

NEWS 143



June 2015

TTTG Inc.

www.tttg.org.au

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Cover

*Department of Labor and Industry
Richmond Virginia USA. 1960?*

Next Meeting

Tuesday 9 June 2015

Blackmithing for Woodworkers

The Auction

The Meeting will conclude with a member's only auction.

Again there will be many bargains to be secured at low prices!

A run of donations provides many items to be put under the hammer.

Auction Rules

The tools to be auctioned will be under cover before the auction.

If you bring tools to be auctioned give details before the meeting.

The auctioneer needs to know what he is selling before the auction commences.

2015 TTTG Fees

Membership	\$40
Workshops	\$40
Tool Sales	\$5
Meetings	\$5

NEXT WORKSHOP

Metalworking skills for Woodworkers

Sunday June 21

Learn metal working skills by making a useful tool. Participants will be shown how to select steel and to lay out a project. The “hands on” experiences involve bench work and forge work.

The workshop includes hardening and tempering new tools, annealing and hardening and tempering old tools and edge sharpening tools.

The project is a Striking Knife.

Workshop Venue Brush Farm House
Forster Hall
19 Lawson Street Eastwood

\$40 Enrol online. *Details at www.tttg.org.au*

Workshop Fees

No concessions everyone pays the same

Later in 2015

Proposed Workshops:

Electric Routers

Tool Repairs

Heritage Joinery

How Much?

*Each TTTG Workshop costs **\$40***

Enrol online. [Details at www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)

TTTG Inc.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The general meetings are at the National Trust Centre 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 next general meeting is in the Board Room opposite the Annie Wyatt Room.

Refreshments are provided.

The entry fee is \$5.

TTTG Inc. Contacts

Postal Address

The Traditional Tools Group Inc.
Post Office Box 314
Lindfield 2070 NSW

Enquires

Mike Williams
02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie
bobcrosbie@tttg.org.au

www.tttg.org.au

NEXT MEETING

National Trust Centre
Observatory Hill Sydney

Doors open 6.30pm

Tuesday 9 June 2015

Topic: Blacksmithing for Woodworkers

The presentation will be followed by a “members only” auction

Donations to TTTG

The Traditional Tools Group accepts donations of old tools and machinery.

TTTG does not offer a “clear out everything in the garage” service.

TTTG cannot guarantee to pick up donated tools immediately.

Bequests to TTTG

What will happen to your tools? Consider leaving your collection to TTTG.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL TTTG OFFER VALUATIONS OF TOOLS

Next Meeting

Tuesday

9 June 2015

Doors open 6.30pm

National Trust Centre
Observatory Hill Sydney

Topic: **Blacksmithing**

The DVD's shown at a previous meeting were popular and led to calls of "Show us more".

This DVD is one of a series and shows how a woodworker's compass or dividers can be made in the home blacksmithing workshop. Once again, observing the operator's skill of working with red hot metal is both mesmerising and tantalising to want to "have a go" yourself.

The presentation will be followed by a "members only" auction

Last Meeting

Tuesday 14 April 2015

Topic: **TTTG Member No.1
Travelling Man**

Speaker: **Henry Black**

"Across Canada by motorhome"
Henry Black, TTTG Member No. 1, illustrated his recent experiences exploring museums, old machinery and workshops across Canada. Henry shared with the audience his slides and experiences.

From vintage car restoration enthusiasts to foundries and pattern making workshops!

The Auction

More donations are rolling in!

More bargain priced tools waiting to be fought over by the hungry-for-more-tools audience.

Good quality user tools will be under the auctioneers' hammer.

The Traditional Tools Group Inc. Tool Collection & Library

Part of the TTTG Tool Collection has been moved to Brush Farm House.
The TTTG Library has also been installed in Brush Farm House.

Eventually the Tools and Library will be open to TTTG members.

Volunteers Wanted

TTTG needs volunteers to catalogue the Tool Collection and the Library.

***Contact the TTTG Library Sub Committee if you can help.
The volunteer Library teams members are Connie and Rick.***

Brush Farm House

What's happening?

TTTG has been a co-tenant at Brush Farm House since 2014.

Ryde Council has provided;

-Use of a large secure shed to store equipment for the workshops.

-Use of the commercial kitchen to cater for workshops and events.

-Use of the mezzanine level above the commercial kitchen to display tools and printed material.

-Use of the storeroom behind the mezzanine level to store the TTTG Library, rare tools and tool chests.

-Access to Forster Hall for teaching workshops and other events.

-Access to Brush Farm House for heritage trade skills seminars and other special events.

-Access to the Brush Farm House grounds for heritage trade skills seminars and other special events.

TTTG, in collaboration with MCC Macquarie Evening College, offers classes on a wide range of skills in Forster Hall and adjacent areas.

The Workshops

Participation in the workshops continues to be strong. Additional courses are planned for 2015/6.

The only constraint on the growth of the workshops is the logistics of teaching in Forster Hall.

The Library

The bulk of the books have been moved to Brush Farm House. Connie and Rick have sorted and recorded a large proportion of the collection. Unwanted books have been identified and will be sold.

The Library will be catalogued using a computer programme.

The aim is to have the catalogue on the Website by early 2016.

Initial inquiries have been made into the possibility of having the rarer books scanned and made available to members online.

The Tool Collection

When the Library is catalogued, a concerted effort will be made to assess and document the tools.

TTTG Hand Tools

Like the Tool Collection, the "Tools used for the Workshops" continue to expand in number. Excess user tools are sold to members at the Workshops and member's Swaps.

The Future

The future for TTTG at Brush Farm House looks promising.

Further negotiations with Ryde Council may result in more space being available to TTTG.

Geoff Unsworth and John Bates are preparing a proposal for a purpose-built TTTG Teaching Workshop at Brush Farm House.

Correspondence

TTTG Bench

Attached are some photos of my version of the demountable work bench from plans in News 139. The bench top is made of 30 mm laminated pine and at 1330 mm x 640 mm it is smaller than the plan but needs to be able to fit in the back of my car. The frame is four layers of plywood, as per the plan. Because the bench will probably be used in a car park or paddock more than inside a building I have made steel end caps on the bottom of the legs with a rubber pad glued to the ends of the legs. The bolts holding the top and the vice have had the domes ground down, painted and located into cups recessed into the top.

The bench will get its first outing on Sunday at the Toodyay Moondine Festival. Thanks for providing the plans.

Geoff Emms M639
Western Australia .

Hand Tool Preservation Society of
Western Australia.



The TTTG bench was a raging success at the event on Sunday. We were able to use a draw knife, spoke shave and tenon cutter on mallet handles without any concern for the bench moving on the bitumen road surface we were on. HTPS WA members attending our display were very impressed with assembly in 13 minutes and knock down in about 8.

I'm contemplating an article about it for our website and "The Benchmark" and wondering if it would be OK to direct readers to you at TTTG if they are interested in getting a copy of the plans.



TTTG Plans

Plans published in *NEWS* are on the TTTG Website

Work Bench

Saw Sharpening Vice 1

Saw Sharpening Vice 2

Next: Joiner's Tool Chest

2015 Sydney Working With Wood Show

June 12, 13 and 14

Olympic Park Homebush

Demonstrations

ALL DAY

Citric Acid

10.15am, 10.30am, 11am and 11.45am
1pm, 1.15pm, 2pm and 3.30pm

Plane Skills

10.45am and 11.30 am
1.45pm and 3pm

Dovetailing

11.15am and 2.30pm

Shaves & Drawknives

12.30am

Scrapers & Routers

Concession Tickets

A limited number of tickets

Available at the June 9 Meeting

Only \$10 each

Pay Clynt when you hear “Concession tickets, buy now”

TTTG Members and Friends Tool Swap and Social Day

6 December 2015

Where is it?

Brush Farm House Eastwood

How much to get in?

Only \$5

Can I sell?

Free table for members

Do I get a feed?

