The TOOLSHED

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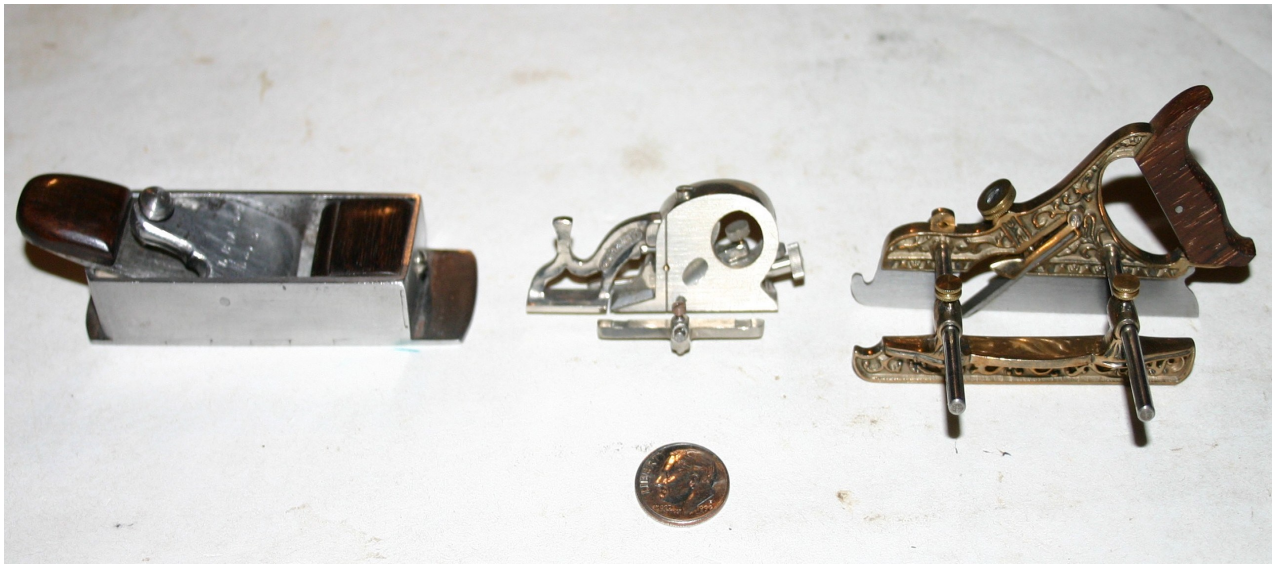
Miniature Planes, Toys or Tools?

By Greg Welsh

We have all seen small block planes. They have been called toys, small planes, and miniature planes. I would like to think of them simply as small planes. First, They are not and I don't believe they were ever manufactured with the intention of them being toys. They are too well made for the most part and if they were meant to be toys, why would they be sold by major manufacturers along with their standard tool lines? The diversity of design and the number of manufacturers should confirm this assumption.

The only planes that could be called miniature would be those that are made as copies of full size planes and are duplicated in detail but only in a smaller size than the original plane. These would be planes like the beautifully detailed scale model sized miniatures made by Paul Hamler, the late Dominic Micalizzi, and others.



Miniatures by Dominic Micalizzi (left) and Paul Hamler (center & right)

Who used these smaller sized planes? Probably patternmakers, model makers, anyone doing

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November 5th - CRAFTS Meeting

Speaker: Frank Klausz

HOST Masonic Lodge - Highbridge, NJ

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of New Jersey

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The purpose of CRAFTS of New Jersey is to encourage interest in early trades and industries, and in the identification, study, preservation and exhibition of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey as an integral part of our heritage.

Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone who shares the above interests. Annual dues per person or couple are fifteen dollars for the membership year of July 1 through June 30.
Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer:
John Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, NJ 07974 (write check payable to CRAFTS of New Jersey).

CRAFTS of NJ meetings are held at the HOST Masonic Lodge in High Bridge, NJ.
Take I-78 to Route 31 exit at Clinton. Go north on Rte. 31 two miles to second traffic light at the High Bridge exit. Turn right and go about half a mile to Dennis Ave. Turn left, then straight to the Masonic Lodge (on the left).
Tailgate sales in the parking lot begin at 10 A.M., meeting starts at 1 P.M.

