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DANIEL SCHWANK – PLANEMAKER

By Bob Garay

Dan Schwank is a modern day plane maker in Lancaster, PA. I met Dan at a Lie Nielsen event where he was demonstrating his spill plane and his newly made panel raising plane. I noticed right away his work was of the highest quality as his planes looked great as well as worked smoothly. I was able to work out a trade of some good antique planes for his spill plane, which I enjoy demonstrating at events I go to. It is an easy to use plane and find that the younger kids really enjoy trying it out with instant success.

I recently spoke with Dan and he mentioned he was in the process of making hollow and round plane sets. Thus he is rounding out his offerings to woodworkers and thinking about expanding his business.

Dan is a full time tool & die maker which greatly assists his tool making. He has enjoyed woodworking for over 20 years making furniture. Recently he became interested in tool making and formed a part time business - Red Rose Reproductions. He has blended the tool making designs of Matt Bickford, Larry Williams and Tod Herrli with his own ideas. He feels blending his learnings from these and other woodworkers with his own instincts will offer todays woodworkers a fine design of well working planes. He likes the historical design of English planes as they have a better look and feel to them then the American planes. The wide chamfers of the early English planes with the longer wedge shapes give them a pleasant look. The planes have a lower bottom section with the "waist" having the chamfers lower, offering a taller top section giving a firmer grip to the hand with a more rounded back section in the palm of the hand. Dan found that through history planemakers have perfected the best wood for making planes, and he also likes to use beech wood for his planes. It offers the stability needed in plane woods as well as just the right amount of hardness, without being to hard so the wedges fit snugly.

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Feb 7, 2016 CRAFTS Meeting
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: Hank Allen, 524 Harristown Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 (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.

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

NEW MEMBERS

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President's Corner

As I wrap up this issue of the Tool Shed, Thanksgiving is in a few days, and the end of the year is just around the corner. Thus I am reflecting upon the many helpful CRAFTS members that I am thankful for. I awarded both Hank Allen and Steve Zluky at the picnic with the Presidents Award as they have both done so much work for CRAFTS. Hank as the Treasurer and Steve as the Auction Manager. Both jobs take a lot of work and these guys do an exemplary job. Another member I am very thankful for is Ken Vliet. He has been our picnic manager since forever , and recently gave a fine presentation at our CRAFTS November meeting. His wife Annette not only supports Ken but helps a lot with the picnic, is our clubs Secretary and manages the CRAFTS Facebook site. If you did not know about the Facebook site check it out - CRAFTS of NJ - Collectors of Rare And Familiar Tools.

James Travis manages our website—CRAFTSof NJ.org. There is membership logon to interact with other members. Just log in and leave a message or start a new topic for discussion. This is a new feature and we need members to be active to fully implement it. Also Wiley McVay has been scanning our old Tool Sheds into the website. He has the first 36 issues uploaded so far. You have to log on to view these uploaded Tool Sheds. Check them out. Thanks Wiley and James.

The big news is the upcoming auction. When you consider our low commission rates the CRAFTS auction is a real bargain. It allows members to sell tools they no longer desire and get cash to purchase more tools. Great deal! It is the only fundraiser CRAFTS has and any profits go to paying for many activities the dues do not cover. (Dues mostly cover the cost of the Tool Shed.) As we are currently organizing the lots for the auction—now is the time to act. Call or email Steve Zluky immediately.
Phone - (908)534-2710
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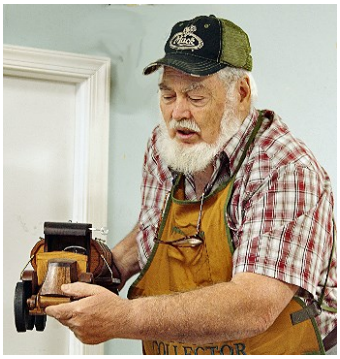
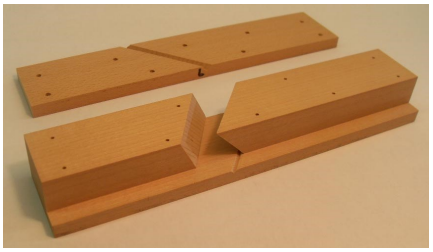