Light refreshments provided

When can I get in?

Doors Open 9.15am

In-Tech Display

2015 Sydney Timber and Working with Wood Show Hall 6

The Sydney Showground, Homebush.

Friday 12 June to Sunday 14 June
10.00 am to 5.00 pm daily



TTTG is one of the sponsors of The Schools Competition

TTTG sharpened the planes and chisels for the "Schools Competition."

Joiner's Tool Chest

Recent donation to TTTG

TTTG has another tool chest! Quality isn't the best but the latest tool chest dates to around 1890 and is reputed to have been made in Glasgow. The tool chest is fitted with sliding trays and the quality of the construction is high.

The chest is made from red pine and the sliding trays are made of red pine with ash sides. There is the usual plane till in the bottom of the box with a sliding cover.

The dovetails are testimony to the quality of the Tool Chest.

Pope No. 5 ½ Planes

TTTG member Peter Tierney collects Pope Planes and has an example of almost every plane made by Pope.

Peter wants a Pope No. 5 ½

Contact Peter at
peterjtierney41@gmail.com

NB Peter isn't interested in buying a Pope/Falcon No. 5 ½

Concraft Planes

TTTG member Peter Tierney is after any information about and photographs of Concraft Planes.

Contact Peter at
peterjtierney41@gmail.com

Plane Setting goes Digital

Plane Check is a device for setting planes. The editor didn't want such an expensive gadget but he showed the advertisement to John Bates.

They are often sold as tire depth gauges (would you believe). I bought one and a calliper micrometer for about \$12 including shipping just to see what they were like for the price. Turns out they are (for the money) reasonable and even come with the batteries included!!! John purchased one for the editor for \$6. One day I will find a use!

Do you know?

Nickel Plating and Aluminium

The nickel plating on the lever cap is flaking. I suspect that aluminium and nickel plating don't go together - a metallurgist might be able to explain.

A question from Hans Brunner

Hans is selling online an A6 Plane

The TTTG Website

Have you visited the **new** TTTG website yet??

It's easy; just go to www.tttg.org.au

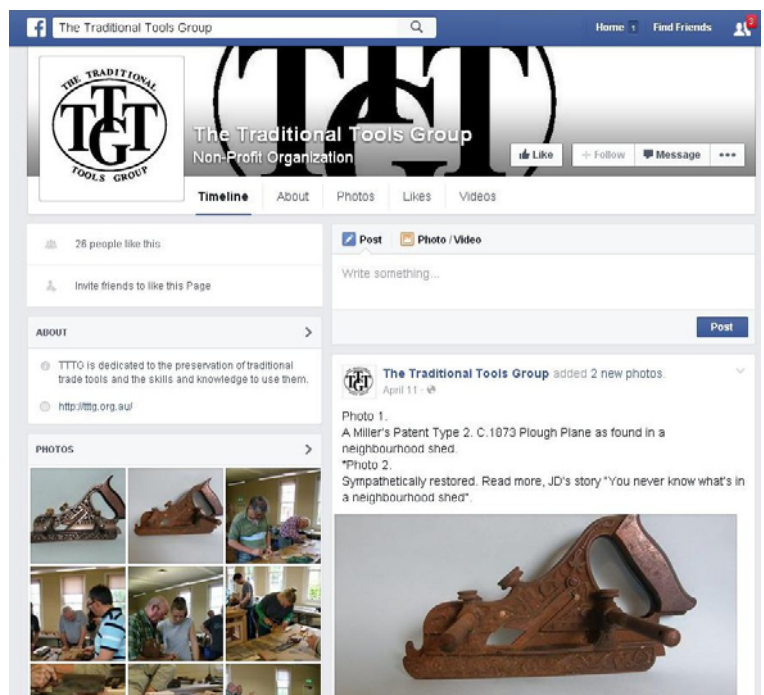


As a TTTG member, you have the right to login and see all the extra goodies

You can also pay your subscription with PayPal when you are logged in

Not logged in yet? It's easy, just click on the login at the top right and follow the prompts. There is an option on the login page to click if you haven't logged in before. It will open the page for you to enter your details; think of a name for yourself and add a password.

If you are a Facebook user, **TTTG has a Facebook page now**. Just click on the facebook logo at the bottom right of the opening web page and there you are!



The Ledger

New Members

Elissa Buttsworth M769

James Docherty M770

Membership Subscriptions

Please pay your \$40 TTTG membership subscription before 1st July 2015.

Subscription Notification

Unbound in News 143.

Subscription Payment

TTTG offers the following four methods of subscription Payment:

- Cash or cheque to the Treasurer at a meeting or workshop.

- Cheque (or money order) by mail payable to TTTG Inc.

Send to:

TTTG Inc.
PO Box 314
Lindfield
NSW 2070

- PayPal (see www.tttg.org.au) or go to page 9 of this issue for instructions if you haven't visited the website yet.

- Direct deposit to the TTTG account at "My Credit Union"

BSB 802-058
Account No. 18925

Please note:

Provide name and/or membership number when paying membership subscription.

NEWS availability

Limited copies of *NEWS* are printed
Late payers may not receive *NEWS*

Log in to the website

First time users of TTTG's website www.tttg.org.au should enter a login name and password of their choosing. (see page 9)

How to do this is explained on the website when you click on *Log In*.

Members should check their personal information on the website and update if necessary.

Sydney Wood Show

June 12th to 14th 2015

Hall 6

Sydney Showground

Olympic Park

For every year since the first Wood Show TTTG has been there with great tools and demonstrations.

TTTG will be there in 2015

The price of admission is \$16
At the TTTG meeting on 9th June, I will have a very limited number of tickets for sale at \$10 each.

There are not enough tickets for everyone at the meeting.

When the tickets are offered at the end of the business session, it will be "first in first served".

Clynt Sheehy

TTTG Treasurer

Commonwealth Distributors

“Superie” Products, Box ...0 Haymarket P.O. Sydney

The “Holdtite”

**Bench Stop & Clamp should be screwed
to bench exactly as on card
Adjust the grip any width parallel
or tapered timber
50 times quicker than
bench screws**

**UNBREAKABLE
LASTS FOR EVER**

**Patent
Applied for**

Rust Removal

Popular Woodworking Editors' Blog
Rust Removal 1 April 2015
In the Navy, in our machinery equipment spaces (i.e., boiler rooms, engine rooms, etc.) we cleaned the steel deck plates with unsweetened Kool-Aid (flavoured citric acid)It could be made into a solution for general cleaning, or a paste for scrubbing into nooks and crannies. As to your use of vinegar (acetic acid), you might want to experiment with adjusting the pH of your cleaning solution, by starting with glacial acetic acid and diluting it to a solution

(Remember: always add acid to water.) to make your desired pH. Both organic acids have a chelating effect on iron oxide, but I would think that being able to adjust the pH would be advantageous for cleaning oxidized iron / steel tools. Glacial acetic acid used to be a standard, over the counter, product for darkroom use, though now it might be harder to find since we've entered the age of the digital photograph. It is still carried by laboratory supply houses, if you want to try it.

TTG Citric Acid

The best quality and price

Files, rasps and floats can be sharpened in citric acid. First clean the file. Soak the file in a solution of hot water and citric acid for some hours. Wash in soapy water. Dry and spray with G15. Rub off the G15 with a cloth before using the tool. Wear rubber gloves. *It isn't rocket science and cheaper than buying lemons!*

450 grams bags \$5 each

Mystery Tool

Hint

This is a woodworking tool

The tool will be identified and described in *NEWS* 144

Floor Nailer

The following has been sent to the editor revealing an unexpected use of the Vertical Nailing device in *NEWS* 142.

With reference to the floor nailer that is used standing up, we used to make something similar in the 1960's to nail on stiletto heels to boots in the shoe repairing game. There was no other method to get the nails/tacks through the heel of the sole into the heel. There was also a special sort of vice that fitted the last stand to hold the heel while it was nailed to the shoe or boot.