The TOOL SHED

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Articles, especially about early tools and trades, are encouraged and may be sent to the Editor.

CRAFTS WEBSITE
www.craftsofnj.org

Containing general information about CRAFTS and its activities including: meeting schedules, Tool Shed articles, etc.

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President's Corner

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left to right Stanley Nos. 101, 101 ½, 201. 100 ½. 100

trim work or cabinetmakers that wanted a small plane that could be carried in an apron pocket on the job, or in the shop. This would be a lot handier than having to look for the plane in a cabinet or on a bench. Today they are sought after by people that make bamboo fishing rods, among others. Wouldn't that be a great use for an older tool?

With the iron sharpened and properly set they can be just as handy as a larger block plane.

Leonard Bailey's "Little Victor" line of block planes including at the top N0.52, center left No.51, center right No.51 1/2, bottom left No. 50 and bottom right No. 50 1/2

The Stanley No. 101 appears to have been introduced in 1877 and a catalog from 1879 describes the plane as follows:

No.101 Block Plane 3 ½ inches in Length, 1 inch Cutter……..$0.20 ea.

This Plane was first introduced as a convenient fool for amateurs, and others, who work with scroll saws, picture framing, etc. It has proved so valuable to mechanics in all the lighter kinds of wood working, and so useful about offices, stores, and dwellings, for making slight repairs to windows, doors, furniture, etc, that it seems likely to be wanted in every household.

- -

Henry A. Foss plane, and a Birmingham no.106

The Stanley Rule and Level Company's No. 101 ½ Bullnose was introduced in 1880, and the No. 100 ½ Curved Bottom was not introduced until 1936. The No. 101 and No. 100 ½ were continued in production until 1962, however the No. 101 ½ was dropped from the line in 1929. Stanley also offered a No. 201, a nickel plated version of the 101, from 1890 to 1910.

About that same time, 1880, Leonard Baileys Victor Plane Company introduced the Little Victor Block Plane line of 5 models. These were produced until 1884. All had similar shaped cast iron bodies, but the adjustment mechanisms and finishes

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Two Gladwin Patent Tools combining a small plane with a tool handle

were different. John Walter's Stanley Tools Guide quotes Bailey as advertising the No. 50 Series as "a plane for the millions, the most perfect toy plane ever invented, and the best pencil sharpener in the world." This statement seems to contradict my theory that these planes were not meant to be toys, and maybe this was just poetic license used as a selling point.

Sargents 1894 catalog lists their equilivant of the Stanley No. 101 as No. 104 Iron Toy Plane, and their 1910 catalog lists the No. 105 as Toy Plane With Handle. This plane cost an additional $.08 over the $.25 No. 104.

Millers Falls also sold small planes for a number of years. Their 1938 catalog shows a No. 33 Toy Block Plane similar to the Stanley No. 101, and the No. 3 Handled Toy Block Plane, similar to the Stanley 100 ½.

There have been many makers of small block planes through the years; Henry A. Foss was an early maker of the small planes as was the Derby Plane Co, Union Mfg. Co, Ohio Tool Co., and Birmingham Plane Co., and probably many others that I have failed to menton.

On April 9,1878 Porter A. Gladwin was granted patent No. 202105 for a combination tool handle and plane. It was a small (No. 101 size) plane that had a provision for attaching various tools to the front of the plane by way of a locking screw. These were cast iron and some were made of rosewood and came with seven attachments.

Sources: **Patented Transitional & Metallic Planes in America by Roger K. Smith.**
Antique and Collectible Stanley Tools by John Walter.
Various reproduced tool catalogs.

Some Miscellaneous Small Planes
From the left, a Stanley No. 96 Chisel Gauge, Pencil Sharpener, Unidentified, Pet No.171,
and two additional planes, also Unidentified

Figure This One Out

This summer I bought a Holt brace that had two H.V. Smith patents, one for the chuck: #501110, and one for the ratchet: #505611. A similar brace with 10 special bits was sold at auction in 2002 for $1760, and an article in the *Fine Tool Journal* (Vol. 51, No.4) spelled out how rare it was. See Figures No.1 and No.2.