This past November's meeting was a treat with Ken Vliet presenting handmade toys he has made. Ken blends his talents as woodworker, metalworker, and artist to create some artistic and functional toys. Most are transportation related. They range in size to the hand held model to ones his grand children ride. It was an enjoyable presentation and one that thoroughly e
Thanks Ken

(Cont. from pg. 1)

The Spill Plane

Dan's first tool was the spill plane. This is a plane that creates a shaving with a tight stiff curl that could be used to transfer a flame from one place to another, such as from a fireplace to a candle or lantern. While there are many types of spill planes, the ones that Dan makes are patterned from an 18th century original, and feature a two piece body, skewed blade, and escapement hole in the side through which the spill exits the plane. Dan makes these planes in several different kinds of wood; Beech, Maple, and tiger maple, trying to use quarter sawn if possible. He has a machinist friend who makes the plane iron blanks, but he heat treats and sharpens the O-1 tool steel himself.



For construction the side of the plane is ripped off to allow for easier cutting of the throat, (See right.) which is cut out on the table saw at the compound angles necessary, and is then reattached with brass screws. The wedge is left long to start with, and is fit to the throat. He uses a fixture for cutting the compound angles of the wedge on the table saw to get close. Once fit properly, the wedge is inserted into the plane with a "wooden blade" to locate it properly, and the escapement hole is drilled through the side of the plane and into the wedge using a fixture to hold it at the proper angle in the drill press. The wedge is then removed from the plane body and the bottom is finished with a rat tail file. The finial is then cut and shaped with rasps and files. Dan uses Minwax Antique Oil Finish on all his planes.

He also sells a plan kit which includes full size plans of both the plane and the blade. There are notes to assist in construction along with a half dozen color photos. The kit has the option of brass screws and a blade, which is hardened and sharpened.

Panel Raising Plane

The panel raising plane is used to create raised panels in a single operation by cutting a 1/8" deep fillet around the field , along with a 1-3/8" wide bevel that slopes down to the last 3/8", which then becomes a 1/4" thick tang that will fit into the grooves in the rails and stiles. This plane is based on a design by Tod Herrli, and features a blade bedded at 45 deg. and skewed at 30 deg. This is a good compromise for cutting both long and end grain. There is a nicker for severing the fibers in front of the cutting iron when doing the end grain at the tops and bottom of a panel. At just 10" long, its length is comparable to standard side escapement molding planes.

The plane is constructed of quarter sawn beech, a hard and dense wood that was traditionally used for plane making. The blade and the nicker are made of O -1 tool steel, hardened and tempered to a hardness of Rc 60-62, sharpened and ready to use.

He starts with the drill press to remove some of the bulk for the throat. Then using mortise chisels, paring chisels, a homemade saw made from a hacksaw blade to cut through the throat, and numerous floats, some of which were modified to get into the acute corners. Abutments are sawn with a hacksaw, which can easily get into the throat, and cuts slowly to help eliminate overshooting. The wedge is cut long to start with to give a way to hold while fitting. He uses a fixture in the band saw to cut the wedge close to its final shape, and then hand planes to fit. After the bottom of the wedge is done and the iron is bedded, the top of the wedge is completed. The nicker mortise is drilled and cut with a mortise chisel. Nicker helps with tear out on

(Cont. on pg. 4)

(Cont. from pg. 3)

the end grain. He likes to put nice heavy chamfers on the comers that terminate in lambs tongues. Blades are tapered O-1 tool steel that he profiles, heat threats, and sharpens. Each plane is test cut, and shipped with a sample piece.

Hollows & Rounds

The hollow and rounds made were a request from a customer. Dan initially did not plan to make these as there are other makers, but their backlog was around 18 months, so there seems to be room for more.

Right now, these are made of quarter sawn black cherry until he can secure a source for beech. The planes are patterned after the ones made by Old Street Tools. Who based theirs on early British planes, with the longer length of 10 inches, well defined chamfers and grip details, and round finials on the wedges. The vast majority of the work to make these planes is at the bench using hand tools. Various planes, saws, chisels, and many floats are employed. A few shop made fixtures are employed to lay out and saw the escapement and hold the wedges for thicknessing. Wedges are carefully fit to the mortise so gaps are minimized, and the irons are bedded to eliminate chatter and ensure a tight fit with the wedge. One challenge with these planes is bedding the iron. Dan coats the back of the blade with a dry erase marker. Then inserts it into the plane with the wedge, and then taps the blade down to loosen the wedge. The marker rubs off of the high spots, telling where to trim. Once the marker spots uniform on the bed, especially at the mouth. it is well fit. Trial and error. Wedges, planes, and blades are custom fit and stamped with matching numbers. Irons are tapered O-1 and sharpened and heat treated. All planes are test cut. All detail work such as chamfers, coves and rounding is done with hand tools. All surfaces are hand planed so minimal or no sanding is done.