Mystery Tools Wanted

If you have a tool you cannot identify, or a tool you can identify but think is a challenge for others to identify, send a photo to the editor. If it is a real mystery the photo will be printed in *NEWS*.

2	Mathieson's Hand Mortising and Boring Machines with Chisel and Bits, "Star" Pattern-Usual Price, £20 each.....	£18
1	Mathieson's Hand Mortising and Boring Machines, with Chisel and Bits, "Crescent" Pattern-Usual Price, £24 each.....	£21/10/
2	Mathieson's Hand Mortising Machines, with Chisels, "Crescent" Pattern-Usual Price, £20 each	£18

Anthony Hordern's Sale
The Sydney Morning Herald
Tuesday 30 January 1917



Mathieson Graveyard



The TTTG Mathieson Mortising machines are in a corner of the TTTG Shed at Brush Farm House. Volunteers are needed to restore these hand-operated machines.

Workshops

June to September

Metalworking Skills for Woodworkers

Sunday June 21

The project is a Striking Knife.

Woodworking Skills

Saturday 18 July

Where do I start?

Woodworking Joints

Saturday 8 August

What tools do I need?

Rare Tools

Saturday 22 August

What do I really need?

Hand Saw Sharpening

Sunday 13 September

Sharpening and using hand saws.

Later in 2015

Electric Routers

Safe use, cutters, jigs and devices

TTTG WORKSHOPS

June to September

Sunday June 21

Saturday 18 July

Saturday 8 August

Saturday 22 August

Sunday 13 September

\$40 Enrol online

Details at www.tttg.org.au

To ensure a place at a workshop it is advisable to enrol early.

BRUSH FARM HOUSE

Metalworking Skills

Woodworking Skills

Woodworking Joints

Rare Tools

Saw Sharpening

Sunday 23 August

Heritage Skills Day Brush Farm House

Saw Filing Workshops

Bob Crosbie

John Daniel and Bob Crosbie have been presenting the Saw Filing workshops for a decade.

These workshops have always been popular and well-attended.

Ten years ago the presenters had no idea whether anyone would be interested in sharpening saws. One of the first saw sharpening classes was publicised at the Sydney Timber and Working with Wood Show and both Bob and John can recall the same comment repeated at regular intervals “*who sharpens saws anymore?*”

Obviously many people sharpen handsaws because they appreciate the efficiency of a well-sharpened saw. No doubt the virtual absence of reliable commercial sharpening services has increased the need to learn how to sharpen handsaws.

The only saw sharpening workshop that was a bit of a challenge was the one where we had close to forty students. Even so every one left with a sharp saw in a happy mood.

The current venue, Forster Hall at Brush Farm, involves setting up and taking down the benches and equipment before and after each workshop. Saw Sharpening is the only workshop where we close the books at twenty enrolments.

It is time for me to share some of the perennial saw questions.

The following questions are about what the potential student can do at a Saw Sharpening Workshop.

Can I sharpen Hard point saws?

Can I sharpen TCT saw blades?

Both questions are answered with a **NO** as the workshop isn't held in a fully equipped machine shop.

Can I sharpen Japanese Saws?

The answer is **YES** provided you bring suitable Japanese saw files. Incidentally most students leave a saw sharpening workshop without any desire to use Japanese saws after having used sharp “English” style hand and back saws.

Can I sharpen Dovetail Saws?

The answer is **YES**.

Can I straighten a bend saw?

The answer is **MAYBE** depending on the saw's quality and the bend or kink in the blade. The venue does not have the equipment to re-tension buckled saw blades.

Can I recut the teeth?

The answer is **YES** provided you have the aptitude and patience.

What should I bring?

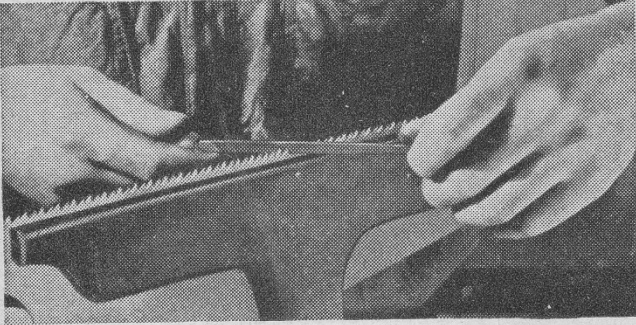
An old saw for practice and any saws you want assessed.

Old saws and new files can be purchased at the workshop.

Saw Sharpening

THE RIGHT FILE FOR THE JOB

is a "must" in saw sharpening



NUMBER OF SAW POINTS PER INCH	USE
5	7" REGULAR TAPER
6	7" or 8" SLIM TAPER
7	6" or 7" SLIM TAPER
8	7" EXTRA SLIM TAPER; 6" SLIM TAPER; or 8" DOUBLE EXTRA SLIM TAPER
9	6" EXTRA SLIM TAPER; or 7" DOUBLE EXTRA SLIM TAPER
10	5" or 6" EXTRA SLIM TAPER

The table of file sizes is from a Popular Mechanics June 1948 Nicholson Files advertisement. These are the best sizes to use!

CARE OF HANDSAWS

Pride of ownership is evident when saws are hung up by the handles, and are not left lying around on benches. A cupboard for saws can easily be made from light timber.
Saw steel will rust if uncared for, so keep all saws smeared with vaseline when not in use. If rust has developed, use a protective oil and rub lightly with fine emery cloth.
When using a newly sharpened saw, keep a look out for nails. It takes only light contact with a nail to completely spoil all the work of preparing the saw.
If timber is to be sawn while held in a steel vice, see that the saw teeth are protected from contacting the hardened jaws of the vice.

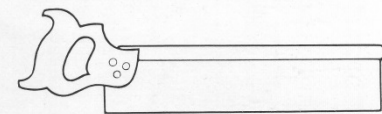
CARE OF SAW FILES

USE A FILE HANDLE. Misuse ruins many a file or impairs its efficiency. With a good, well-shaped handle fitted, you can firmly grip and better control your file, thus getting maximum service from it, and achieving better results from your filing.
KEEP YOUR FILE CLEAN. Files are often discarded as worn out when they are merely clogged with grease, dirt and filings (which only acid will remove) and still have a lot of useful life left in them. Constantly cleaned with a suitable wire brush, your files will last longer and do a more efficient job.
STORE CAREFULLY. Remember that files are made of the hardest possible steel, and the teeth may break if sharply knocked on hard material. Files should not be carelessly thrown into a box or drawer with other tools. When not in use, they are ideally stored in a rack as illustrated below. If not used daily, keep files in a dry place where rust damage is less likely.

Page 16

THE TENON SAW

Made for fine sawing the Tenon saw has a short thin blade supported by a strong back plate to resist bending of the saw. A Tenon saw has smaller teeth than a standard saw and is usually obtainable 12 to 16 points per inch.



THE DOVETAIL SAW

Smaller again than the Tenon saw, and designed for cutting dovetails and other fine intricate work, the Dovetail saw usually has more teeth than a Tenon saw, being obtainable with up to 22 points per inch.

The saw facts are from Maintenance of Handsaws Service Manual Wiltshire File Co. Pty. Ltd. Melbourne. Undated

The next TTTG Saw Sharpening Workshop

Brush Farm House Forster Hall

Sunday 13 September Enrol online

\$40 Details at www.tttg.org.au

Terry Butcher's "my favourite one-off plane" letter.

I received this touching and personal letter from Terry Butcher, a valued long time-member and past President of TTTG; Terry is now retired from work however he is never idle. The sentiment expressed in this letter needs to be shared for the integrity and passion that a craftsman has for his tools and an over view of intrinsic value that's lacking in our emerging throw-away society.

Terry's letter

Dear John Daniel,

A man after my own heart, just been re-reading your booklet on John's Pages.