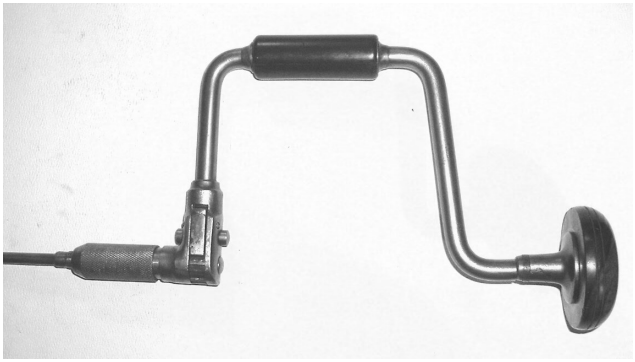

Figure 1. Fully assembled, with sleeve tightened

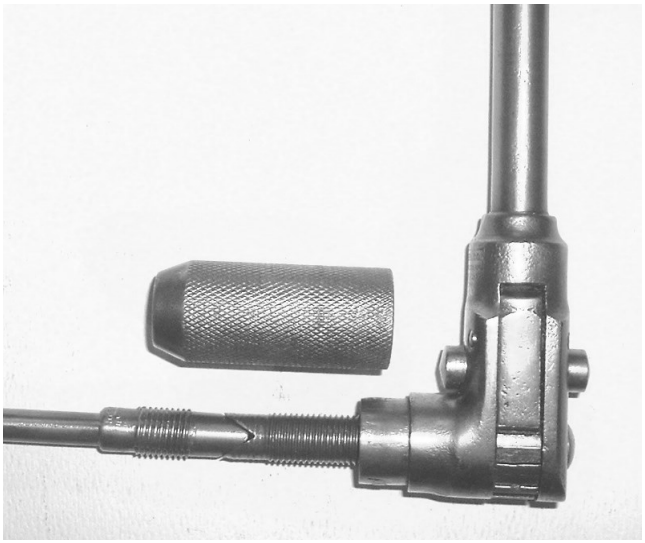

Figure 2. Sleeve disassembled, showing mate of bit end "V" to stem end "V".

The adapter shown in Figure No.3 allowed standard tang bits to be used, as the existing chuck only accepted the specially threaded bits. See Figure No.4 for an enlargement of the threaded end of these special bits. At first I thought that the adapter was a one-of-a-kind homemade job. But after finding another just like it in an auction catalog, and having a few topnotch brace collectors tell me that they each have similar adapters, I now think otherwise.

Yes, it was possible that the Holt Mfg. Co. put out the adapter to accommodate the myriad of different bits that were available with standard tangs. But that would have certainly killed their ability to sell replacement bits, and more-or-less shown that they had given up on the patent. Another much stronger possibility is that the adapter was an aftermarket product that was made by someone else, who saw the need. The low quality of these adapters, and their inconsistency, tend to support this latter theory.

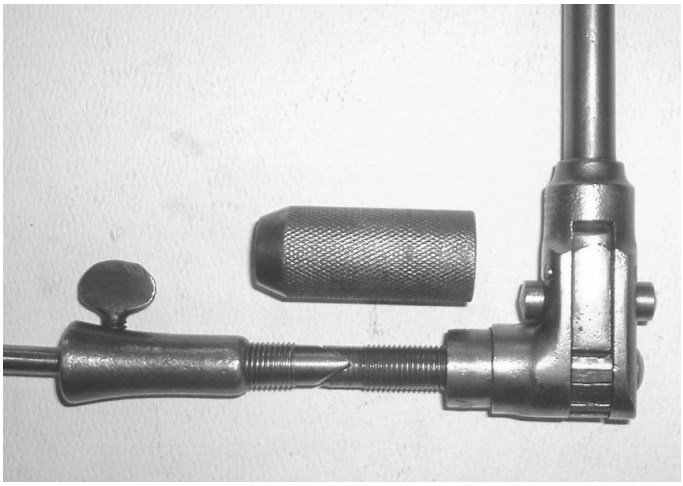

Figure 3. Sleeve disassembled, showing mate of adapter end "V" to stem end "V"

I researched the patents and found that the ratchet was the forerunner of the "Yankee" push-button selector. Nice, but not exciting. Then came the puzzler! The patentee, H.V. Smith, claimed that in order for the threaded chuck sleeve to pull the end of the bit into the mating end of the brace stem, the threads on the bit and on the stem had to be of different pitches, OR of different directions - that is: one right-handed and the other left-handed.

