

NEWS 156



May 2018

www.tttg.org.au
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Magazine & Newsletter

NEWS is mailed to financial members during the 3rd week of;

MAY AUGUST
NOVEMBER FEBRUARY

NEWS online

The cost of printing a copy of **NEWS** for every member is greater the revenue from membership fees.

Receiving **NEWS** by email has the added benefit getting **NEWS** early.

OFFCUTS, TTTG's newsletter, is posted on the TTTG website and emailed to all financial members in the week immediately before each TTTG General Meeting

To get NEWS by email

NEWS can be sent by email.

Send your email address to the TTTG Secretary, John Bates.

johnbates@tttg.org.au

TTTG Membership Rules

The MEMBERSHIP YEAR starts on 1 July and ends on the following 30 June.

The MEMBERSHIP FEE is determined by the Committee and from 1 July 2017 the fee is \$60.

The MEMBERSHIP FEE is due to be paid on July 1 each year and must be paid on or before August 15.

A Member may choose to pay the Membership Fee one (1) year in advance, but only from 1 January in the current Membership Year and only for one (1) year.

A Member who has NOT paid their Membership Fee by August 15 becomes an UN-FINANCIAL MEMBER from that date and will cease to receive the **NEWS** magazine or the bi-monthly Newsletter. Access to the Members' area of the TTTG website will also cease.

A NEW MEMBER joining between July 1 and March 31 the following year is a full Member for the remainder of that Membership Year only.

A New Member joining between April 1 and June 30 does not become a full Member until the following Membership Year and must pay the Membership Fee applicable to that Membership Year.

John Bates, Bob Crosbie. April 2016.

NEWS 156

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2017/2018

TTTG Fees

Membership	\$60
Workshops	\$50
Member’s Sale	\$10
Annual Sale	\$10
Meetings	\$5

Volunteers Wanted

To represent TTTG

TTTG needs members who can talk to an audience and can demonstrate “real skills”.

Previous Meeting

Tuesday 10 April 2018

Brush Farm House
Forster Hall
Lawson Street. Eastwood

A Brief History of Routers

If nothing else this meeting put to death the often heard criticism, *"TTTG only about old hand tools"*. Routers from the TTTG Collection were used to illustrate the history of the portable electric router.

The audience shared experiences and preferences and were actively engaged. Two "best router" camps emerged. The latest Fried routers and the 1960s Black and Decker routers competing for "easiest to use" and "most reliable" router.

TTTG has an extensive selection of 1960s Stanley routers and router accessories. The audience agreed *"Stanley made every modern jig"* and then asked *"Why did Stanley get out of the router market?"*

Sydney Tool Sale Sunday 25 Feb 2018

Another well attended Tool Sale. Some problems were caused by a few "delinquent" sellers. Overall both vendors and buyers were satisfied with the 2018 Tool Sale.

2019 Tool Sales

The Brick Pit is booked and the day is last Sunday in February.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 12 June 2018

Brush Farm House
Forster Hall
Lawson Street. Eastwood

This will be the last meeting in Forster Hall.

Farewell to Brush Farm

"PICK AND PAY"

When to buy?

Half hour before the meeting

During the intermission

Take the tools and your money to the Cashier's Desk

Take the free tools out the door

Exact amount appreciated!

Anything not moving sold at never to be repeated prices.

"PICK AND PAY"

At TTTG General Meetings

Bargain tools at set prices

\$2 \$5 \$10 \$20

"FREE TABLE"

Free unwanted ironmongery

\$5 Entry

Doors Open 7pm.

TTTG “Real Skills” Classes

There is strong demand for the TTTG “Real Skills” workshops.

There have been two constraints on the workshops TTTG can offer:

- 1) Lack of a suitable venue.
- 2) Assistance from members.

Forster Hall is ideal for meetings but not adequate for workshops.

Having to set up work benches immediately before each workshop and remove the benches after each workshop is a logistical nightmare.

TTTG Workshops

The TTTG Committee has submitted an *Expression of Interest* (EOI) for a Ryde Council property which would be a viable workshop space.

When TTTG secures a suitable venue the number and content of the TTTG “Real Skills” Workshops will be reassessed.

News Workshop Venue

TTTG’s *EIO* has been successful.

TTTG has signed a tenancy agreement to occupy a Ryde Council property.

TTTG’s new location is:

The Old Eastwood Town Hall
74 Agincourt Road
Marsfield

The Workshop Fit Out

The TTTG room in the new TTTG Headquarters is being fitted out.

This involves installing storage cupboards and racks and benches.

When will TTTG “Real Skills” Classes be offered?

When the room is ready a workshop programme will be developed. The programme will be promoted at the 2018 Sydney WWW Show.

Just a Sec

John Bates
TTTG Secretary

For The Traditional Tools Group the first quarter of the year has delivered a successful Tool Sale and a new TTTG Headquarters.

2018 Sydney Annual Tool Sale

The attendance was good and the profit increased, we cannot ask for much more. The Brickpit is booked for 2019 and planning has started.

There were a few negatives to the 2018 Tool Sale. A small numbers of vendors broke the table hire agreement by placing excessive stock on the floor.

Next year we will spell it out: -
"If you cannot follow the table hire conditions don't hire a table".

In 2019 all tables will be hired on a "by invitation" principle. The hard line has been forced on TTTG by the council renting the hall.

One of the sellers tried to leave the venue early and in his haste over turned his over loaded trolley. This caused significant damage to the floor. TTTG paid for this damage.

Mid 2018 Tool Sale

The TTTG committee is planning a mid-year Tool Sale at the new TTTG Headquarters. The sale will be in a large hall and only TTTG members will be invited to trade.

The mid 2018 and 2019 Tool Sales are events to "put in your diary".

April Meeting

A well-attended meeting with strong interest in the electric routers from the Tool Collection.

TTTG isn't just for hand tool users!

Pick and Pay

Again virtually everything sold. This will continue as a regular feature of TTTG Meetings.

June Meeting

Tuesday 12 June

The last TTTG meeting in Forster Hall. Brush Farm House.
All excess tools will be sold cheap!

August Meeting

Tuesday 14 August

The first meeting at the new venue Old Eastwood Town Hall.
Details will be on the website soon.

New TTTG Headquarters

TTTG has entered into a tenancy agreement with Ryde Council to use a heritage property for TTTG Meetings and Workshops.

The building is centrally located and easy to get to by car and by public transport.

Old Eastwood Town Hall
74 Agincourt Road Marsfield

“Real Skills” Workshop

A room at the TTTG Headquarters is being fitted out as a teaching workshop. TTTG has a proven track record of running classes. *The future of the workshops will be determined by demand and by the involvement of members.*

What do members want?

The workshops have been offered on Sundays but this isn't the only possible day. The classes could be on Saturdays or a weekday.

Workshop Wednesday

Another possibility is to use the workshop space for extended learning experiences.

The workshops can be offered by TTTG or in partnership with other organisations. TTTG has offered classes with MCC and has been approached by The Bower to run classes at their Redfern workshop.

Let me know what you want.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2018

Members' Meetings:

Tuesday 12 June 2018

Brush farm House – 7.00pm

Tuesday 14 August 2018

Old Eastwood Town Hall –7.00pm

***The TTTG “Real Skills”
Workshop will again be
offered after the 2018
Sydney WWW Show***

**TTTG will have a stand at
the 2018 WWW Show**

***2018 WWW Show is on
June 22 - 24, 2018 at
Sydney Showground -
Olympic Park***

Selling Tools?

-By “Selling on Consignment”

-Two TTTG Tool Sales each year

-Online TTTG Tool Adverts

TTTG can help sell your tools

TTTG sells tools for a 20% commission

Only TTTG members can sell

Offer your tools on the TTTG website

Bob needs your help

Bob Crosbie edits NEWS and I arrange printing, posting and emailing NEWS.

