memory from the Past

My workshop was small, cluttered, and crowded so 1 converted a large shed in the back yard into a new workshop. This was a monumental move with everything from the old workshop being shifted to the new workshop, four times the size of the old one. No longer was I to work in a crowded space, now I had room to move, and some extra machinery.

During the move, things were found that had been hidden and forgotten years ago. One of these was the green metal box that once housed my Black and Decker drill set. 1 acquired this in 1955, the first set of tools I could call my own. At the time, I was earning a small apprentice wage, and didn't have enough funds to buy it out right, so it was bought on hire purchase. Being under the age of twenty one, my dear father went guarantor for me, normal practice at the time. I well remember how proud I felt taking possession of the shiny new box, containing the electric drill, saw attachment, sanding disks etc.

As the green metal box was dusted off memories came flooding back of me proudly carrying it home from my local hardware shop in the Sydney suburb of Granville and using it for the first time.

Over the years that drill set was given a lot of work and due to its solid construction never failed in all the years 1 used it. In the course of time I graduated to bigger, and a more extensive range of tools, and the Black and Decker was put aside.

The Black and Decker seemed to disappear into the back of little used cupboards, and shelves. With the box re-discovered, 1 wondered what else from the kit may have survived the passage of time, the rigours of work, and the moving from one home to the next, so I went searching.

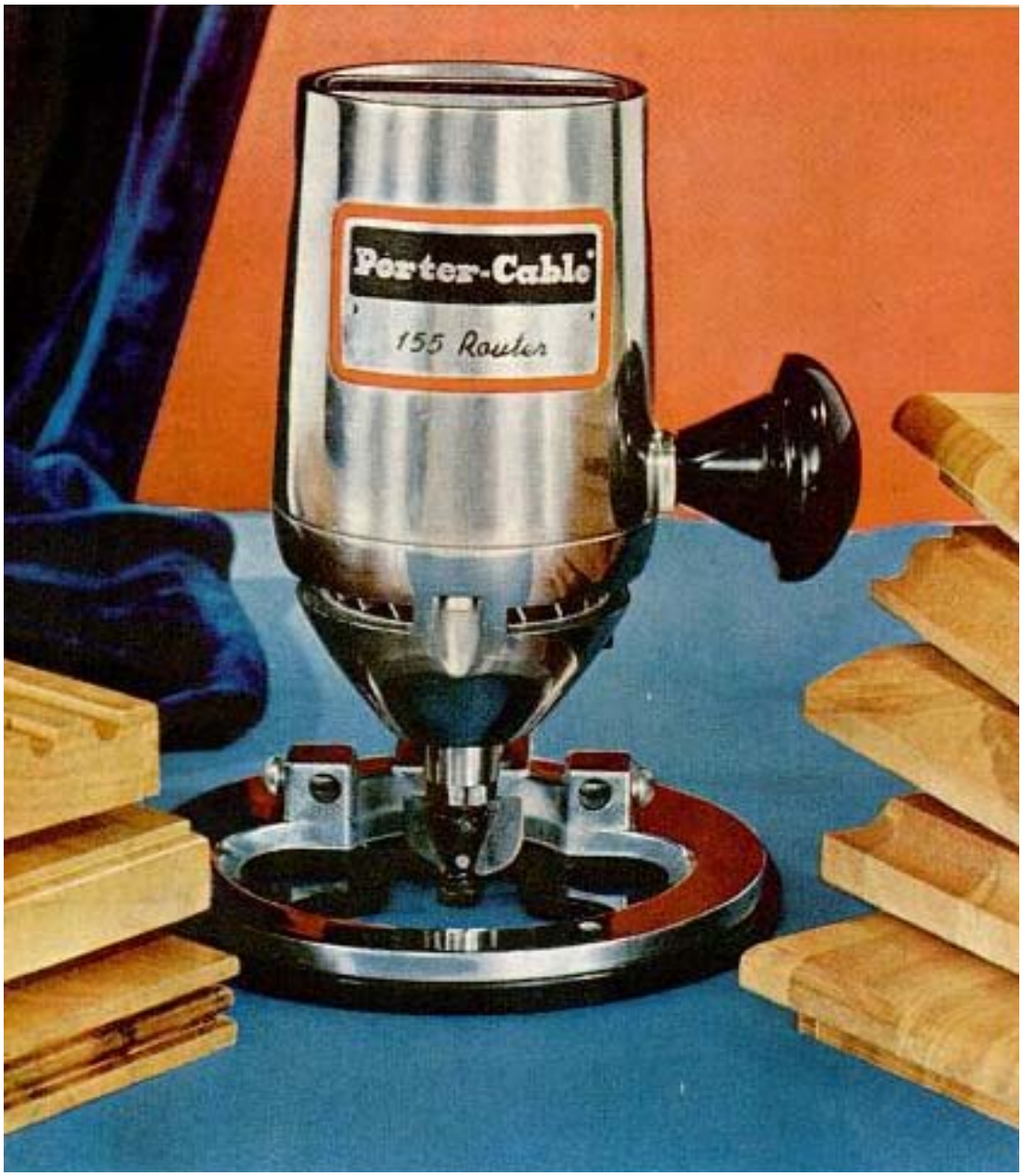
Much to my surprise, bit by bit, parts of the kit were unearthed, from the back of crowded cupboards, the bottom of boxes, and high shelves. First the shiny metal drill, working as good as the day I bought it, excellent testament to the high quality of tools from that time. I was delighted as the kit all came together, circular saw, and blades, rubber sanding disk, even the lamb's wool buffing pads had survived the passage of time, hard work, and moth attack. One of the wool polishing pads had never been used, and was good as the day the kit was purchased. Finally, all the parts were uncovered, cleaned up, dusted off, and put back in the metal case. Even the Black and Decker drill stand I had purchased about the same time was found lurking on a top shelf.