This is the sort of stuff that we created TTTG for, the preservation of old tools and the memories that go with them. It doesn't matter really if a plane comes glowing with Brass and Ebony from Norris or Spiers or some of those one-offs made at times when it was needed and there wasn't anything available.

I don't think that too many tools are made for the same reason; it is not available, use something else or forget it.

When I served my apprenticeship back in the late 1940's I was taught to make lots of tools from scrap. Old files or whatever and I still use a lot of them now!

Bob is doing a good job running TTTG but I never envisaged so much time and effort would be put into learning to use and care for tools among our younger members.

My reason for writing John, it's just that we do the same things; boxes of tools are great reasons to seek them out at Auctions, not so much garage sales, too far away as I live on an Island, six hundred people, not many garage sales, and restoring tools to be used and useful and not glossy.

Please, I include a photo of my favourite one-off plane; looks good but doesn't need work.

Terry Butcher, ex-President TTTG."

Terry's one-off Plane

Terry writes,

A brief description: a very good self-made plane came from somewhere in Tasmania but no idea where or why. I think it was a challenge and the designer may have thought he had a winner but when it didn't work as well as it should he abandoned the idea.

The clamp does not seat onto the blade and so the blade will move slightly while cutting, digging in on one or more corners. A full blade with a different lateral adjustment is probably all it needed, still I won't touch it, let it be a memorial to a good idea.

What more can I add?

Very little, Terry Butcher has not only given us a glimpse into his life, displayed genuine sentiment in his approach to preserving history and shared a photo of a most interesting one-off attempt at making a rebate plane along the lines of mitre plane.

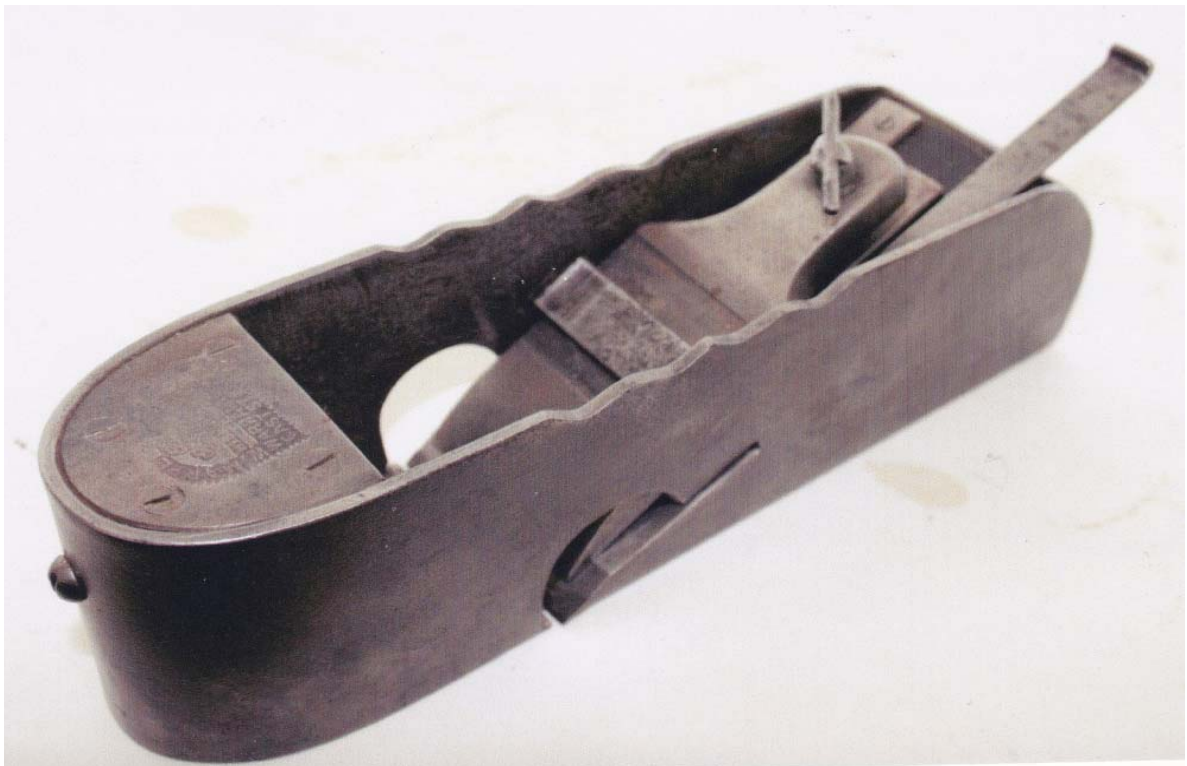
In commenting on the plane, all I can add is that the maker had a good eye for detail and fabrication, with a bit of tinkering as Terry suggested, he would have had this plane working. The plane is 10 ³/₄ inches long and 2 ³/₈ inches wide. The use of an early W.Marples plane iron to cap the front infill was an interesting touch.

Should this “home-made” plane be tinkered with?

On studying the photograph and reading Terry’s description, it’s obvious that the original full width blade has been replaced for whatever reason, however the plane is in its *as-found* condition. I agree with the sentiment, “let it be a memorial to a good idea”.

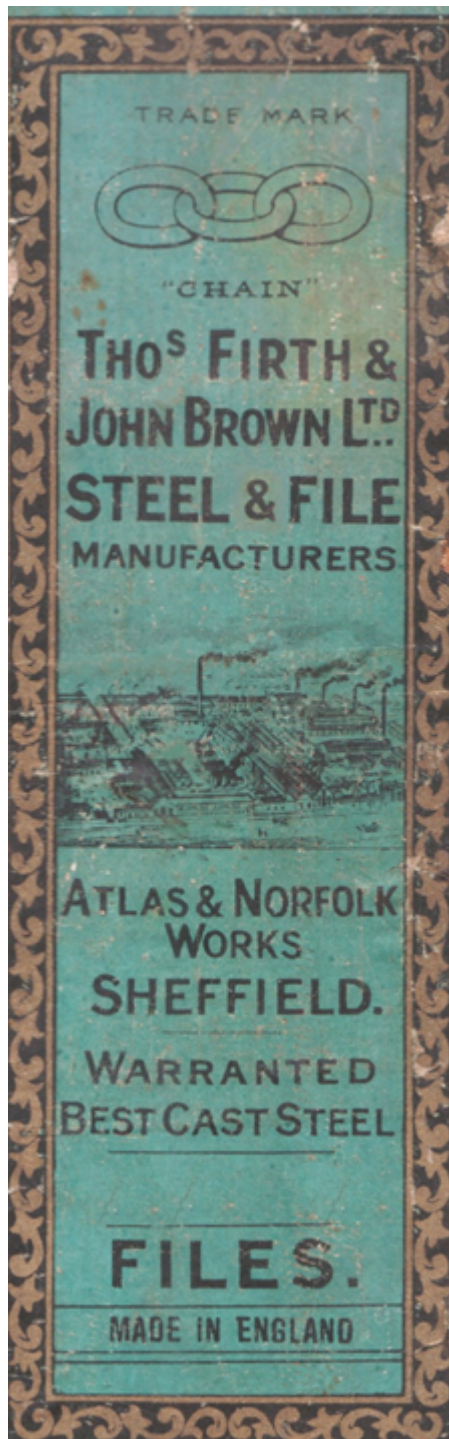
Replying to Terry’s letter

In answering Terry’s letter I told him that I was delighted to receive his hand written letter with each word carefully and thoughtfully crafted, especially in this day of impersonal texts, emails and twitters and other social media.



Files by Firth Brown

John Bates



Firth Brown made quite a few files over the years, probably millions, and the company clearly thought the quality of its files was second to none.

A 1946 advertisement claims

“Firth Brown Files – like the Bank of England a national asset”.

No small boast. In 1952 John Brown and Co purchased the ordinary share capital of Firth, Brown Tools from Firth Brown.