Contributions from members are encouraged.

Jim Davey



CREDIT CARD FACILITIES:



VISA



Jim Davey

Ph 02 4447 8822(W) 4447 8790(AH) PO Box 967 Nowra NSW 25

For Sale

Don't miss the *Pick and Pay* night at Brush Farm House

The next meeting is the last TTTG meeting in Forster Hall.

The August Meeting will be at

The Old Eastwood Town Hall

74 Agincourt Road Marsfield

The last meeting at Brush Farm will feature a sale of numerous tools. These tools will be sold at low prices to clear excess holdings.

There will be many bargains!

Have your gold coins ready for the *Pick and Pay* night in June.

Many old books and magazines will also be sold at low prices.

Woodpeckers One Time Tools

Woodpeckers' Program is Unique among Tool Manufacturers

Here's How It Works.

For each new OneTIME Tool, we make a few samples and photograph it. We then offer it for sale for just a few weeks. After the order window closes, we prepare for a single production run and make only enough to fill the orders. When the tools ship, we retire it from our product line.

How Can We Do This?

Like virtually all our tools, OneTIME Tools are made one at a time. They are not cast in expensive moulds or stamped out by the thousands. Components (often made from solid pieces of aluminum or stainless steel) are machined individually on state-of-the-art CNC equipment in our shop near Cleveland, Ohio. Although the production process may seem unusual by industry standards, it's by far the best way to release a steady flow of good tools; tools that woodworkers can use and enjoy; tools that otherwise might never be made at all.

Since 2011, we've produced over 75 different OneTIME Tools. You can see them below. You'll also see in the top row the one or two tools now available for order.

Check them out!

If you see a retired OneTIME Tool you like, click here to be notified if we do another run. If there's enough demand, we may re-run some of these tools.

Get New OneTIME Tool Notifications.

Currently, a new OneTIME Tool is offered every few weeks. The best way to be informed about upcoming tools is to receive notifications by email. We call this our Eclub.



What does the market say?

Woodpeckers are still in business and continue to offer one off tools. The designs are good, the tools are well-made and the prices are tempting.

Are Woodpeckers tools more than gadgets?

Time will tell. If you have an opinion on Woodpeckers share it in *NEWS*.

Woodpeckers
Ultimate Doweling Jig



The Woodpeckers Ultimate Doweling Jig is coming up for two years in retirement.

The Woodpeckers MT Center Gauge and Doweling Jig is close to the deadline.

How will the market judge the latest doweling Jig?

In this editor's opinion the Stanley 59 is the best jig.



Chris Vesper Tools

Local tool maker Chris Vesper has a well-deserved international reputation for his quality tools. Chris has a website featuring his products and his workshop.

www.instagram.com/vespertools

Chris sells Mortise and Tenon magazine and Alfie's Shine. Both the magazine and the wax have the approval of Chris Schwarz of Popular Woodworking.

Mr Schwarz also likes Vesper tools



Stanley Trimmer



3. NEW VENEER TRIMMER scribes and trims plastic sink-top laminates, or veneers in one operation. Designed for one-hand operation, it trims flush or bevel, vertical or horizontal, making a custom-fitted job with less installation time. Price \$85.00. The trimming tool is made by Stanley Power Tools Div. of the Stanley Works, 195 Lake St., New Britain, Conn.

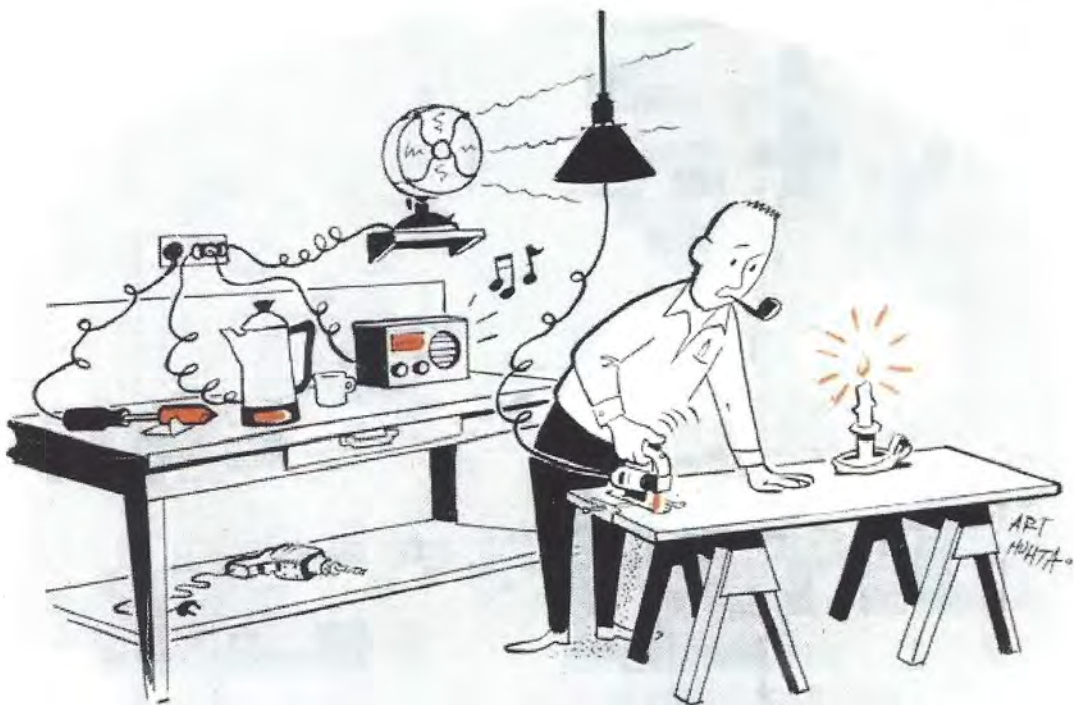
Left

Popular Mechanics
August 1962

The TTTG Tool Collection has a comprehensive selection of 1960s Stanley Routers, Trimmers and also Stanley cutters and jigs.

Below

Popular Mechanics
December 1962

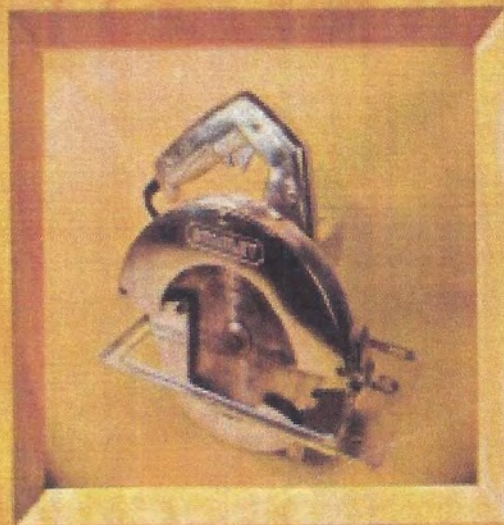




STANLEY

**POWER
TOOLS**

Consumer Catalog No. 200



TTTG'S FUTURE

TTTG promotes and preserves traditional technology and skills. *TTTG is interested in all types of old hand and machine tools.*

To achieve these aims TTTG offers;

- Regular meetings
- Skills based classes
- A magazine, *NEWS*
- An online newsletter
- “Pick and Pay” Tool Sales
- Annual Tool Sales

TTTG has a Tool Collection/ Library.

TTTG CLASSES

"Real Skills Workshops

The following classes will be offered after the 2018 Sydney WWW Show.