That made sense. If the threads on the bit and on the stem were of the same pitch AND of the same direction, they would not come together when the sleeve was turned. Because, regardless of which way one of them moved, the other would move equally in the same direction and the gap between them would never close.

So, my next move was to check to see if the thread directions were different. Nope, all the threads were left-handed! You would expect that they would be right-handed, as were most other chucks. I surmised that Smith (and a few other pa-

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tentees) did this to keep the sleeve tight under heavy clockwise torque. This, and the super-locking configuration of the bit to the stem, tended to show that the chuck was designed for high bit-holding reliability.

Figure 4. Enlargement of end of bit, showing Holt Mfg. Co. markings including patent date. Also the size mark 9 -- (9/16) -- can be seen on the "V" portion. This is the two-piece type. Thread is 2-start, left handed.

The patent (and the laws of mechanics) required that with the two threads running in the same direction, their pitches MUST be different if they were to close on each other. So, next I checked their pitches. Here was the surprise: the threads per inch were absolutely identical for both -- 20 threads per inch! That pretty much said that the bit or the adapter could NOT be tightened against the stem. But it DID tighten, when you got the hang of how to do it. It seemed as if it defied the laws of physics. The big question loomed up --- HOW COME?

Although "thread-pitch" and "threads-per-inch" might appear to be synonymous (particularly in Webster's dictionary) there is one case in a thousand or so, where they are NOT!! When a fine thread is needed, that also has to move forward quickly, a technique is utilized similar to what was used on the better fountain pens. These pens had a high number of threads per inch and a very thin wall that could

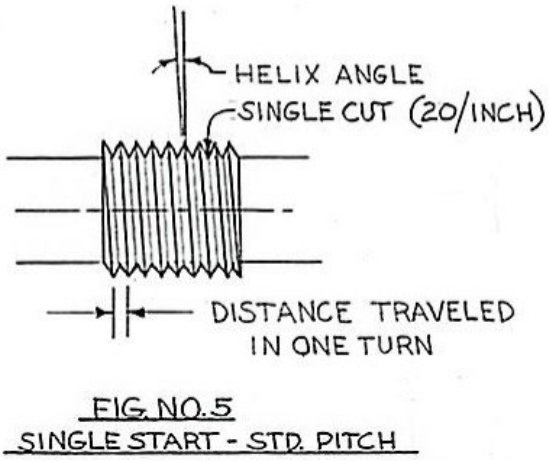

Figure 5.

not support the depth of a coarser, faster pitch. It was solved by compounding the thread! Some pens had as many as four similar pitch threads, all running next to each other at 1/4 the depth of the normal pitch for that thread. That allowed you to screw the cap off four times as fast.

The machinist's jargon for such a thread is "four starts", because there are four separate threads, each started at four equally-spaced different positions on the circumference. In some pieces of equipment, the thread starts go as high as 16, and in rare cases even higher than that!

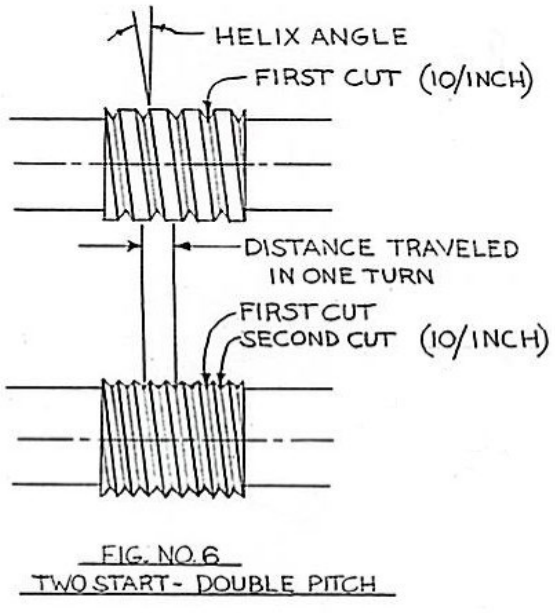

Figure 6.