Now it all sits in my new workshop, not to be used, but a reminder of my early years of hobby work, home maintenance, and construction. So well made, that I dare say it could still give years of sterling work if required. But as a tribute to its many years of faithful and reliable service it has been retired to a pride of place in the new workshop giving rise to the question, will my current set of tools last the same length of time, and give the same quality of work?


Black & Decker
POWER TOOL CHEST

The Latest Electric Router from the U S A

Fifty Years Ago



Popular Mechanics February 1962

The caption claimed this router would become the most used tool in your workshop. Apart from the sixties ascetics this Porter Cable router is fairly basic. Stanley made a similar, if less stylish, router.

Fifty Years Ago ***The latest electric plane from the U S A***

NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT!*

Porter-Cable Power Block Plane

You can plane any surface . . . any edge . . . make bevel and rabbet cuts . . . do dozens of useful jobs with this new Model 167 Power Block Plane. It's a real problem solver—and it's the only one of its kind on the market.

Compact, lightweight, it fits in the palm of your hand easily. Truly a precision tool, it is built to last. A heavy duty motor and positive belt drive transmit 21,000 rpm to the big capacity steel and carbide spiral cutter at the flick of a finger.

See this amazing tool in action at your Porter-Cable dealer's today! He's under TOOLS, ELECTRIC in the Yellow Pages.

FREE FOLDER illustrates many outstanding features of the Model 167 Power Block Plane, write: Porter-Cable Machine Company, Subsidiary of Rockwell Manufacturing Company, 822C N. Lexington Ave., Pittsburgh 8, Pa. In Canada: Porter-Cable, Ltd., Box 837, Kingston, Ontario.

*(But the idea is too good to stay exclusive)

Porter-Cable
another fine product by
ROCKWELL

Popular Mechanics February 1962

Australian Made Braces

Goodall & Co. Pty. Ltd.

CARPENTERS' BRACES

H545—Stanley No. 73

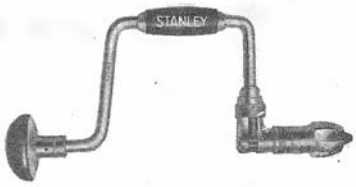
A top quality craftsman's brace, open ratchet type. High grade nickel plated finish. Ball bearing head, steel clad. Rosewood head and handle. Hardened alligator jaws. Twelve point ratchet.

10in., 12in. and 14in. sweeps available.

H546—Stanley No. 78

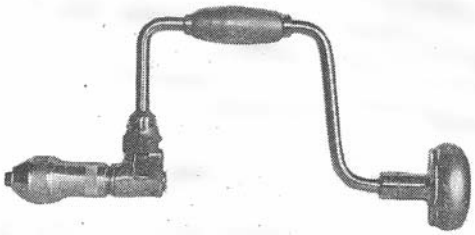
A good medium priced brace, open ratchet type. High grade nickel plated finish. Hardened steel thrust washers. Hardwood head and handle in attractive walnut finish. Hardened alligator jaws. Twelve point ratchet. 10in., 12in. and 14in. sweep.