- # **Woodworking Tools.**
- # **Sharpening Edge Tools.**
- # **Sharpening and Using Saws.**
- # **Sharpening and Using Planes.**
- # **Drawknives and Spokeshaves.**
- # **Woodwork Joints.**
- # **Making Dovetail Joints.**
- # **Using Electric Routers.**

Consideration will be given to a

"Workshop Wednesday"

Expressions of interest are invited.

TTTG NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

- * For the 2018 Sydney WWW Show.

To assist on the TTTG Stand

To demonstrate “real skills”

- * For the move out of Brush Farm House.
- * To plan and manage the Member’s Meeting.
- * To plan and manage the TTTG Tool Sales.
- * To contribute content for *NEWS*.
- * To present “real skills” classes.

To volunteer contact
TTTG Secretary, John Bates
johnbates@tttg.org.au

Correspondence

CONRIK

Hello George

Trust all is well.

Just read through the latest issue of the Spanner & Wrench Collector and it was, as always, interesting and informative.

Thought I may be able to provide a bit more info on the Conrik brand:

Conrik and Great Scot were marketing names used by the Mars Machine Tool Manufacturing Co. Pty. Ltd. of Bridge Street, Fortitude Valley, Queensland, Australia a company originally known as Rapson and Dutton.

The firm produced a wide range of machine tools and other products including millers, shapers, planing machines, radial-arm drills, boring mills, hoists, bandsaws and even such items as diverse as paper guillotines and diesel engines. Multi-grips would come as no surprise I'd say.

In advertisements they described themselves as "Marine, Diesel and Aircraft Engineers" and claimed expertise in the ability to design and manufacture "Special Machines for all Industries". One advertisement even boasted: "The widest range of machine tools in the Southern Hemisphere".

The Conrik lathe was sold, from 1939, by Nock & Kirby Ltd. of George St., Sydney. The Conrik name derives from the Nock & Kirby name, being the first three letters from both parts of the name combined, but with the order of the letters reversed. A detailed advertisement appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on the 18th of October 1939 (on page 9), with an illustration and an extensive list of dimensional data for the new Conrik lathe.

For my money I would say yes the Conrik multi-grip was made by Mars and it is also possible that the Conrik multi-grips were sold by Nock & Kirby (later to become BBC Hardware and now part of Bunning Group trading as Bunnings Warehouse).

John Bates TTTG Secretary

Hand Tool Preservation Association Australia

HTPAA is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, has something to offer you by encouraging these interests and perhaps reviving earlier memories. As a heritage group we provide a forum for discussing traditional tools and the way in which artisans of the past worked with these tools, recognising the skill and ingenuity of their efforts.

<http://www.htpaa.org.au/>

Correspondence

Mike Williams responds to an article in NEWS 155

I read with interest the detailed article by John Bates on repairing the Starrett Precision No 98 Level in NEWS 155 and the writer's research into finding a suitable vial. Some time back I wanted to restore a 10 inch ebony and brass presentation level.

I found this level in a "junk" shop for a very modest price as it was in poor condition and it had a broken vial. The level was marked

*Bennet B. Burley
Glasgow Warranted*

I knew nothing about Bennet B. Burley other than obviously he either made or retailed levels but Goodman's "British Planemakers from 1700" lists him in business from 1882 to 1915 and a Google search indicates that apparently some planes have also been found with his stamp on them.

The point of my correspondence is to tell your readers that I managed to find a suitable replacement vial for my level from Geier & Bluhm, a division of HJM Precision in the USA so they might be worth a try if anyone needs to find replacement vials for vintage spirit levels.

The level is very decorative and was worth the effort involved.



Tool Repairs

TTTG now has a permanent workshop space. The workshop is ideal for teaching hand skills based courses. These classes will commence later in the year.

Watch the TTTG Website for details of TTTG Real Skills Workshops.

All previous TTTG classes have been offered on Sundays. Weekday classes are being considered by the TTTG Committee.

When do the members want workshops to be scheduled?

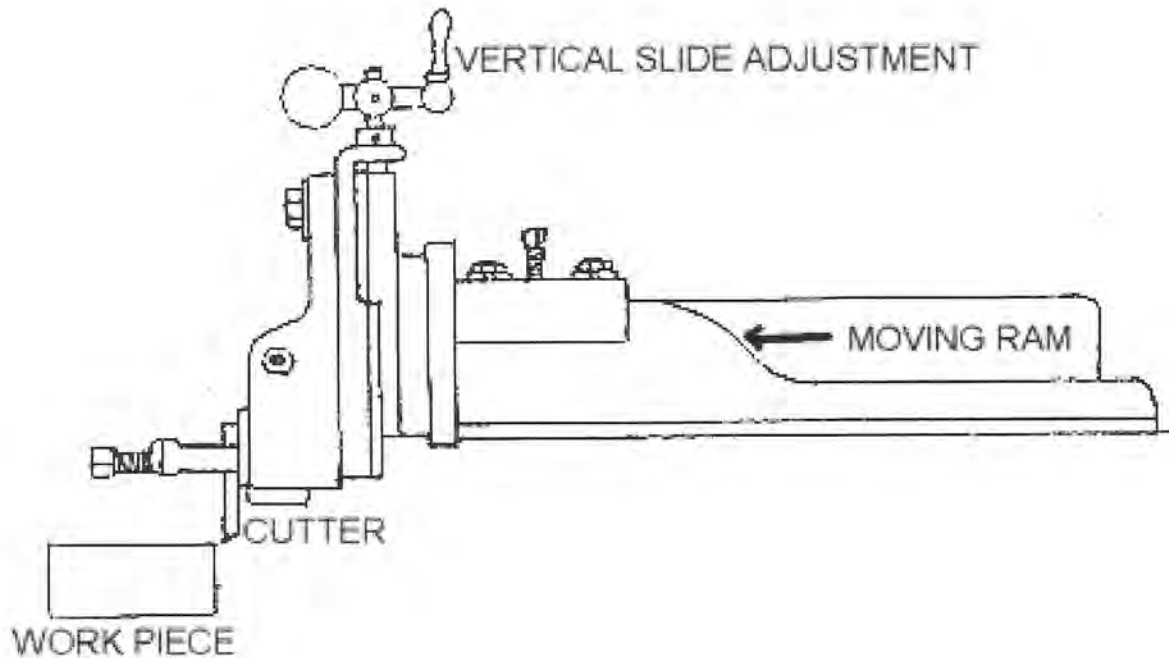
Another possibility is a Tool Repairs Day. Members could bring a tool to repair.

Is there interest in a Workshop Wednesday?

Send your suggestions
johnbates@tttg.org.au

The Hand-Driven Shaper

Mike Williams



I have owned a small Unimat metal lathe for many years and have made many jigs and attachments to go onto it. Most of the time, this invariably involves working a flat surface onto a piece of aluminium or steel and after cutting said piece out with a hacksaw, I endeavour to complete the flat surface with a file. Now some people are a dab hand with a file and the finished surface looks like it has been machined but unfortunately this does not apply to me and there always seemed to be a corner or two that dips down, no matter how carefully I file.

The Unimat has a milling attachment but the low stiffness of the machine confines you to using only very small mills and even then, the surface is somewhat less than perfect.