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With my mind restarted, I looked more closely at the brace. The threads on the stem were the standard single-start, BUT the threads on the adapter were two-starts! (The bits came later.) It's very hard to tell this difference with a casual look, as they both are 20 threads per inch and have identical thread depths.

However, once you know the secret, there is a telltale characteristic that you CAN see. The two-start threads are on more of a vertical slope, which is termed "helix angle". That is because a two-start thread moves twice the distance in one turn, compared to a single-start. See Figures No.5 and No.6.

The threads on the bits and the adapter can be made by first cutting 10 threads per inch on a lathe, at half the normal depth, and then cutting a second set of threads, half way between the first set, as shown in Figure No.6. They also can be made in production with a special two-start die.

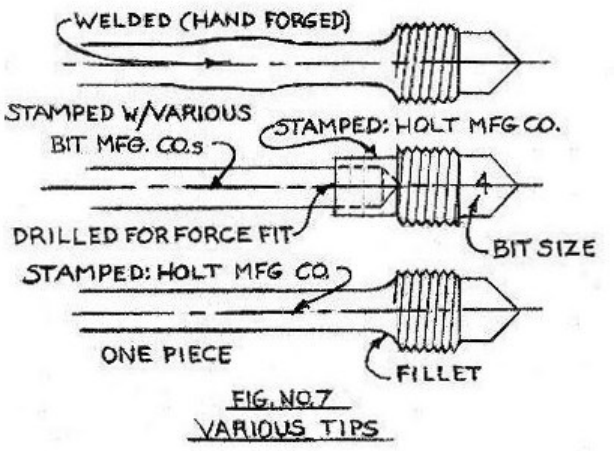

Figure 7

Pictures and collectors' descriptions of the three types of these bits prompted the sketch in Figure No.7. There were only a few with the threaded end and shank welded together (possibly prototypes). Most had their ends drilled to accept the shank of the bit (with the square tang cut off), and some had the entire bit made of one piece. These latter types have fillets where the threaded end meets the shank, and the shanks are stamped HOLT MFG. CO. Many of the two-piece types were stamped with other company's marks such as Russell Jennings etc. Some of these showed solder or cross-pinning, while the two-piece ones stamped with HOLT on the shank were all professionally force-fitted, without solder, and if they were pinned it was done so well that you couldn't see it. This tended to support the supposition that some ends were sold separately -- and the buyer, or an aftermarket manufacturer, put the pieces together.

Two of the collectors that I spoke to seemed to remember seeing an article or advertisement in the *American Carpenter and Builder* magazine, ca.1900, that stated that Holt DID sell the threaded ends separately. I have found size-stamps on the ends of the two-piece type, along with the Holt markings. See Figure No.4. If Holt drilled the holes for the shanks in the ends that they sold separately, these size numbers would help the buyer in putting the pieces together. Or the numbers could simply be a production convenience for Holt's own assembly process.

However, how they were made took a back seat to the answer to the puzzle of how they went together. The REAL pitch on the bit and the adapter (10 TPI double) is faster than the pitch on the stem (20 TPI single). As such, the bit moves twice as fast in the sleeve than the stem does, and even though they are moving in the same direction, they quickly catch up to one another and lock up. This is easily proven by measuring the distance that each piece moves. Also, you can NOT screw the double-10 thread of the bit into the end of the sleeve with the single-20 thread. No question that they are different, even though the sleeve LOOKS LIKE there is a single-start 20 pitch thread all the way through. If you look very closely, you will see that it is not the case.

Once recognizing the intricacies involved here, it was easier to figure out how to get it to work without fiddling around by trial and error. You don't screw the bit into the sleeve. The 20 pitch end of the sleeve is screwed completely down onto the stem; the bit "V" end is visually oriented to match the stem "V" end, and then the sleeve is screwed up into the bit, while the bit is prevented from rotating. Can you believe this? You almost need three hands to do it. And it doesn't help that everything is backwards because of the left-handed threads. Needless to say, it never caught on.