H547—Stanley No. 144



A popular open ratchet type brace. Bright steel finish. Hardened steel thrust washer. Hardwood head and handle, black finish. Hardened jaws. Eight point ratchet. 10in. and 12in. sweep.

H548—Tough All Steel



A versatile open ratchet brace. Hardened steel thrust washer. Pressed steel handle and head. Hardened jaws. 12in. sweep.

H549—Silex No. 80

No. 80.—"Silex" ratchet brace (alligator jaw). Ball-bearing head, polished bakelite head and grip, ⅛in. steel bow, open ratchet, drop-forged machined alligator jaws. Solid drawn steel chuck, shell knurled, metal parts all polished, nickel plated.

10in. and 12in. sweeps.

H550—Silex No. 100

No. 100.—"Silex" ratchet brace (holdall jaw). Ball-bearing head, full clad steel plate, bakelite head and grip. ⅛in. steel bow, open ratchet, universal jaws designed and machined to take ¼in. round shanks as well as bit stock shanks.

10in., 12in. and 14in. sweeps.

115

H551—Carpenters' Braces Plain

A cheaper type of brace than the ratchet brace having a bright steel finish and fitted with alligator type jaws. 10in. sweep.

Available in "Silex" or "Faylan" brands.

As new lines are constantly being added to our range it is not possible to illustrate all our stock lines. If the article you require is not shown in this Catalogue please let us have your enquiry so that we may advise you on availability.

SALES TAX, WHERE APPLICABLE, MUST BE ADDED TO ALL PRICES QUOTED.

Goodall & Co Pty Ltd Catalogue

Sydney 1960?

Catalogue is probably early 1960s.

The Australia made braces are *Tough, Silex, Faylan* and perhaps *Stanley*. Another Australian brace manufacturer was *MitaMit*.

Portable Power Drills

Popular Mechanics June 1962

Images of Sher Tools

WILL THE MAN WHO BOUGHT THE BLACK & DECKER 1/4" DRILL PLEASE STAND?

Who has the Black & Decker ¼" Drill? That's right . . . all *four* have different Black & Decker ¼" Drills . . . each one designed to match a specific type of drill use and user. Which one precisely fills the bill for you?

A. THE ¼" CORDLESS ELECTRIC DRILL . . . the world's first and only completely portable drill. There's nothing like it for maintenance work on land or sea. No cord. No plug. No outlet. The power is in the handle of this shockproof Cordless Drill.

B. THE ¼" PROFESSIONAL ROLLER BEARING DRILL . . . the first ¼" drill in the industry with all roller bearings. That sweet surge of 20% more power at the business end will please any pro. So will the cooler-running, friction-free operation that saves time, saves money and means longer drill life.

C. THE ¼" DELUXE DRILL . . . gives the advanced amateur and craftsman a fistful of power to handle the most demanding jobs in wood, steel, masonry or plastics. Compare it with any other drill in the medium price range for over-all quality and over-all performance.

D. THE ¼" UTILITY DRILL . . . for the home handyman who wants Black & Decker quality at the lowest possible price tag. A sturdy, economical tool, the Utility Drill will provide years of usefulness with ample power to drive all B&D ¼" drill attachments.

Look to Black & Decker to give you the widest choice in power tools . . . in drills, drill kits, saws, jig saws, sanders, routers, and hedge and lawn trimmers.

Black & Decker

FIRST FAMILY OF FINE TOOLS

Send 25c for 180-page booklet, "How to Choose and Use Power Tools." Write: The Black & Decker Mfg. Co., Dept. 9-062, Towson 4, Md.

Wolfgang Sievers photographed industrial images in the 1960s.

This photograph shows a Sher portable power tool being made.

Fitter and Turner Sher Tools factory Abbotsford, Victoria 1962

1962.Black and white,195 x 243 mm.

Part of Wolfgang Sievers photographic archive [picture] 1938-1991.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS of factories, work sites and people at work are unique historical documents. The *NEWS* editor needs old images for *NEWS.*

If you have any old photographs consider sharing the images with readers of *NEWS*