I have a handful of the company’s Millenicut (straight teeth) and Dreadnought (curved teeth)



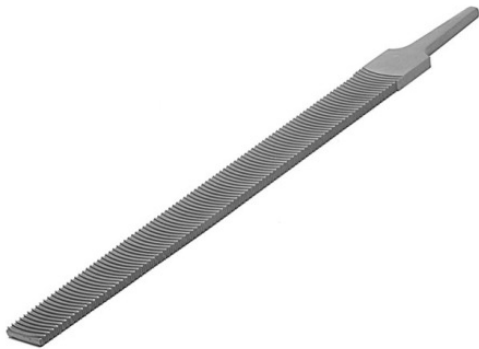
hand files both milled teeth rather than chisel cut, and of extra hard finish. Mine are 12 and 14 inches long, but smaller sizes were made. The files are branded ‘F B Tools’ and were made by Firth Brown in Sheffield, England. However, the credit for inventing the ‘Dreadnought’ file seems to belong to W and G Du Cros of Acton whose patent milling file was on display in Accessories Section at the 1908 Motor Show at Olympia.

Both types of file are made from high-alloy steel and have teeth which are undercut, resulting in faster cutting with less effort.



They may be used on all materials from aluminium to the hardest steel without clogging. The undercut and generous radius at the root of the teeth enables the file to clear itself whilst in use.

Modern day panel beaters seem to like both types of file.



A quick search shows that new files are still available. Firth Brown is no longer in business, so I don't know where or by whom they are made, probably not in Sheffield. The US-made Nicholson Super Shear and Vixen flat hand files are rather similar to the Dreadnought. Sandvik/Bahco sold a Millenicut file which was made in England at the Aven Works, Maltby, Rotherham from the 1980s through to early 2000s.

So what does a woodworker do with one of these beasts, you might ask.... Lots of stuff. It's got the efficiency of a good rasp, but is more ferocious. Its flat sides mean that you can file away a mortise right to the gauge lines. You can round the corners of a table in the blink of an eye. It doesn't taper, so you get the full width over the full length - hence great control.

Does anyone know where to source one in Australia? I have found them in the UK; they cost around £10 British pounds there, but shipping would be quite high.

History of Firth Brown

Firth Brown Steels was initially formed in 1902, when Sheffield steel makers John Brown & Company exchanged shares and came to a working agreement with neighbouring company Thomas Firth & Sons. But in 1908 the two companies came together in a tangible way to establish the *Brown Firth Research Laboratories*.

The companies continued under their own management until they finally merged in 1930 when the one hundred years old steel making interests of John Brown and Co Ltd were amalgamated with the equally long established firm of Thos. Firth and Sons Ltd. In 1930 the new company, Thos. Firth and John Brown Ltd, was formed.

The merger provided a basis for increased efficiency and greater economy in production and the years between 1930 and 1939 vindicated the anticipated improvements in productive capacity and, more importantly, in quality of product, were being amply demonstrated.





Firth and Brown were known throughout the world, their products were exported to all five continents. Both companies were at the forefront of technological development. They were one of Sheffield's largest employers.

A Million Tons of Steel for the War Machine

Over 1,000,000 tons of high quality alloy steels was produced by this company during World War II. Hitler's best efforts caused the loss of but three melts of steel during the whole war - this during the heavy Sheffield blitz when the melting shop roof was blown off and the furnaces had to be shut down for lack of night-time cover.

Without this sustained high output of quality steel in Sheffield the outcome of World War II may have been totally different.

The skills and technique which provided forgings for the machinery of the Lusitania, Aquitania, and the later giants, the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth (in 1940) together with the battleships Hood and Barham, served well in World War II to equip an imposing list of war vessels and merchant ships.

Firths were making armour-piercing shells as long ago as 1886. The range of shells varied from small calibre hardened shells to the 12,000 pound bomb. In all 386,000 projectiles were supplied from the Firth Brown works.

In the Firth Brown engineers' tool department, the normal figures of steel output and numbers of engineering components produced, pale into insignificance when confronted by the astronomical figures of individual tools produced during the Second World War. Twist drills, reamers, hacksaws, files, and milling cutters were the standard production lines.

Of a more specialized nature were highly developed forms of these tools, for instance, milled files, carbide tipped drills and reamers, and other tipped tools. In a single week over 250,000 tools were produced.

Stainless Steels

Harry Brearley took charge of the newly established Firth & Brown Research Laboratories.

In 1912 the research laboratories were commissioned to study rifle barrel metal erosion by a small arms manufacturer. So Brearley set out to discover an “erosion resistant steel”, and thus began experimenting with steel alloys containing chromium. Brearley experimented with several variations of steel alloy, ranging from 6 per cent to 15 per cent chromium with different measures of carbon. In order to gauge the wear resistance of the alloy samples, he etched each with acid and examined the effect on the microscopic grain structure of the steel.

On the 13 August 1913 the laboratories created a steel alloy with 12.8% chromium and 0.24% carbon, which is thought to be the first ever batch of what became known as 'stainless steel'. However, his employers, Firth Brown Steels, were not interested in the armament potential of this new alloy, which Harry called “rustless steel”. Brearley suggested alternative uses, in particular the application of such an alloy to Sheffield's cutlery industry. His suggestion that ‘rustless steel’ would be an excellent material for cutlery production was publicly ignored, but privately Firth's are known to have sent samples to Sheffield cutlers for an opinion. The cutlers reported that the alloy was useless due to difficulties in forging, grinding and hardening.

The talk of the town was that Harry Brearley was "the man who invented knives that won't cut". The rest is history.



Corporates Struggle for Survival

In 1983, Firth Brown amalgamated with the River Don Works to form the private sector company, *Sheffield Forgemasters International Ltd.*

The amalgamation employed a workforce of 6,500. Within three years and despite an annual turnover of £100m, the company recorded losses of approximately £20m per annum.

In 1984, shareholders of *Forgemasters* wrote off their investments, fired the entire board and brought in new management and a survival plan. Following trade union strike action, the survival and success of the business was ensured and *Sheffield Forgemasters International* management agreed to a management buy-out. The company's success through the next decade bucked the trend by dramatic increases in export sales.

In 1998 the company was sold in two parts to USA buyers - the aerospace business to Allegheny Teledyne, and the River Don and Rolls businesses to Atchison Castings. Atchison's management failed to develop the business and in 2003 the whole enterprise went into liquidation.

A major turnaround at River Don enabled local management to ring fence the business from going into administration. The management was able to complete yet another management buy-out in 2005.

A 30 minute film showing a tour of the various departments of Firth Brown's Atlas Steel Works including processes of stainless steel production, rolling, hollow roll products, forging, heat treatments, nitriding process, drop forgings, alloy steel castings and the use of steel power generation is at the Yorkshire Film Archive at www.yfaonline.com/film/firth-brown-tour-works.

Abrasive Blocks

Tools with light surface rust can be cleaned using a rubber "sanding" block impregnated with abrasive. ***Jim Davey sells Sandiflex blocks.***

Sandiflex blocks are available in three grades of grit, Fine, Medium and Coarse. *Sandiflex* blocks are made in Germany, are reasonably priced and last a long time.

The *NEWS* editor finally weakened and purchased a *Sandiflex* block from Jim. The editor's verdict, ***"why didn't I buy one year's ago?"*** In fact the editor will be buying a few more *Sandiflex* blocks from Jim.

Mawson's Hut Workshop

Philip Lambe

In Hobart there is a replica of Mawson's Huts which are in Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica.

Douglas Mawson led a scientific and discovery team between 1911 and 1914. The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery has built a replica of the huts, which still stand in Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica. Read more about the exhibition on the website.

TTTG members would find the workshop inside the hut of interest. The tools are quite recognisable, despite being over 100 years old.

<http://www.mawsons-huts-replica.org.au/history/>

Editor's Question

Are the tools from the original Mawson's Hut?

Perhaps one of the readers will be able to provide the answer.