For those that have the inquisitiveness, the patience, and the technical knowledge to have any idea what the hell I just described, I have included the photos and sketches to back it up. It also follows the adage that says, "The weirder the invention is, the rarer it will eventually be."

Author's Note: Thanks to Clarence Blanchard, Hank Allen, Frank Kosmerl, Jim Schoenky, Jim Price, Ron Pearson, Martin Donnelly, and Sandy Moss' website.

Does This Cap Lothrop's Hooks?

By John M. Ross

I'd like to add another Delaware Story to Phil Lothrop's (September 2006 Tool Shed, "About the Hooks", page 12). He made all the comments (about) why I don't show my planes to many visitors. I only collect old wooden planes, so it's convenient to line basement with shelves where normal people would store books. It annoys me when the occasional plumber comments", I see you have a lot of block planes", but I let it pass

Not long ago a young man in his early twenties came upstairs from inspecting for termites - or was it carpenter ants - and asked innocently, "what are all those blocks of wood on the shelves"?

Sic Veritas!

Volunteer's needed at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts - Madison, NJ

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts is currently looking for dedicated volunteers who are interested in being a part of the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts team. This small non-profit Museum, is housed in the historic James Library Building in Madison. There are many volunteer opportunities available at the Museum, particularly as a front desk receptionist where volunteers will have the opportunity to interact with the public, work in our gift shop and help out with general office work. If working at a beautiful historic building, surrounding by pieces of New Jersey history, in a warm and friendly environment is what you are looking for, please come and visit the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts. Please contact the Museum at 973-377-2982 or by email at info@metc.org or send a cover letter of inquiry to Museum Director, Deborah Farrar Starker at 9 Main Street, Madison, N.J. 07940.

WD-40

Or Water Displacement #40 as it is known began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a "water displacement" compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Convair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts.

The workers were so pleased with the product, they began smuggling (also known as "shrinkage" or "stealing") it out to use at home.

The executives decided there might be a consumer market for it and put it in aerosol cans. The rest, as they say, is history.

It is a carefully guarded recipe known only to four people. Only one of them is the "brew master." There are about 2.5 million gallons of the stuff manufactured each year. It gets its distinctive smell from a fragrance that is added to the brew. Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

In addition to the well known cleaning and lubricating qualities of WD-40, I found the following claims for its use to be quite interesting, not to mention unusual (ED):

Keeps flies off cows.
Restores and cleans chalkboards.
Untangles jewelry chains
Removes stains from stainless steel sinks
Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
Use it for fire ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.

P.S. The basic ingredient is FISH OIL

2006 CRAFTS Annual Picnic

Well, another picnic has come and gone and it seems as if time really does fly by. As I drove off the exit ramp from I-78, certainly one of the busiest roads in NJ, I was taken by the almost instantaneous transition from the noisy hustle and bustle of high speed travel to the bucolic setting surrounding the site of the picnic. In no great hurry, the slow drive through the countryside provided a relaxing interlude with an opportunity to breath-in the moist morning air and stop to watch several deer meander across the meadows. It was very intoxicating and , as always, I was glad to be there. The facility at Brady Camp is perfect for a leisurely morning of tool trading, culminating with a catered lunch at noon and an afternoon of tool displays by our members, awards, prizes and a silent auction. Because of the Donnelley sale and auction in Nashua, NH for some and prior commitments by others the attendance was somewhat lighter than in past years but there were quite a number of tailgaters already set-up when I arrived and more were coming in behind me. In addition, Ken Vliet was under the gun to find another caterer as the one we've had for the last few years decided to call it quits this past Spring. Not to worry though as Ken came through again with great food and, I think, possibly the best weather we've ever had. As you can see from the pictures there was plenty of activity for all interests.

The member displays always amaze me in their scope. These folks exhibit some of the finest tools that are to be found anywhere on the planet! For

Steve Zluky eyeing up his next acquisition.

Bill Phillips holding court

Herb Kean explaining the finer points of a plane to Joe Hauck.