The editor can be contacted at www.tttg.org.au

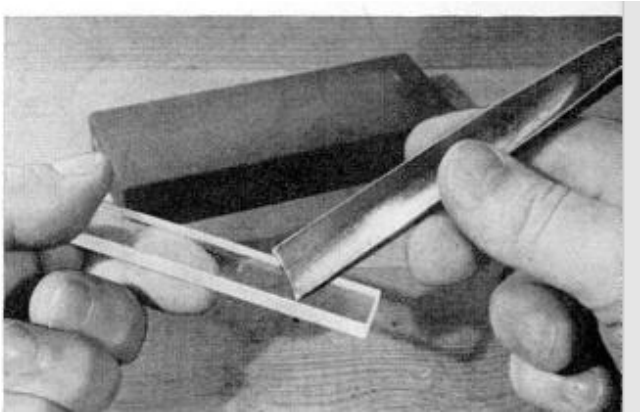
Practical Hints

Testing an edge

Popular Mechanics January 1962

Edge Tester

Old-timers tested the keenness of the cutting edge on a hand tool by nicking a thumbnail. If the edge was acceptably sharp, it would trim the nail easily. Unless you're skilled at this sort of thing it's not recommended. A better way is to use a scrap of clear plastic in the manner pictured. There's no danger of a slip and a badly cut finger and the plastic gives a good indication of the keenness of the edge. If the tool will trim a paper thin shaving from the plastic, you can be sure it's sharp enough for all practical purposes.



If readers aren't sure of the above hint what do they think of the older hints?

Popular Mechanics and Mirror of Science August 12 1870

These are only a small sample of the advice offered regularly in this English magazine.

If you try out these old techniques take sensible safety precautions.

The Lemon Syrup seems harmless. If you are tempted to make some you can buy the best Citric Acid at the best price from TTTG.

Lemon Syrup Take of Oil of lemon, 25 drops. Citric acid, 10 drachms. Simple syrup, 1 gallon. Rub the oil of lemon with the acid, add a small portion of syrup, and mix.

Making Callipers You can see these in any tool maker's shop window. Sketch the shape and cut them out of sheet steel. Five shillings would buy them better made than you could make them at home probably.

Heat Treatment

Screw Taps and Dies "W. Reed" should bake his nipples and sockets in a retort well charged with powdered yellow prusslate of potash, and while red hot plunge them into urine; if they do not harden the fault is with the iron. He can make his taps and dies of *good* wrought iron and bake them in the same manner. If he is an old subscriber, and can refer to Vol. IV., p. 833, he will there find my *modus operandi* fully described. With good iron the process is a success; but with bad Iron I think nothing can be done in the way of steeling or case hardening.

Case Hardening

Charred sheep shanks is the very best material for case hardening; if these are broken up and placed in a sheet-iron box, luted with clay, he will have no scaling of his work.

Magazines like Popular Mechanics and Mirror of Science would try to answer any question and could even provide recipes!

Disston
Aluminium handled saw

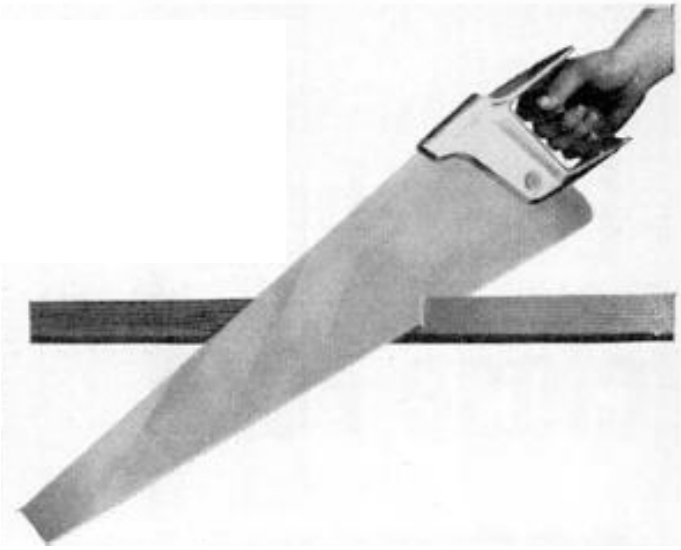
These saw handles were discussed in *NEWS 122.*

The date of Disston Aluminium saw handles was tentatively suggested as somewhere in the late 1960s.

The tool review below is reprinted from *Popular Mechanics March 1962.*

It appears these innovations followed the absorption of Disston by the Porter Corporation.

2. TOP-QUALITY HAND SAW, designed for maximum comfort and control, has aluminum handle. The blade is made of exclusive thick-backed steel, and each tooth edge is ground to same gauge. The handle is attractively inlaid with solid walnut. Saw is priced at $13.95 and made by Disston Div., H. K. Porter Co., Porter Building, Pittsburgh 19, Pa.



Early in the 1960s Porter set up a division of Disston Porter in Australia.