Volunteers wanted for BATHEX 2015

26 and 27 September 2015

Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Minerals Exhibition

Bathurst remembers 200 years of History

Bathurst Showground

TTTG will be there

TTTG needs members to assist at BATHEX

Contact bobcrosbie@tttg.org.au Mike Williams 02 9144 6356

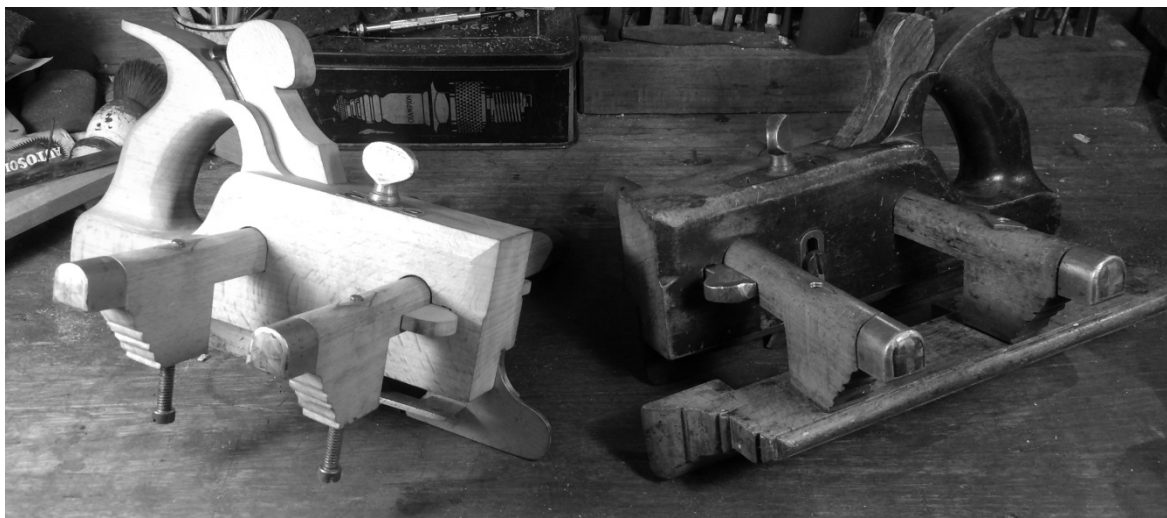
Left Handed Plough Plane

Brad van Luyt is making a *copy* of a Mathieson plane.

I have owned a Mathieson No. 8 plough plane for many years. I have been left handed for many more. This is my left handed tool story.

Brad's describes making the plane on the TTTG Website

www.tttg.org.au



Hans Brunner

Tools For Sale Online

Hans Brunner has resumed selling tools online. This is good news.

There is only one other Australian online old tools dealer.

If you are looking for old tools online compare the two dealers' prices.

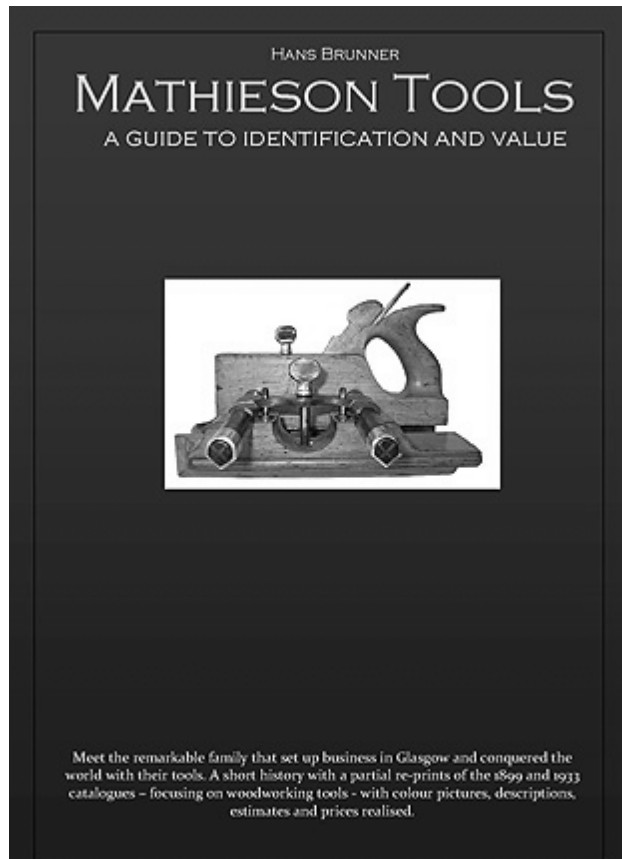
Compare the way the two Australian online dealers' tool description.

The editor of *NEWS* appreciates Hans Brunner's accurate descriptions.

Compare the prices of the two Australian online dealers' for yourself.

Hans Brunner is continuing to conduct online Auctions.

Hans Brunner is expanding into book and tool catalogue publishing



Mathieson Tools

A Guide to Identification and Value
 Meet the remarkable family that set up business in Glasgow and conquered the world with their tools. A family history with a partial re-prints of the 1899 and 1933 catalogues – focusing on woodworking tools - with colour pictures, descriptions, estimates and prices realised
 A4 format, magazine style with laminated cover, 52 pages full colour

\$ 25 postage Australia included



PLANES

FULLY FETTLED (TUNED) AND SHARP
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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

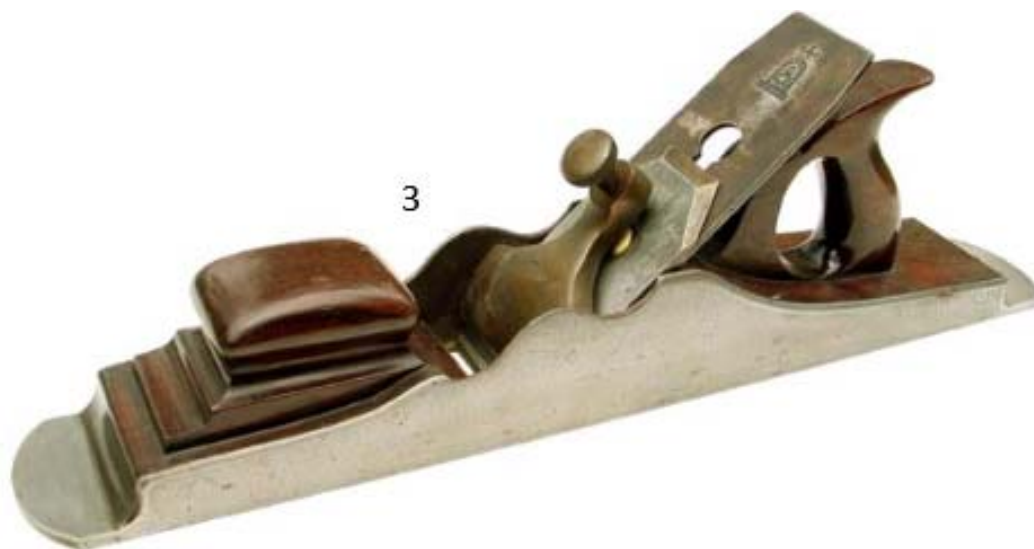
Hans Brunner
April 2015 Auction



12 The star of the show: Very rare Australian plane: Jas McLaren, Melbourne cast iron 23 ½ jointer with wooden frog. I've heard of only one other. Probably manufactured pre WW1 with a similar design used by American manufacturers as well as Spiers. Good overall but repainted, fixed handle and there is a hole in the lever cap. G \$ 500-1,000

Jas. McLaren plane sold for \$1,250

Spiers plane sold for \$1,510



3 Spiers 20 ½" dovetailed steel jointer plane with protruding toe and heel. Close to fine with beautiful rosewood inlay and handle. One small scratch on front bun, minor rust/pitting marks on sole. G+ \$ 600-1,200