Charlie Brown

Bill Warner

Phil Whitby

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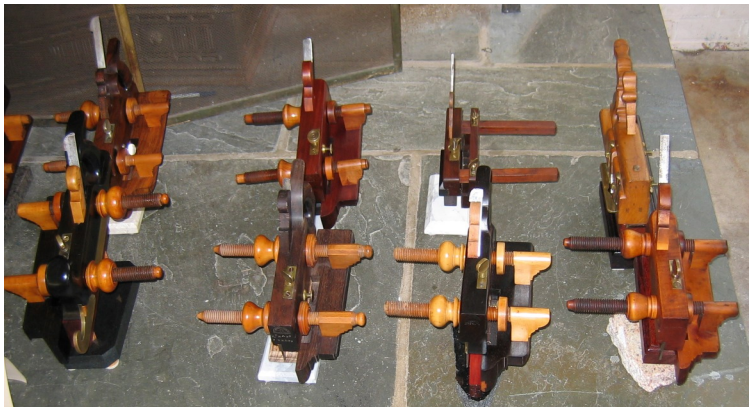
example, Anna Rokita always brings some of the most amazing kitchen gadgets I've ever seen and unlike most collectors who have a hands-off policy, she wants everyone to try using them. Walter Jacob brings the finest and most complete Stanley tools on display anywhere. Ron Walter brought more decorated and dated hatchals (tools for rendering flax) than you're likely to see outside of a museum. Ed Modugno brought an entire king post for his timber framing display. And the list goes on.

Lunch is served

We all had a wonderful day and I hope you'll get to enjoy it with us again next year on the Sunday after Labor Day.

3rd place was Walter Jacob's display of Stanley drills

Ron Walter's 2nd place Hatchal Display

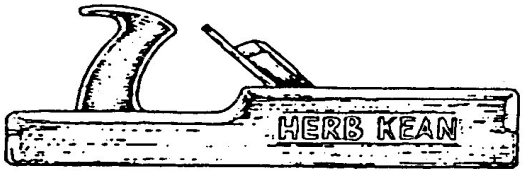


A few of Pat Ryan's plow planes

Ed Modugno's 1st place Timber Framing Display

Annette Vliet's children's toys

Anna Rokita's 4th place display of early food preparation machines w/choppers, pitters, shellers, etc.



Kean Kuttin's

THE GOOD, THE BAD, and THE UGLY

No, this isn't a review of a Clint Eastwood movie. It's about eBay, the internet auction house.

THE GOOD

There is no question that since eBay arrived in 1995, more antique tools have been available to all of us. And, I would make the assumption that there are also more collectors today because of eBay.

The more tools we see, the more we are going to learn, even if it is nothing more than just a picture of the tool. In any given 30 minute period on eBay, you can scroll through a thousand or so lots (closing within 24 hours) by looking at their thumbnail photos, titles and current bid prices. If there are any of interest, you can click on the auction page for the item, complete with full-sized photos and descriptions. If you wanted to spend more time, there are around 6000 tool lots to see in one major category alone: "Collectibles>Tools, Hardware & Locks>Tools>Carpentry, Woodworking".

Each potential bidder has the opportunity to ask a seller questions pertaining to a particular lot. Sometimes you will get the right answer, sometimes the wrong answer, and sometimes no answer at all. Experienced buyers, who know the relative knowledge of the seller (by looking up his previous transactions) sort out the answers and are careful not to accept them as gospel.

Many beginners will "follow" an experienced dealer by "bookmarking" his auction list page. They can then learn from his detailed descriptions. Some of the bigger dealers have links to their Stores, where even more tools are available to browse or buy.

EBay has a rating system that allows the buyer and the seller to record a "positive" or "negative" feedback on the record of the person with whom they are dealing. Everyone tries to keep negatives off their record (which shows next to their trading name) and they usually try to negotiate the problem first.

For years eBay did not have a phone contact line available for support info. Recently this has changed, and they now offer a phone support line: 1-800-717-3229. You will need to have your user ID, e-mail address and phone number handy.