There were several saw manufacturers in Australia.

These included the largest makers like Marsden, Tiger and Lett River, as well as smaller makers like Shaw.

In the same time frame Stanley took over Turner Tools. Turner made a large range of planes, screw drivers and architectural hard ware.

Sydney Timber and Working With Wood Show 2012

The TTTG Stand will have a 1960s theme

There may be some string ties and side burns!
GO-GO Dancers may pose OH&S issues

Australian made Hand Tools

Australian made Power Tools

On Line

RAYMOND G McInnis

Writing Woodworking's History

The Web Master of this site is an American Librarian who has down loaded a large archive of printed material from classic books and periodicals about woodworking.

The selection is comprehensive but largely from U S of A publications.

For readers interested in how Americans approached working with wood before the Power Tool lobby took over the popular press this site will become compulsive.

www.woodworkinghistory.com

Cornish Workshop

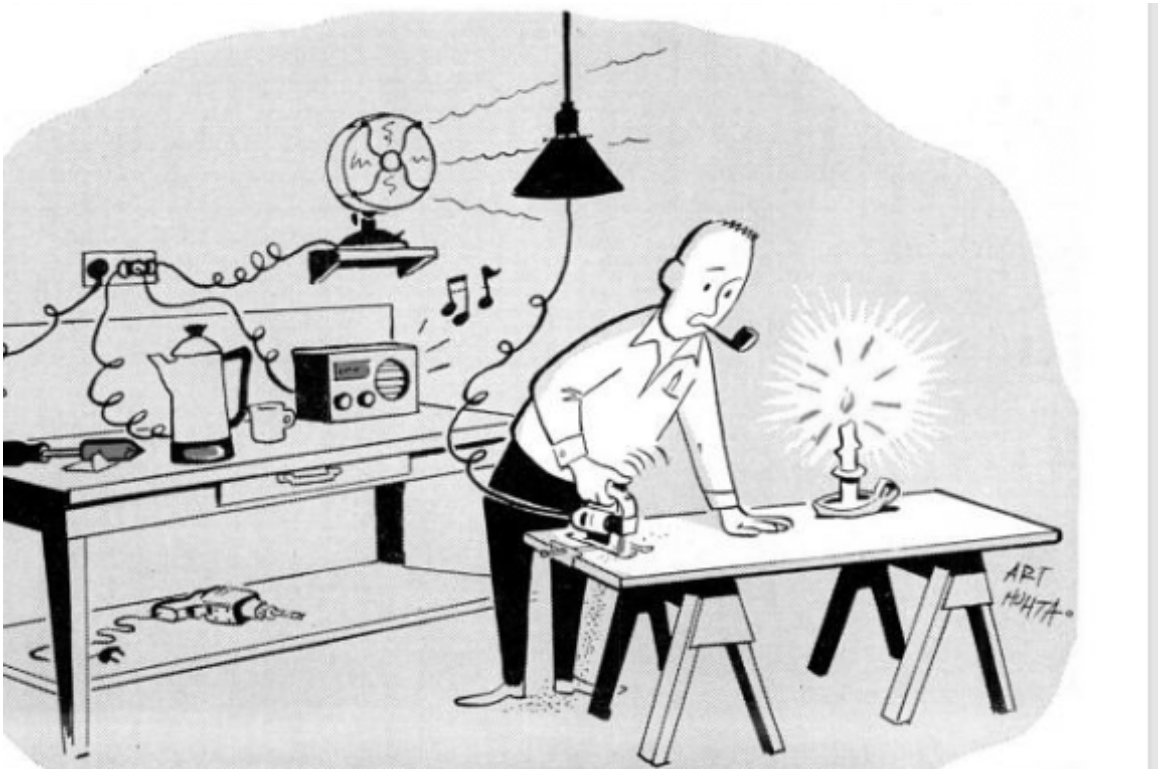
Tool Chest

This is a UK site well worth visiting regularly. Here you can find old plane instruction leaflets, classic Woodworker Magazine articles and lots of generally sound advice.

Alf's Blogs have a cult following. The recent Blog on Tool Chests are brilliantly written with the bonus of excellent photographs of the most stunning solid mahogany Cabinet Maker's Tool Chest.

www.cornishworkshop.co.uk

Popular Science December 1962



Tools in NSW in 1850

Iredale & Coys Iron Stores

Iredale & Company was a large Sydney importer and retailer of Ironmongery. Iredale had several competitors, they were not unique, anything made in the British Isles and America could probably be purchased in NSW.