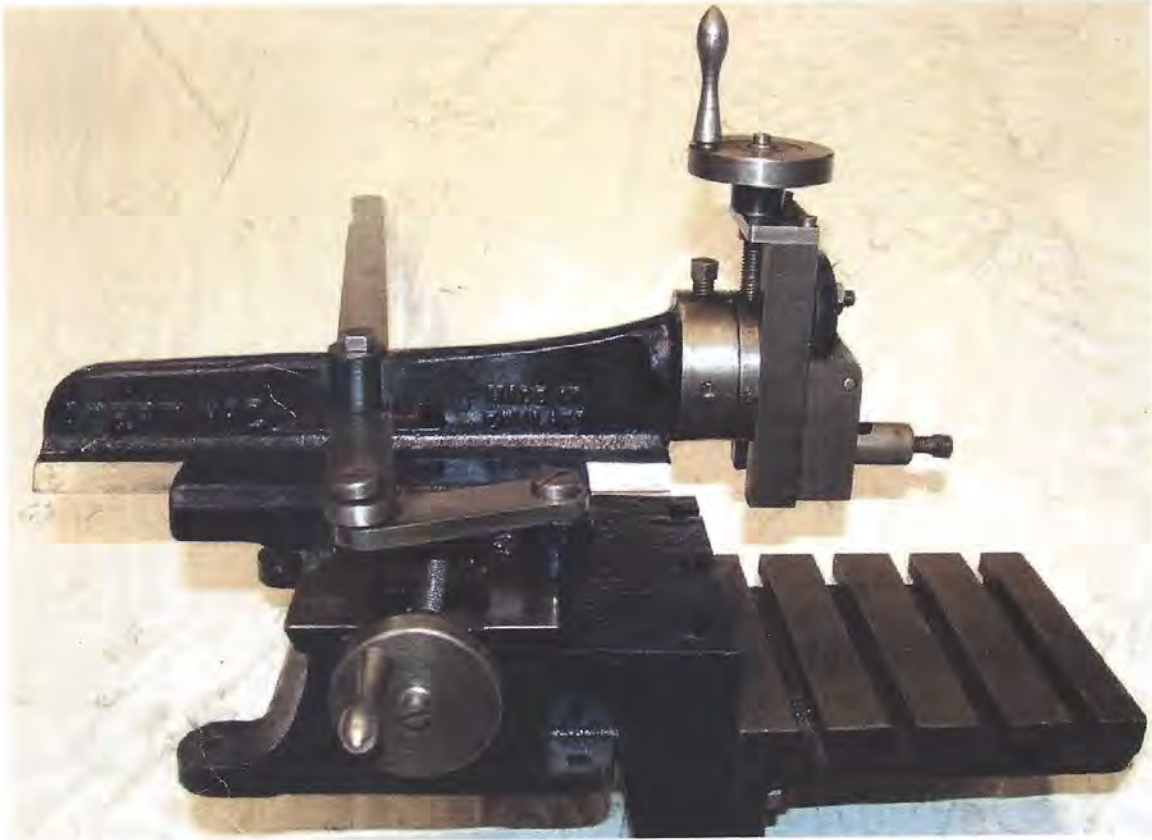
For some time, I had dreamed of investing in a small purpose built milling machine but beside the expense, my tiny workshop really couldn't accommodate another machine sitting on the bench. The answer was a shaper, or more specifically a small hand driven shaper which could be put away and brought out onto the bench when required.

Australian Made Shapers

DOUGLAS

HERCUS

AUSTOLITE



A shaper is primarily designed to cut a flat surface and for those who might be unfamiliar with these machines; whereas a lathe has a fixed tool and a rotating workpiece to be machined, the shaper has a fixed workpiece and a tool which moves linearly across the surface. It is essentially a planing machine which uses a single point tool to make a straight line cut. The concept was invented by James Nasmyth around the middle of the 19th century when machine tools were “coming into their own” and even geniuses with a file were not good enough for the sliding surfaces required.

Unfortunately, the milling machine has slowly overtaken the shaper in today’s machine shops, so quite good second-hand shapers can be found at affordable prices.

However very small hand-driven Shapers were not produced in large quantities after WW2 and so are more difficult to find. I was therefore very pleased to discover one that TTTG was selling on behalf of a client. This machine was an Adept No. 2 shaper.

For lots of information about the Adept No.2 visit www.lathes.co.uk

The photograph above shows the machine in all its glory. The operating handle can be seen sticking out on the far side with the crank which moves the ram clearly seen on this side. The horizontal control is calibrated in thousandths of an inch and rather idiosyncratically the vertical control is calibrated in 1/960 of an inch. I suppose this graduation is close to thousandths of an inch.

Unfortunately, there isn't much detailed practical information about using shapers on the web so I turned to my metal working bible "Machine Tool Operation" by Henry D. Burghardt, published in 1937 only to discover that there were two parts and Shapers were covered in Part 2 which I did not have! Not to worry, Amazon was able to find me a copy and all I had to do was to be patient and wait for it to arrive.

Rather interestingly, Burghardt confesses that Shapers were falling out of favour to milling machines even in 1937 but he was still an ardent fan for their use for several reasons. Burghardt explains that the Shaper is ideal for small work which may be held in a vice bolted to the worktable and for short run tool room work he regards it as nearly indispensable.

He goes on to explain that the tools can be easily ground (milling cutters require special equipment to sharpen them) and the simplicity of the Shaper to set up and operate saves time for special jobs. Just what I need! Everything that I do in the workshop tends to be one off.!

Where to put said device in my tiny workshop? I found that two bolts easily detached the worktable which is a solid casting and seriously heavy so I built a small shelf to accommodate both parts. I can now easily lift the Adept down to my work bench when required, attach the worktable and start shaping.

What sort of things can the Shaper do? Well for starters, it can plane a metal surface perfectly flat so my files get much less use now. With a little bit of care, it can cut surfaces which are curved in one direction. It can cut keyways and with a rotary table, it can cut splines and gear teeth. In fact the only limit is my imagination so watch this space!

Another useful Shaper guide is

How To Run A Metal Work Shaper

Published by South Bend Lathe

A copy can be downloaded from

VintageMachinery.org

17 Timber Trail

Tifton, GA 31794

Or buy a copy from Amazon

Together with a pair miniature lathes, the equally small Adept No. 1 and No. 2 shapers were made by a branch of the Portass family, F. W. Portass of Sellers Street, off Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, England, both before and after WW2. The original models (indeed, most of the production run) were hand-operated and of similar construction - with the No. 2 being the larger of the two and sometimes fitted with an automatic cross feed.

tony@lathes.co.uk

Douglas & Hercus Shapers Australia

From tony@lathes.co.uk

P.K. Douglas Pty Ltd. Enfield Sydney N.S.W Australia, made the Douglas "11 inch" shaper from the early 1950s onwards.

Of apparently indigenous design, the machine had a 360-degree swivelling box table with a length, width and height of 10", 7" and 8" respectively and travels of 11 inches horizontally and 10 inches vertically with power-feed rates varying 0.005" to 0.03" per cut. The table box, with three T-slots on top and two on each of the front and one side face, was supported on a flat surface joining two slotted uprights that bolted to the front edge of the cast-iron chip tray arranged so that, even when the unit was tilted with a corner facing down, full support was achieved for the entire length of travel.

A 3/4 h.p. motor bolted to the back of the machine drove forwards through a two-stage belt drive with a final 3-step V-pulley (and optional clutch) to give ram strokes of 42, 62 and 88 per minute. Both the crank and large bull gear were supported in ball races and the arm could be adjusted to vary the stroke which was, as usual, arranged to be faster on the return than when cutting. The tool head, which could be swivelled 60 degrees either side of central, had a travel of 3 inches

and the clapper box accepted cutting tools up to 5/8" square.

A 5-inch capacity, robustly constructed swivelling-base machine vice was fitted as standard - as was the electric motor, switchgear and table-support bracket.

F. W. Hercus, South Australia, eventually acquired production rights in 1984 to the Douglas Shaper. Hercus offered the shaper as their Model 270. Although, on the Hercus, the main mechanical specification remained unchanged, the drive was altered to an enclosed single belt and 3-speed gearbox. This version of the Douglas could also be "inched" over using a jog button, or cranked over by hand, a safety switch preventing power being applied as the crank handle was engaged.