THE BAD

Unfortunately, for every experienced dealer on eBay there are 10 or more that have little or no knowledge of what they are selling. A very common comment by this type of dealer is, "I don't know anything about this item, and I am selling it the way you see it." At least they are honest. The more problemsome ones are those who have no knowledge, but fake it by supposedly quoting another person - such as, "A good friend of mine who collects tools tells me that -------". More often than not, the information is worthless, and in some cases dangerous. A good rule of thumb is to accept nothing from any seller's text unless you know the experience of the seller, or you can see it in the photos. If you can't see all that you need to evaluate the piece, ask the seller to e-mail you additional photos. You won't always get them, or you might get the photos taken in the wrong place because the seller didn't understand your terminology.

Most dealers will make good on errors of description, by taking the piece back and returning your money (generally without the shipping cost) or allowing you a discount to make up for the mistake. But a very small few will ignore your complaint entirely. You will have to lodge a claim through eBay, which you may or may not get -- based upon the dollar value and whether certain protection variables were in place. But it's worth a try, and it does put pressure on the seller.

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With everything in life, there are some screwballs that will get all upset over the least little thing, that in many cases is their fault to start with. Thankfully, eBay allows a counter comment by the person receiving a negative, in order to explain their side of the story. It is pretty much the case these days that any feedback percentage showing over 99% positive is considered good. It is amazing how many are at 99.9%! If you track back to see the lone negative, it is usually from a screwball.

Then there are the problems of money not being sent on time, or not at all. Deadbeat Buyers, we call them. Some have legitimate excuses and just need a little prodding. But others are just BAD. On the other side we have some Deadbeat Sellers who take forever to ship, or don't ship at all, after receiving your money. Once again, most just need some prodding.

An unfortunate byproduct of eBay is the competition it puts on the small antique shops. A good many have been forced to cut back or close altogether because their customer base went over to eBay, as eBay offers thousands and thousands of items (in this case tools) in the convenience of your own home. Actually, this high degree of product availability has tended to flood the market in specific areas. Some like this saturation, as it makes it easier to buy cheaper. Obviously there are others who are not happy with a devaluation of their collections.

THE UGLY

Thank God there is very little that falls into this category. Of the 6 years that I have been on eBay, I am happy to report that I have experienced only one such episode. And even that turned out OK in the end. But there were some horror stories that floated around in the early days. Today eBay has some reasonable procedures to help prevent The Ugly.

I give eBay a good overall rating. You have to accept the fact that they are limited in their actions. They function only as a conduit to bring the buyer and seller together, and they take no responsibility for either's actions. You better know this up front, or you might be in for a disappointing surprise. They try to help with problems, but sometimes they just can't. But, in my view the odds are with you that in the long run, participating on eBay will be fruitful -- one way or another.

TOOL EVENTS

November 5th - CRAFTS Meeting 1PM HOST Masonic Lodge Highbridge, New Jersey www.craftsofnj.org

January 28-29, 2007 - M-WTCA sale and auction York, PA
Bill Warner 717-843-8105

November 5th Meeting
Guest Speaker: Frank Klausz

Frank Klausz has been one of our best demonstrators for many years. We all go away from his presentations shaking our head about how he does some of the things that we see. And so does everyone else, as Frank is known and respected throughout the world!

At our November meeting, he will describe and demonstrate HAND & MACHINERY JOINERY, including his world speed record for a dovetail joint. Don't miss this meeting!

WANT ADS

Must sell my entire tool collection. Hundreds of tools in good clean condition. Call Art Gatti---973-374-0554---for appointment.

Wanted: Fence, arms, washers & nuts for a Union Factory plow, No. 244. Body holes for threads are 13/16 in. diameter; and 4 7/8 inches apart, center line to center line. Must be in G+ or better condition. Contact: JB Cox, 6802 Nesbitt Pl, McLean, VA 22101/ (703) 821-2931.
jay-bee-cox@verizon.net

Need help disposing of your tools or home items? Entire or partial house clean-outs available. Call Steve Zluky, (908)534-2710.

Seeking: McKinnon axe of Rockaway, NJ made between 1845 and 1905. Please call Stephen at (732) 682-8236.

Wanted: Foot powered band saw for collection and to demonstrate. Need not be complete. Have other foot powered machinery for possible trade. Ed Hobbs
(919) 828-2754, hobbsed@portbridge.com

Wanted: Napanoch Axes and other items from Napanoch, NY
Robert Arra (845) 647-1213, homefixer@hvc.rr.com