The editor has settled extracts from an Iredale advertisement in The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser 1853.

IRONMONGERY.

Important to Settlers, Country Storekeepers, and Others.

IREDALE & CO.'S IRON STORES,

ESTABLISHED 1820.

IREDALE & CO. respectfully inform their old customers and others that they have lately received large additions to their already extensive and varied stock of Ironmongery.

But whilst confident they have for many years past enjoyed the highest reputation for furnishing a really good article, they are also sensible that coupled with this reputation their house has been considered high in proportion.

Settlers' Stores.

10 lb. Woolpacks, Sewing Twine and Needles, Wilkinson's and Sorby's best Sheepshears, Raddle, Tar, Hurdle Nails, Hobble Chains, &c. &c.

Agricultural Implements.

Best BY Sickles, 4, 5, 6; Reap and Bagging Hooks, crown and patent Scythes, iron and wooden Rakes, Pickaxes, Mattocks, Garden and Grubbing Hoes, Grafting Tools, post-hole, gardeners', and boys' Spades, Shovels, Spade Handles, Wheat Riddles, brass-wire Flour Sieves, pitch, hay, and dung Forks, Handles for ditto, best steel Corn Mills, &c. &c.

Blacksmiths' Tools.

Anvils, Bellows, Vyces, Stocks and Dies, Hand-screw Plates, sledge and hand Hammers, Bellows, Files and Rasps, Iron Squares, Wheeler's Buzzes, Adzes and Axes, Farriers' Tools, &c. &c.

Butchers' Tools.

Cleavers, Choppers, Saws, Steels, Knives, &c.

Coopers' Tools.

Compasses, drawing, heading, and hollow Knives, Hammers, Spokeshaves, Hatchets, &c.

The readers' attention is drawn to the extensive range offered. Some of the brands will be familiar, note *Wilkinson's and Sorby's best Sheepshears.*

All the basic tradesman's tools are listed and Iredale would have other tools in stock.

Under Blacksmith's tools the Wheelwright's tools are listed, reflecting the close association of these two trades.

As is to be expected the Cooper's Tools are listed by themselves.

The use of *&c* was a convention to indicate

"all the other tools are in stock"

Carpenters' Tools.

Cross-cut, hand, frame, and pit-saw Files; Scotch, claw, riveting, flooring, shingling, and lathing Hammers; socket, mortice, turning, and firmer Chisels; Gouges, Compasses, Marking Gouges, Squares, Pincers, screw and shell Augurs, Gimblets; broad, felling, and mortice Axes; Adzes, Braces and Bits, Plane Irons, Saw Sets, Tomahawks, Pencils, Measuring Tapes, Rules; trying, Jack, smoothing, pannel, filister, ovoloe, rabbit, ogee, bead Planes, &c.

Abrasive stones include stones for edge tools in a number of types, scythe stones and grindstones. Turkey and Charley Forest stones were used for fine honing sheep shears as well as sharpening bench tools. Grindstones were a workshop and farm basic.

Stones.

Turkey, Welsh, Rag, Scythe, Charley and Grindstones.

The Carpenter's Tools include both general and specialised timber processing tools. Top of the list are Files for sharpening saws. All the basic chisels and gouges are listed. Marking gauges are included with the usual typographical error! All types of axes and adzes are there. Also to be had are braces and bits as well as Augurs and gimblets, and saw sets to go with the saw files. Tomahawks are offered, these were often referred to in NSW as *American Tomahawks*, no many of the axes and adzes as well as the Cooper's tools were of American manufacture. Pencils and plane irons are on offer as well as Tape Measures and Rules. The list of planes is long and terminated with *&c*, indicating that ploughs, cross grooving, hollows and rounds and other specialised planes were kept in stock by Iredale.

Merchants' list can be a bit boring to read but they do indicate the tools available at any given time.

Concerns like Iredale also sold iron, steel, nails and screws. These lists are even more boring to read but they are important because they reveal the availability of the basic materials for building and for manufacturing.

Where have all these tools gone? In many country towns it is rare to see any nineteenth century tools. At one time there would have been at least one carpenter's workshop and a blacksmiths'/ wheelwright's workshop. Every farm had some hand tools. On large farms there may have been a carpenter and blacksmith. Where are all the old axes and Pit Saws? Life may have been hard but in many ways it may have been more interesting

TTTG is interested in encouraging greater aware of traditional trade skills. One way of doing this is by public demonstrations.

Museums and Historical Groups only have to talk to TTTG!