Interestingly, what appears to be an earlier Douglas shaper has been found, one with a 12-inch stroke and with "Douglas" cast into the ram. Fastened to the machine is a plate proclaiming P.T. Douglas, Ashfield- suburb some 15 miles from Enfield. While the later Douglas had anti-friction bearings on its heavily loaded shafts, this earlier model had plain bearings.

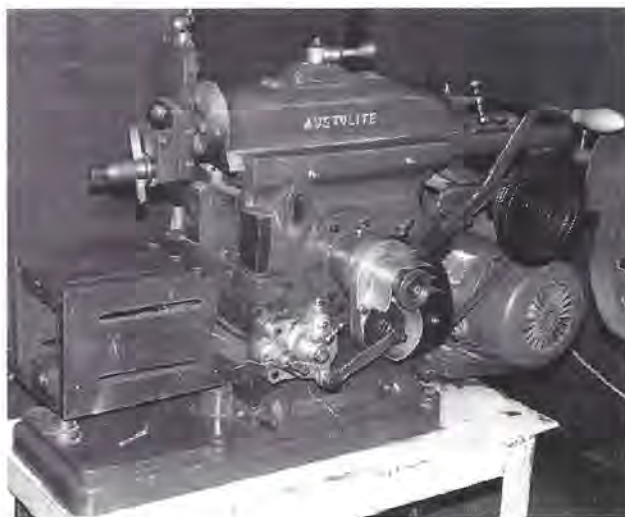
Should any reader be able to supply detailed photographs of a Douglas (or have information about the Company or copies of sales literature) - the writer would be interested to hear from you.

Atlas-Austolite Shaper

From tony@lathes.co.uk

Either a rebadged Atlas, or a semi-clone manufactured in Australia, the Austolite shaper appears to have been produced in the workshops of Fred Price Pty. Ltd. (Fred Price Engineering) of 69 Barry Street in the Melbourne suburb of Carlton. Although the firm was removed from the Companies Register as late as 1977, the likelihood is that they had ceased trading many years before. It is known that Price had made other shapers, including a much larger model during WW2.

Although the general design and layout of the Austolite followed that of the Atlas there were some differences: the stroke-position adjuster hand wheel (positioned at the rear of the ram) act appears to act directly on a screw instead of through a bevel gear as on the original and the main ram has dovetail instead of rectangular ways.



The latter change might have been influenced by the need, on the Atlas, to shim out any wear in two directions - horizontal and vertical - while the dovetail ways of the Austolite are simultaneously adjusted in both directions, so getting rid of play very easily and quickly. In addition, the vertical adjustment on the Atlas involved partial disassembly of the horizontal "retainer bar" and the removal of shims strips from a multi-layer soldered master shim followed by reassembly and testing. The number of shims to be removed had to be guessed at and, as a result, the set-up could take some time and patience to get right. Another advantage of the dovetail ways was the ability to give them a temporary close fit when taking a "tough cut" - something that was impossible on the Atlas.

On the example shown below a Myford leadscrew hand wheel has been fitted to the table-traverse feed screw.

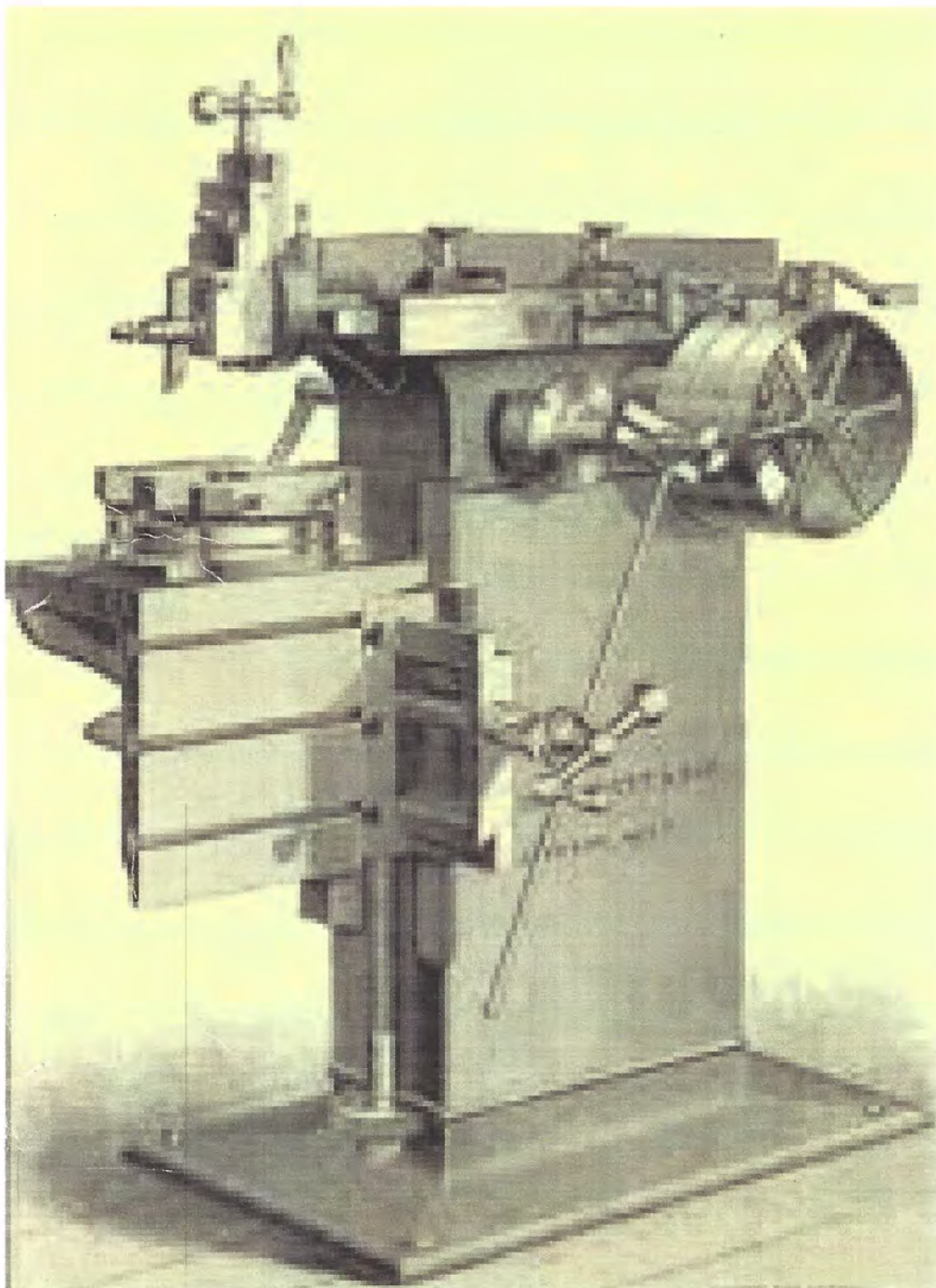
Information Wanted

If you have any information about Australian made Shaper contact

John Bates
johnbates@tttg.org.au

or

tony@lathes.co.uk



Shaper Tooling

A number of TTTG members are owners and users of Shapers. *These members are always looking for solid shaper cutters.* If you have any engineering tooling you cannot identify contact TTTG Secretary, John Bates

johnbates@tttg.org.au

Edge Tool Gauge

Another quality one off tool



NEW! from Woodpeckers®

Edge Tool Sharpening Gauge



[Click to watch VIDEO](#)

**Precisely Gauge
Desired Bevel
Angles and Edge
Perpendicularity**

BUT do you need it?