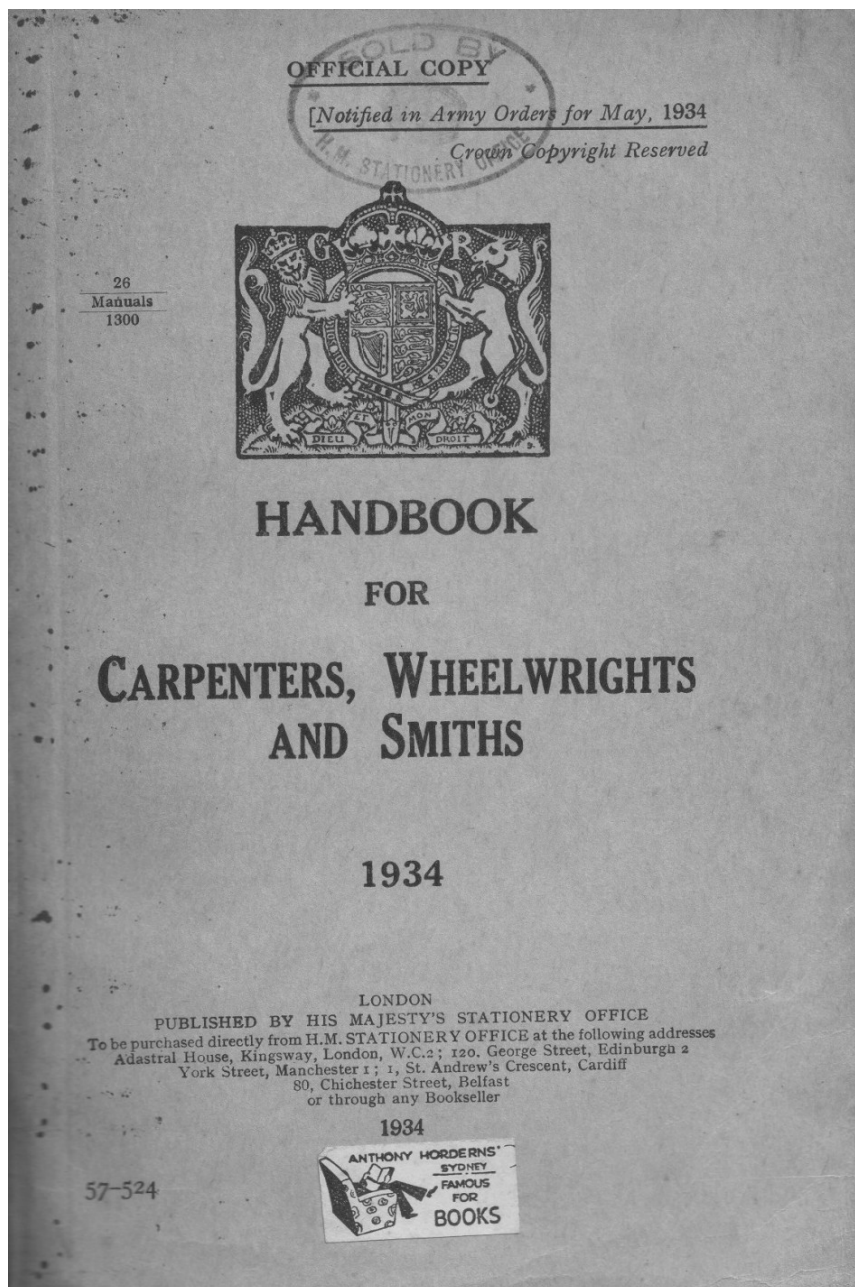
Handbook for Carpenters, Wheelwrights and Smiths

Another useful addition to the TTTG Library is a 1934 Handbook. The descriptions and drawings of basic Carpenter's and Smith's work are of outstanding clarity.

Hopefully copies of handbooks for other trades will surface.

"Before any piece of work is begun, it should be assumed that all tools are in ideal condition and the bench clear. A few minutes spent in preparation will often save hours of labour. It will also do much towards lessening wastage of timber and will result invariably in quicker and better workmanship."

Page 47 Part 3 Woodwork



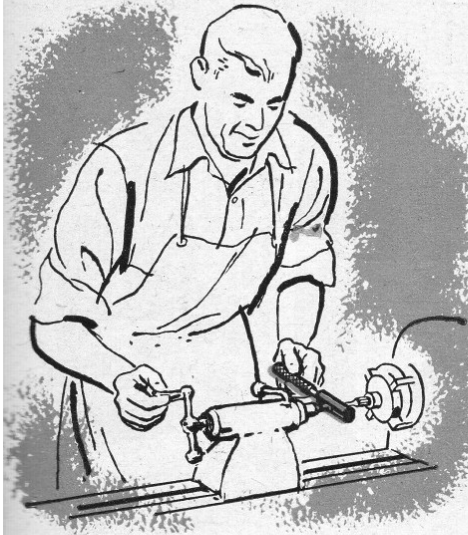
The ten parts of **Handbook for Carpenters, Wheelwrights and Smiths** are headed:

1. *Timber*
2. *Tools for Woodwork*
3. *Woodwork*
4. *Wood Wheels*
5. *Iron and Steel*
6. *Tools for Smithing*
7. *Smithing Operations*
8. *Drop Forging and Stamping*
9. *Heat Treatment of Steel*
10. *Cooling and Heating Changes in Carbon Steel*

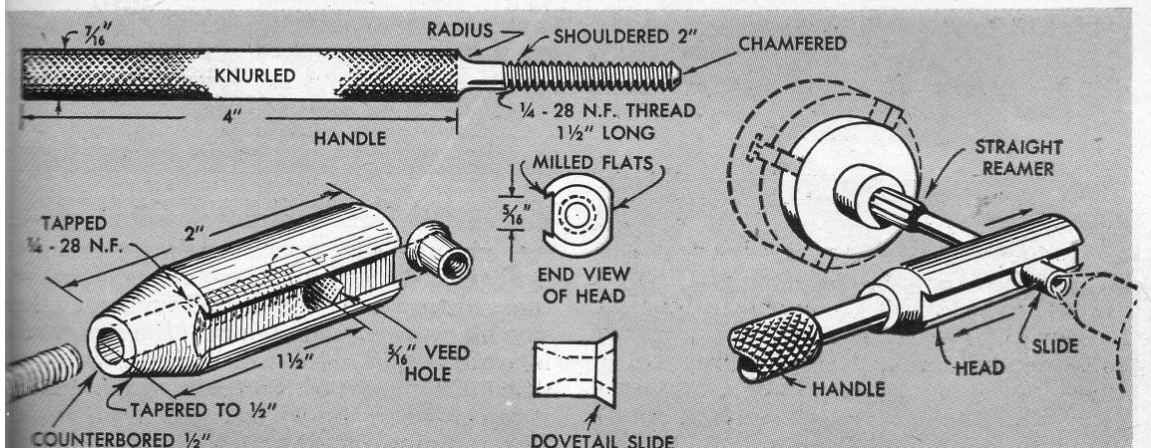
Centre Lathe Device

Popular Mechanics October 1954

"Floating" Lathe Holder for Drilling or Reaming



This holder "floats" the reamer or drill into precise alignment when drilling or reaming from the tailstock. It consists of a head which is a 2-in. length of $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.-dia. steel round one end being drilled $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. deep and tapped $\frac{1}{4}$ -28 to receive the threaded end of the handle. The hole is counterbored $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. drill, and the end of the head is tapered to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Flats $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide are milled on opposite sides of the head and $\frac{5}{16}$ -in. dovetail slot is milled along one flat, as in the end view. A $\frac{5}{16}$ -in. hole is drilled through from the opposite flat and the hole is filed to a V-shape, as indicated. The dovetail slide fits snugly into the milled dovetail and is center-drilled to take the 60 deg. lathe center. In use, a drill or reamer is fitted into the V-shape hole and the handle is screwed in to lock it in place. The setup is made as in the lower right-hand detail.



Where are these home-made tools?