Joiner's Tools in Nicholson

Mechanic's Companion 1832 Philadelphia edition

Plate of Joiner's Tools in *NEWS121*

The Compass Plane is similar to the smoothing plane in size and shape, but the sole is convex, and the convexity is in the direction of the length of the plane. The use of the compass plane is to form a concave cylindrical surface, when the wood to be wrought upon is bent with the fibres in the direction of the curve, which is in a plane surface perpendicular to the axis of the cylinder. Consequently compass planes must be of various sizes, in order to accommodate different diameters.

The Forkstaff Plane is similar to the smoothing plane in every respect of size and shape, except that the sole is part of a concave cylindric surface, having the axis parallel to the length of the plane. The use of the forkstaff plane is to form cylindric surfaces, by planing parallel to the axis of the cylinder. Planes of this description must likewise be of various sizes, to form the surface to various radii: these two last planes are more used by coach-makers than by joiners.

The Straight Block is used for shooting short joints and mitres, instead of the jointer, which in such cases would be rather unhandy; this plane is also made without the tote, and as it is frequently used in the plane, that is, it forms a more acute angle with it: in order that it may cut clean, the inclination of the basil, and the face of the iron, is therefore less on this account: the length of the straight block is twelve inches, its breadth three and one eighth, and depth two and three quarters. straightening the ends of pieces of wood perpendicularly to the direction of the fibres the iron is inclined more to the sole of the plane, that is, it forms a more acute angle with it: in order that it may cut clean, the inclination of the basil, and the face of the iron, is therefore less on this account: the length of the straight block is twelve inches, its breadth three and one eighth, and depth two and three quarters.

Rebate Planes in General The Rebate Plane is used after a piece of stuff has been previously tried on one side and shot on the other, or tried on both sides, in taking away a part next to one of the arises of a rectangular or oblong section, the whole part therefore taken away is a square prism, and the surfaces formed after taking away the prism is two straight surfaces, forming an internal right angle with each other; so that the stuff will now have one internal angle and two external angles The operation of this reducing the stuff is called rebating.

Rebating is either used by way of ornament, as in the sinking of cornices, the sunk facias of architraves, or in forming a recess for the reception of another board, so that the edge of this board may coincide with that side of the rebate, next to the edge of the rebated piece.

The length of rebating planes is about nine inches and a half, the vertical dimension or depth is about three and a half, they are of various thickness, from one and three quarters to half an inch.

Rebate planes are of several kinds, some have the cutting edge of the iron upon the bottom, and some upon the side of the plane. Of these which have the cutting edge on the bottom, some are used for sinking, and some for smoothing or cleaning the bottom of the rebate; and these which have the cutting edge upon one side are called side rebating planes, and are used after the former in cleaning the vertical side of the rebate. Rebate planes differ from the bench planes, before mentioned, in their having no tote; the cavity is not open to the top, but the wedge is made to fit completely, and the shaving is discharged on one side or other, according to the use of the plane.

Sinking Rebating Planes are of two denominations, the moving fillister and sash fillister: the moving fillister is for sinking the edge of the stuff next to you, and the sash fillister the farther edge; consequently these planes have their cutting edges on the underside.

Of the moving Fillister Upon the bottom of the moving fillister is a slip of wood, so regulated by two screws as one of the vertical sides of the slip may be fixed parallel to the edge of the sole; then the breadth between this side of the slip and the edge of the sole of the plane is equal to the breadth of the rebate. This slip is called a fence, and the vertical side of it next to the stock, the guide; as the rebate is made upon the right edge of the stuff, the fence is always upon the left side of the sole. The iron between the guide and the right hand edge of the sole of the plane must project the whole breadth of the uncovered part of the sole, otherwise the plane will not sink, so long as it is kept in one position; the right hand point of the cutting edge of the iron must stand a small degree without the vertical right hand side of the plane; for if this point of the iron stood within, the situation of the point would, also pre. vent the sinking of the rebate; it is also necessary that the cutting edge of the iron should stand equally prominent in all parts out of the sole, otherwise the plane cannot make shavings of an equal thickness, and consequently instead of keeping the vertical position, will turn round and incline to the side on which the shavings are thickest, and thus the part cut away will not have a rectangular section, for the bottom of the rebate will not then be parallel to the upper face of the stuff; and the side which ought to have been vertical, will be a kind of ragged curved surface, formed by as many gradations or steps as the depth consists of the number of shavings. Observe, that whatever regulates any plane which takes away a portion of the stuff next to the edge, to cause the part taken away on the upper face of the stuff from the edge to be 1 of one breadth, is called a fence: in like manner,, whatever prevents a plane working downwards beyond a certain distance, is called a stop. Therefore the fence regulates the horizontal breadth of what is taken away, and the stop the vertical dimension or depth, and this is to be understood, not only of rebate planes, but of moulding planes, where the moulding is regulated in its horizontal dimension, in the breadth or thickness of the stuff, and the vertical on the adjacent vertical side.