What Gauges do you need when grinding edge tools?

When grinding chisels and plane blades you need to check two angles;

- * The angle across the blade
- * The grinding angle.

Both these angles can be tested "by eye".

The editor always has a small square on hand when grinding edge tools. The square is used to test the flatness of the grind across the blade. Occasionally the small square will be used to test "near to 90 degrees".

The grinding angle is tested and only when setting the tool rest.

The "rule of thumb" is "grinding angle is one and a half blade thickness".

The grinding angle is approximately 25 degrees. ***No gauge is needed.***

“Best buy” new tools

Are Narex Tools the best value-for-money in Australia?

A Timbecon promotional email the evidence.

Timbecon argues **YES**.

Do you agree?

Google Timbecon and have a look at the range of Narex chisels and the prices. In this editor’s opinion these chisels are the best value quality general purpose chisels on the local market. As a “first set” of chisels Narex are a good choice.

What is your experience?

Editor NEWS @tttg.org.au



Narex and Bergs

Narex chisels have a similar appearance to classic Berg chisels. Both brands of chisels have European double hooped handles and the blades are “not too thick”, flat and accurately bevel ground.

The performance of Narex and Berg chisels are arguably comparable.

In their day Berg chisels were affordable and dependable.
Same as Narex chisels today?

When Berg chisels were at their peak there were better expensive chisels. Today there are better chisels than Narex. The comparison holds up.

Anyone buying a first set of chisels would be wise to buy Narex chisels.

These are the chisels to learn on. Put them to work and save for better!

World War 2 Stanley USA

5^{1/2} Plane

All the comments on World War 2 Stanley planes are negative. The castings are dismissed as heavy and roughly machined. The hard rubber adjusting wheel is written off as inferior to a brass wheel.

The hard rubber knob makes it easy to identify World War 2 Stanley planes at a casual glance. Because of the negative universal opinion of these planes I've always given WW2 planes a wide berth.

A recent donation to TTTG had a World War 2 Stanley USA 5^{1/2} Plane lying in the corner of an old banana box that had been in a carport "for years". For a few weeks I left the plane in the box. This size plane has no appeal to this writer.

Some of the other tools in the box were potentially worth a clean-up. So I mixed up a brew of Citric Acid. The World War 2 Stanley USA 5^{1/2} Plane was covered in heavy rust but the blade and cap iron were only lightly rusted. I put these in the citric acid, removed them a couple of hours later and gave each a light "sanding" with cloth backed abrasive wrapped around a block of wood wetted with G15.

The blade had a 1941 mark and was in very good condition. As well as the rust the plane was speckled with 1940s yellow paint. Probably the plane was used once or twice.

So it looked like I had a good blade, cap iron and lever cap. Next move was to have a closer look at the plane. The handles looked good but the nitro cellulose lacquer was opaque and cracked. The plane's cast iron body was covered in dark rust blooms.

Then the obvious struck me. The plane had no brass components. Stanley's contribution to the war effort wasn't heavy castings and hardwood handles. By eliminating all brass components in Stanley planes more brass was available for making munitions.

I still believed the plane to be an inferior war time product and so I made a bold decision. Abrading the rust from the plane body would take time and frankly was it worth the effort? Without removing the handles I put the plane in the citric acid bath. The next day I gave the rust a scrub with a wire brush and left the plane to soak for a day or so in the citric acid tub.

When I washed the plane in hot soapy water I was surprized. There was no deep pitting on the body. The hard rubber adjusting wheel moved easily and the handles were easy to unscrew.

I removed the frog, cleaned and sprayed each part with G15. The assembled plane was then lapped flat. I ground and sharpened the blade. The World War 2 Stanley USA 5^{1/2} Plane is the equal of the best pre-WW2 Stanley planes.

Using Citric Acid

TTTG sells Citric Acid in screw top plastic jar at a very competitive price. There are other methods of rust removal.

Why use Citric Acid?

- Citric Acid is inexpensive.
- Citric Acid is safe.
- Citric Acid is easy to use.

What does Citric Acid do?

Citric Acid in water converts and frees rust from the surface of the metal. In a solution of citric acid and water the rust becomes soft and can be rubbed off the metal.

Look up the chemistry if you are so inclined but all you need to know is how to use Citric Acid.

Mixing Citric Acid

Select a water proof container. The size of the container depends on what you are de-rusting. Next fill the container with hot tap water. Add a couple of squirts of dish-washing liquid. Then add the Citric Acid powder.

How much Citric Acid powder?

As a rough guide mix half a coffee cup of citric acid powder to two litres of water. Experience will soon have you guessing the right mix.

Preparing the rusty object

Remove any oil or grease and then lightly brush off any loose rust.

What next?

Put the rusty objects in the citric acid bath. How long you leave them in the bath depends on the objects you are de-rusting.

Plane blades and saws

Remove after two hours. Wash in hot soapy water with a kitchen scouring pad. Dry the blade and then use cloth backed fine abrasive wrapped around a flat block with oil to remove any remaining rust.

Chisels and other edge tools

If the tool is lightly rusted also remove after two hours and clean. If the surface still has rust spots, put it back in the bath and check every few hours. Same procedure for dividers, rules, squares etc.

Heavily rusted planes

Cast iron plane bodies covered in heavy rust blooms can be soaked in citric acid for a day without damaging the casting. Lightly rusted planes can easily be cleaned by lapping with abrasive.

Files and Rasps

Files can be sharpened in citric acid. Most old rusty files come out sharp but some don't. Do files in batches, remove every six hours and clean with a file card. Wash and dry the file when it feels sharp. Files can be soaked for several days until they come out sharp. Rasps invariably sharpen well and old "cast steel" rasps are the best.

Citric Acid will not

- Restore the original finish
- Remove rust pits

The comment “*I don’t like the surface Citric Acid leaves*” is often heard. The surface after the rust has been removed is the colour of iron oxide. To get a bright surface the object must be polished.

Some tools will only require light lapping. Heavily pitted surfaces will require filing or grinding.

Safety with Citric Acid

Wear rubber gloves when washing the object from the citric acid bath.

Dry and apply G15

After drying the tool can again rust unless it is wiped or sprayed with a moisture displacer. G15 is ideal. WD40 will not stop rusting!

Other uses for Citric Acid

- TTTG Citric Acid is food grade.
- Citric Acid cleans stainless steel.
- Citric Acid cleans brass.

TTTG CITRIC ACID

Sold in an easy to store plastic jar
Approximately 600 grams per jar

\$5 a jar

Use TTG Citric Acid to:

Remove Rust Clean Stainless Steel
Sharpen Files and Rasps

How do I use it?

Fill a plastic container with hot water
Add a couple of soup spoons per litre
Add the rusty object

After a couple of hours remove, wash in soapy water and dry
Leave rasps, files and “heavily rusted objects” to soak overnight

FOR SALE AT ALL TTTG MEETINGS

ONLY \$5 a jar

Grinding Wheels

How to use/what to buy

A 200mm (8 inch) Power Grinder is investment for life. With an 8 inch grinder you can grind plane blades and chisels and numerous other edge tools. But you need to have the right wheels and learn how to use the machine correctly.

To get the myths out of the way:

* You don't need a slow grinder.

* You don't need a slow grinder.

Buying a grinder

New grinders have inadequate tool rests. So if you buy a new machine you will be up the extra cost of at least one new bespoke tool rest.

Look out for old GMF or similar Australian made grinders. These old machines seem to be literally indestructible. Even if the motor needs rewinding it is worth the cost. Often these old machines will only need a new cord and plug!

What wheels are needed?

For grinding woodworking edge tools the grinder must be fitted with aluminium oxide wheels. These wheels will not "burn" tools if used correctly.