For a century magazines have been printing drawings for "must have" and "easy to make" home-made tools and workshop devices.

Home-made tools and devices often surface. Quality varies greatly.

**How many of these user made tools can be linked to a magazine?
Do you have a tool you know to have been based on a magazine?**

The editor is looking for photographs of "magazine design" tools.

Send a photo of the tool and magazine drawing to The Editor.

Teacher and learner

Hand Saw Sharpening

Saturday May 16



Behind the scenes

The success of the workshops is dependent on good planning and unseen “*getting everything ready*”. The stage is set but what else makes for a successful workshop?

The Equipment

The correct tools are essential but it takes more than the best tools and equipment to make a “*how to class*” a dynamic experience.

Knowledge

The presenter needs to know his subject but there are experts who can cure insomnia in five minutes.

The verdict

Participants at TTTG workshops often thank the presenters for giving them the confidence to try. Some are even surprised when they discover “*I can do it*”.

These photos show John Daniel and an enthusiastic TTTG student.

New Tools

WHO'S WOODPECKERS?

“Woodpeckers was established in September of 1988. Our focus has always been woodworking tools. Up until 2004 we focused on demonstrating tools at woodworking shows throughout the U.S. Since 1993 we've been manufacturing router tables and router mounting plates. Starting with little more than a few routers we've grown into a full fledge manufacturer of router lifts, router fences, measuring & layout tools and many useful clamping accessories. We do our own machining, engraving, assembly and packing. We take pride in the fact that our tools are truly made in the U.S.A.”

Woodpeckers have some innovative solutions to “making” problems. Manufacturing quality is good and prices are reasonable so it is worth checking out Woodpeckers.

www.woodpeck.com/aboutus.html



Post War USA



*Popular
Mechanics
November
1954
Advert.*

New
Dewalt
“Power
Shop”

On The Web

Peter Follansbee

www.pfollansbee.wordpress.com

Joiner's notes

Seventeenth-century joined furniture; green wood, hand tools

This is an interesting website.

Peter's site features his interest in traditional hand tool methods and American native birds.

Peter is well-known to readers of Popular Woodworking.

Timber Framing

Our blog - The Jowl Post

www.castleringoakframe.co.uk/



Discover the United Kingdom world of green timber framing

2015 Heritage Skills Day

**Brush Farm House
Lawson Street Eastwood**

Sunday 23 August

*Demonstrations of heritage trade skills
Displays and sales of quality hand tools*

Volunteers Wanted

The event must be planned.

TTTG needs organisers for the event.

They will need to:

Contact Australian Tool Makers

Contact Heritage Tradesmen

Find Sponsors for the event

Contact NEWS Editor at www.tttg.org.au

In Storage

TTTG has three vintage metal turning lathes in storage.

The oldest lathe is a German Instrument Makers' lathe.

This lathe has been in Sydney from the late nineteenth Century.

The second oldest centre lathe is a Barnes No. 4^{1/2}

The youngest Lathe is a Sheraton made in Melbourne in the 1960's.

Barnes No. 4^{1/2}

The lathe is complete, including all the back gears and all the original standard tooling.

The lathe legs are missing the treadle frame and fly wheel.

When TTTTG secures a permanent workshop these lathes will be restored to working order. Anyone seen the missing Barnes' parts?



TTTG and Metalwork

Due to logistics most of TTTG's activities centre around woodworking.

TTTG is interested in all aspects of old trade skills.

Without dedicated workshops it is easiest to teach woodworking.

TTTG currently offers two metal working courses each year.

TTTG will offer more metalworking when TTTG has workshops.

Words for *NEWS*

Apart from the editor, Bob Crosbie, there is one regular contributor to NEWS, John Daniel author of JD'S.

The first of a regular article on the technology of metal working is in this issue of *NEWS*.

John Bates will be highlighting a metalworking tool and discussing the tool's history and how the featured tool should be used.

John's emphasis will be on metalworking tools and machinery.

Files by Firth Brown is the first in this new regular *NEWS* feature.

Reamers is the next article in this new regular *NEWS* feature.

In this article John investigates Australian made machinist's hand tools and discusses the application and correct use of Reamers.

Andrew's Travels continues in *NEWS 144*. Andrew has been too busy travelling to have enough spare time to document all his adventures for *NEWS 143*.

Words for the *WEBSITE*

The TTTG Website isn't ready for BLOGS but there soon will be "articles and stories" appearing on the Website. These articles will become an archive of reference material and member's experience.

Left Hand Plane is Brad's story of how he copied a Mathieson Plough Plane to make a unique left hand plane. Brad has an easy to read, off the cuff writing style and has included some great photos. *A feature is sure to get many hits!*

John Bates has been researching Australian tool makers for several years. John has amassed many facts and figures. TTTG intended to publish John's research. The Web offers the best publishing option.

Tool Steels: A Historical Survey of Types, Brands and Makers is the first in a series of research papers by John Bates to appear on the TTTG Website. More will follow. John's **Stanley Screw Threads** will also be on the Website.

The TTTG Work Bench and Saw Vice Plans will be on the Website.

Writers and Contributors Wanted

For *NEWS* and the TTTG Website

The *NEWS* and *WEBSITE* editor is seeking contributions for TTTG members. Stories and accounts of your experience may interest other TTTG members. TTTG members may benefit from your research or trade knowledge.

Reviews of Books, DVD's and magazine articles

Inside Back

One of the best tools in the TTTG Tool Collection

A new regular page in *NEWS*

Stanley #9 Plane

TTTG's #9 was in good, but dirty, condition when it was donated. All the original parts were present. The blade was full length and the plane appeared to have been well maintained but not often used.

The first step was to dismantle the plane and look for cracks! There were no cracks so the plane was then cleaned. An abrasive rubber block was used to remove the light surface rust from the body, hot dog, blade and adjusting plate. The blade was then ground, the face lapped and the blade sharpened on a fine India oilstone.

The next step was to assemble the plane, retract the blade and lap the sole flat. The lapping was "dry" on a 100 grit abrasive sheet glued to a piece of flat 12mm plywood.

The last step was to wipe off the black dust, wipe over all parts with G15 and take a few test shavings. As expected the #9 plane performs well on long and end grain.

Hans Brunner describes the #9 in his publication *Stanley Planes*. **Stanley 9 cabinet maker's block plane aka piano makers' plane** 1867 - 1943 10" long with 2" cutter Stanley version of a mitre plane with an adjustable mouth. Side handle or *hot dog* is often missing or replaced. These planes are prone to hairline cracks or worse damage, especially in the area of the front plate and the back (heel). Always check. At least half of them have some damage or other. With the hefty price tag I would not recommend buying a dirty plane over the internet, especially from a seller you don't know. Don't chance fuzzy pictures, either. Interior is black japanned, outside is polished cast iron *not* nickel plating. The 2" cutter has no back iron. For the depth adjuster to work a small back plate with the appropriate slot screws onto the cutter. This type of adjustment was used in other low angle planes like numbers 11, 25 and 164.

Use the #9 at the next Workshop

Apart from some loss of japanning the plane is in excellent condition. You can use the #9 plane and then give your verdict.

As good as a Mitre Plane?

NEWS 144

Inside Back

Stanley #10 or Stanley #45?

A Stanley #10 and a Stanley #45 were donated with the Stanley #9 plane. All three planes were made in the 1920s. *Under the dirt condition is good.*

The Stanley #45 is in the original chestnut box but missing some cutters.

Plan for the 2016 TTTG Sydney Tool Sale

While you are waiting for the Big Sale:

2016 TTTG Tool Swap

6 December 2015

Forster Hall Brush Farm House Eastwood

2016 TTTG Sydney Tool Sale

The Brick Pit Stadium Thornleigh

28 February 2016

Cost of Swaps and Tool Sale, both \$5

Come to a TTTG Workshop in 2015

The photo is from a recent workshop

Only \$40 for a great day out!