Continued in *NEWS 124*

Country Museum Visit

The editor spent a few days in Scone in the Upper Hunter region of New South Wales. Scone has many old buildings so I had a lot to keep me occupied. Scone has a Museum but it is only open on Wednesdays and Sundays. I was there on a Wednesday and was given permission to examine the old tools in the collection.

The Museum is in the old Police Lockup and the Research Centre is in the Police Sergeant's residence. These buildings date to 1870. Next door is the old Court House which is pre1900. The complex holds an estimated 20,000 objects plus records and photographs.

I was allowed to examine all the tools including those in the big shed in the Lock-Up court yard. On display are the predicable tools, an incomplete 45 Plane, a few wooden bench planes, a few blacksmith's and tinsmith's tools etc.

Once I looked closer I noticed some real gems. There are some masons' tools for dressing mill stones. The RSL is built around an 1870 Flour Mill. A few carriage builders' tools, a Chinese pattern frame saw, a Pit Saw and some old timber samples.

When my eyes adjusted to the poor light in the big shed I noticed the real treasures. As well as another Pit Saw, a treadle lathe, some axes and grindstones there are many tools worthy of closer examination.

As interesting as the tools are, they are rivalled by the sewing and washing machines. It would be great to see the washing machines being used!

There are also a number of drilling machines and Joist Borers, all in excellent condition. In all honesty there are too many notable tools to remember. I was quick in offering TTTG's assistance in identifying the tools. This offer to help has been reinforced in an email.

Scone & Upper Hunter Historical Society Museum

Kingdon Street, Scone NSW

Phone 02 65452189

Opening Hours

Wednesdays 9.30-2.30, Sunday 2.30-4.30

Admission

Adults $2, Child 50c, Family $5

Facilities

Research (Wednesdays), guided walks and tours by arrangement.

Know a good Museum?

Share your experience with other readers of *NEWS*.

Send details to the editor *or* Write a page or two about the Museum.

Book Review

Popular Woodworking December 2011 #194

Popular Woodworking seems to get better with every issue. In the USA interest in traditional methods and tools continues to grow. Even some established tool manufacturers are reintroducing old tools made to old standards, notable being Stanley again making good quality chisels.

There are a number of articles in #194 of Popular Woodworking of interest to readers of *NEWS*.

Veritas Bevel-up Smooth plane

For anyone looking for a bevel up finishing plane this plane, at US $179, has to have a lot of appeal. The concept is old but the styling is new. I'm sure we will see this tool available locally and be able to try using it, maybe at a TTG "plane tuning" workshop. The author's appraisal of the tool is free of spin and full of facts.

Cramercy Veneer Saw

This is another no hype appraisal of an old tool redesigned by a top quality tool maker. Cramercy make saws based on traditional designs but also introduce some innovative functional improvements. You can learn how to make a very low cost traditional veneer saw at the next TTTG Saw Sharpening Workshop but the Cramency saw will tempt a few readers to fork out some cash.

Chisels Through the Ancient Eye

The author, Adam Cherubini, has subtitled this article ***Today's tool choices pale in comparison.***

Adam explains the design and use of traditional chisels and along the way he even demystifies the older steels, "blister" and "cast" steel.

By using traditional tools, perhaps more importantly using tools in the way they were used in the past, Adam has developed a mastery of old techniques. This allows him to make intelligent comments on the efficiency of traditional tools.

Well worth reading if only to gain an insight into why the instructors at TTTG Workshops recommend buying old chisels and bringing them back to useable condition.

12 Rules for Tool Chests

Chris Schwarz's assertion is very provocative and controversial,

The best way to store tools is in a traditional Joiners' Tool Chest"

By explaining the rules governing the design of tool chests he makes a very strong case. I like the way he discusses the "problems" with modern redesigned tool chests to illustrate the advantages of older tool chests. The correct materials and construction techniques are examined in details. Dimensioned drawings complement the text.

Buy a copy and enjoy reading these and other well written articles.

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP INC

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