What grit wheels are needed?

Buy either 46 grit or 60 grit. These wheels cut rapidly and leave an edge ready for honing. 80 grit wheels glaze more rapidly.

Buy a dressing stick

Use a dressing stick regularly to true and sharpen the grinding wheel. Some prefer a diamond dressing tool but the dressing stick is a lot less expensive!

The Tool Rest

The wide angle iron tool rests fitted to old GMF grinders are the best. Make a similar tool rest out of angle or buy a Veritas tool rest.

Where do I buy these wheels?

Wheels and rests plus good advice are available from Timbecon.

Timbecon has grown from being a small independent hardware retailer to becoming one of Australia's leading woodworking tools suppliers with stores in both Perth and Melbourne as well as the ability to ship Australia-wide with exceptional delivery times.

Current Timbecon prices are:

White Aluminium Oxide
Grinding Wheels

200-25mm 46Grit
\$42.90 (inc GST)

200-25mm 60Grit
\$42.90 (inc GST)

The editor recently purchased two wheels and was surprised by the speed of delivery and the quality of the packaging.

Timbecon can also supply the Veritas Bench Grinder Universal Toolrest for \$86.

Power Grinder

200mm Grinder features suitable for edge tools



Classic Grinder Design

The grinder in the photo is a *DRIVER* made in the USA by Walker-Turner in the mid Twentieth Century.

This machine incorporates all the best features in a bench grinder.

Several local manufacturers offered similar 8 inch (200mm) grinders

The 8 inch Grinder most likely to turn up second hand is a GMF.

Always have the electrics checked before turning on an old machine.

Shielded Wheels

Any grinder must have side guards on the wheels. Missing side guards should be replaced before the machine is used.

Spark arrestors

Any bench grinder should have adjustable spark arrestors fitted close to the top of the wheel.

Tool Rests

Any bench grinder should have wide solid adjustable tool rests.

Buying Old User Tools

How not to waste money

Anyone looking for old hand tools with the intention of using the tools faces these realities:-

*** *Tool Collectors***

Collectors inflate the value of old tools and perpetuate myths about “best tools”. That said collectors spend a lot of time looking for tools and often sell commoner tools.

*** *Second Hand Shops***

There are very few specialist old user tool retail outlets but many second hand shops. The pricing in these shops varies from “having a guess” to optimistic fantasy. So it is worth keeping an eye on your local second hand shops.

*** *Antique Shops***

Enter this fantasy zone at your own risk. Always over-priced!

*** *Markets***

Good old tools turn up at venues such as the North Rocks Markets. You will be competing with other tool users and tool collectors. If you have the time and a good idea of market value doing the markets pays off. Be warned, this activity can become addictive and can even lead to “old tool collector addiction”.

*** *Online***

Buying on Gumtree and other sites can pay off but involves luck.

*** *Auctions***

Keep on waiting for another Hans Brunner Tool auction. Hans no longer sells tools online. This has left a real void as his site was the only local internet tool selling site with tools accurately described and the prices set at “market value”.

*** *Market Value***

There are two way to learn what to pay for old tools. One is to get out there and start buying and make a few mistakes. The other is to study the published prices realised at the Hans Brunner Tool Auctions.

What are the odds?

Anyone looking for old hand tools can easily waste money by rushing in and buying the first tools seen. Watching others buying tools and noticing what sells, combined with an idea of market value, gives any old user tool buyer an advantage.

Are good user tools scarce?

Quality user tools have been mass produced for well over a century. There are literally millions of old tools out there waiting to be sold.

TTTG Meetings

Tool users will always find a bargain at the TTTG meetings.

TTTG Tool Sales

There are numerous old user tools sold at market prices at the sales.

Replacement Plane Handles

Bob Crosbie

I remember making a replacement plane handle and doing most of the shaping with a Stanley knife.

Around this time a second hand tool seller told *me* “*anyone who can make replacement plane handles will make a fortune*”. I knew he was wrong but I got hooked on making plane handles.

At first I made some replacement handles for my “working planes” as these were all old veterans I had purchased second hand. When I had worked out a reliable sequence of hand process to make handles I started to think about machining handles in small production runs.

I did the calculations and reached this conclusion, “*there is little profit in selling finished handles*”. As a test run I made up the patterns and jigs for handles #4^{1/2} to #7.

By using exotic wood offcuts and machining minimum batches of fifty handles I can sell the handles at a modest profit. I assumed the sales would only last long enough to sell a few production runs.

The more handles I made the more handles seemed to be selling. So I then started making handles for planes numbered 3 and 4. All the handles are made in a variety of woods but there seems to be no preferred wood among the buyers. *I do not buy rainforest species using only old scraps of such wood.*

All the new timbers I use for my handles are sustainable. There are surprises; buyers like both native Silky Oak and the national weed Camphor Laurel.

I will make other size handles but not at these prices. If anyone asks for a finished handle I recommend Jim Davey’s finished handles.

PLANE HANDLES

For Stanley, Record, Turner, Pope/Falcon Planes

3, 4, 4^{1/2}, 5, 5^{1/2}, 6, 7

These handles are ready to fit and sand

Made from a variety of quality hardwoods including

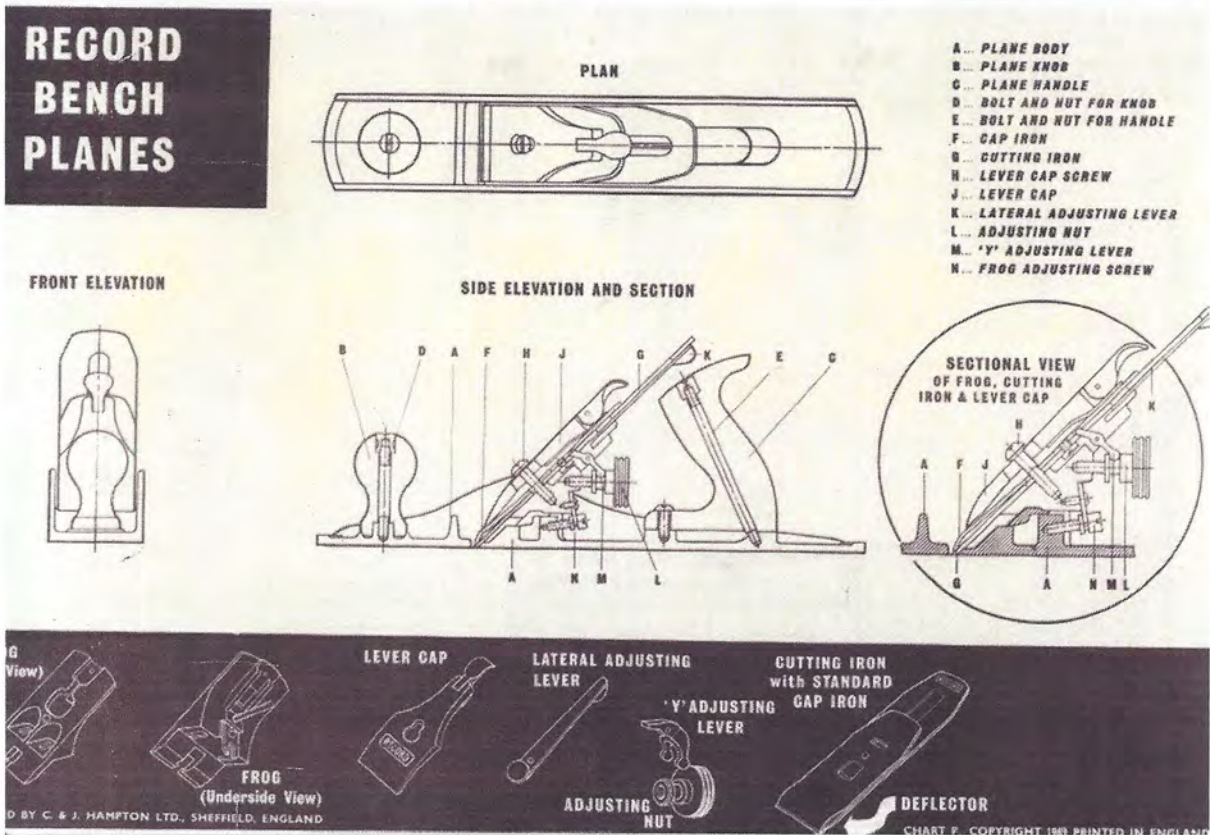
New Guinea Rosewood, Blackwood, Silky Oak, Camphor Laurel

Available at all TTTG Meetings and Tool Sales

BARGAIN PRICE AT TTTG MEETINGS

ONLY \$5 EACH

Stanley Type Plane Parts



Stanley plane numbers and plane names have been the “standard” for over a century. Stanley and Stanley’s competitors all used these numbers and names and published promotional leaflets.

Both Record and Stanley printed and gave away Instructuional Wall Charts to schools and colleges. In the 1950s Record published Planecraft, possibly giving Record a competitive market advantage.



JD's

John Daniel

**Pearson Plough Plane
Sympathetic Restoration**

Again I am asking the question,

“Is it worth the time and effort spent on reviving a relic, especially in this case, an old wooden bodied grooving plane that’s ‘been through the wars?’”

The Pearson Plough Plane was battered and abused and had suffered loss of blades, wedges and collector appeal, after all, there’s plenty of more appealing treasures out there to revel in. When lifting an old ‘PEARSON’ stemmed Plough Plane out of a tool box (the same box where I found the Gregsteel Dovetail saw mentioned in NEWS 155) this question came to mind.

The maker’s name, R. PEARSON, struck on the plane allowing me to date it seemed to be a compelling factor to consider preserving the plane. W.L. Goodman, in his book on British Planemakers, states on PEARSON, that “Robert, Henry & Johnathon, operated out of 141 & 143 High Street, Notting Hill, London from approx. 1861-1880; listed as Ironmongers and back in 1879, had had several shops around the Notting Gate area but by 1881, they had gone out of business”.

Maybe Pearson Plough Plane had enough going for it to attempt to conserve it if not restore, maybe, a balance of both.

Is it worth the effort?





Apart from blades and remaking wedges, there was little to do other than sympathetically repair a broken fence and replace a bit of missing wood on a wedge slot. Of course, the plane needed a 'tidy-up', care would be needed not to remove overall wear and tear marks acquired during its working life; the badly repaired crack in the fence and a recent bit of damage on a wedge slot did scream out for attention (although some would leave as is); as one would guess, the decision was to put a bit of life back into it.

The damaged fence had a few problems, the main one being the peened-over/riveted steel pins that secured the fence to the stems making it impossible to remove them without damaging (I didn't want to replace them). My only alternative was to remove the screws used on the old repair, (actually I had to cut one through with a hack-saw blade) to split the fence off along the old miss-aligned glue repair.

Patience and care was needed in order not to do more damage than necessary.

The photo below shows the condition of the fence after the break was separated.

The screws snapped off when separating the break.





The fence prepared for joining.

Once separated, it was possible to remove the damaged edge and also focus on preparing the edges of the split fence for regluing. The old glue needed to be carefully scraped out before the two pieces could be placed together in alignment so that a bandsaw cut could be run through the break to remove the damaged wood. This needed to be repeated several times until all damage was removed, however this left a space which had to be filled and as strength was paramount. The only answer was to cut thin strips of English Beech (sourced from an old wooden jack plane body) and laminate them through the space. This presented another problem, how to glue it all together over the steel pins as the pins couldn't be removed.

Common sense prevailed and the laminates were first glued to one edge using the other as a caul to hold it to shape and then once the glue dried, it was possible to cut a space through the laminates to accommodate the steel pins. Next, the two pieces of the fence were positioned over the pins making sure that the surfaces were aligned and that no excess glue bonded the fence to the stems as these needed to move independently.

Once together, the screw-damaged edge-moulding was replaced with another old matching length that I had. To finish, the surfaces were sanded and stained to match the surrounding area. Attention was given to the replaced moulding and then it was given a coat of shellac to 'fix' the stain before waxing.



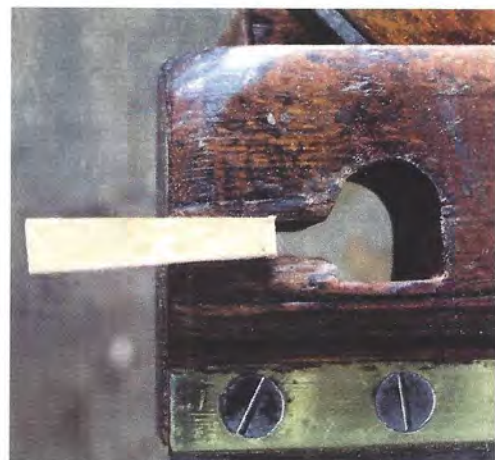
The repaired fence.

The plane body needed a preliminary clean to give an indication of grain pattern and to allow an assessment of warranted work. It was decided to do as little as possible, just square up the slot with a chisel, and prepare the sides so that a tapered piece could be tapped into place to make a tight fit.

The wood for the wedge, (English Beech, sourced from an old plane body) was selected to match the grain of the surrounding plane surface. Once glued in, the ends of the 'wedge' were trimmed and the surface sanded flush remembering not to over-sand, just lightly tidy-up the surrounding surface.



Prepared for the repair.



Tapered repair piece.



The plane was reassembled, and with new wedges and a blade, it was 'as good as new', well not quite, it was still a little 'rough around the edges', however it now performed as well as the day it left the factory back in the 1860's.

Reference:-

British Planemakers from 1700
W L Goodman

Sympathetic repair.



Magazines

Articles worth reading

-Furniture & Cabinetmaking

Issue 265 Winter 2017

Gimlets Galore

page 50

-Furniture & Cabinetmaking

Issue 266 January 2018

Drawbore mortise and tenons

page 30

Collector's guide to tape measures

page 50

David Stanley sale

page 56

-Furniture & Cabinetmaking

Issue 267 February 2018

The plane and the ornate

page 52

Bad Axe D8 Handsaw

page 50

-Popular Woodworking

February 2018

Bad Axe Tool Works

D8 Handsaw

page 16

-Popular Woodworking

April 2018

Ray Iles Large Drawknife

page 16

Drawboring Resurrected

The Joinery Techniques page 1

-Australian Woodsmith

Issue 140 April 2018

Precision Mitre Square

page 26

-Australian Woodsmith

Issue 141 May/June 2018

Tools & Techniques Weekend

page 24

Mystery Tool

page 72

Reviews Wanted

NEWS does not routinely review every similar interest publication.

The editor selects a few books and magazine articles he thinks will appeal.

Reviews from readers are encouraged and welcomed.

Articles Wanted

Why not write something for NEWS or the Website?

Australian Made Classic



DURDEN

V375

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WHILE SECURELY HOLDING THE JOB!*

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Next Meeting

Tuesday 12 June 2018

Brush Farm House
Forster Hall
Lawson Street. Eastwood

Farewell to Brush Farm

The last meeting in Forster Hall

"PICK AND PAY"

August Meeting

Tuesday 14 August 2018

The Old Eastwood Town Hall
74 Agincourt Road
Marsfield

The first meeting in The Old Eastwood Town Hall

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