Fixture to hold wedge while sawing thickness.

Above heat treating the irons for the H&R planes, Above bottom - cutters before heat treating . All irons Dan makes are tapered.

Future plans include more planes. One is a drawer bottom plane that cuts grooves in drawer parts for the bottom to fit into. It has a fence and depth stop and would be a dedicated plane. Another possibility is a sash plane that cuts both the moulded profile on the front and the rabbet behind for the glass pane. Flip the board and do the second side, then rip off the completed mullions. It would have two blades. A similar idea is a plane for raised panel doors that would cut the groove for the panes and a thumbnail profile on the rails and stiles. More hollow and round sizes too.

More information on Dan and his company - Red Rose Reproductions can be viewed at his website - Redrosereproductions.com

CRAFTS Picnic – 2015 By Dave Nowicki

It was a wonderful day for a CRAFTS picnic. As always, the hunter-gatherers were out and about rather early and a few hearty souls even had their tables up and tools out before the sun came up. There was a small but steady flow of arrivals over the first couple of hours but eventually there were thirty or more people selling a wide variety of tools.

Beyond the buying and selling of tools we were fortunate to have two presentations. Steve Wenzel, a cooper, was demonstrating the process of making buckets, and Michael Cuba, a timber framer showed how to prepare a log by peeling and squaring it with an axe and adz. If you want to see sharp tools these guys had them, especially the adz with a cutting edge that was polished like a mirror. The demonstrators worked hard, showing how it was done, and all the time interacting with and entertaining a myriad of questions from the many onlookers well into the afternoon.

Timber framers using an adze to smooth out a timber.

Before lunch I took a look at all of the displays and as always I wasn't disappointed. This year's displays were fascinating, both in depth and variety. Beginning with a wonderful grouping entitled "People Powered Tools" which consisted of an assortment of late 19th century hand and foot powered machinery, such as, metal and wood lathes, a jewelers lathe, scroll saws and a drill press. There was a significant display of patented hollow augers complemented with a collection spoke pointers, necessary to get the hollow augers started. An interesting and very collectable selection of wood rabbet planes entitled, "An Inexpensive Diversion", showing that tool collecting can be enjoyed, even on a limited budget. One large display was absolutely magnificent! It was comprised of a very rare and complete French coach maker's tool kit. Most of the tools were manufactured by the same company and all of the tools were made from Cormier, the most desirable of all French woods. Did I say that tools were in virtually unused condition? We always have great displays but this was an absolute show stopper! The single tool category didn't disappoint either. A unique Fisher anvil, a model made only for ten years, between 1915 and 1925, and was mostly shipped to and sold in South America. It was called the Insonara, and is a double horned anvil weighing seventy pounds with an interesting story surrounding its production, as well as some intriguing Fisher family history. Next was a very early Emmert machinist's vise, a model 5A. This is the smallest cataloged model, weighing only 12 pounds. To me the most interesting single tool, however, was a unique blacksmith made drill press. This was not like the more common and elaborate blacksmith's post drill but comes from a much more primitive environment. It is a beautiful tool, fully functional, and wouldn't be out of place in a museum of modern sculpture, which is just what I thought of when I first saw it; a real gem.

Two treadle machines on display by Pat Ryan.

Ivan Raupp with his display of a large blacksmith iron brace.

The catered lunch was served promptly at noon, giving everyone a much needed respite from the hustle and bustle of the morning's activities. On a day as nice as this one, it was a perfect opportunity to relax and get something to eat before beginning the afternoon's indoor activities. We started with the what's-it panel, ably chaired by Charlie Hildebrandt and Ken Vliet. This is always fun but as group we didn't score very well since we couldn't identify the purpose of most items. This poor performance can be placed squarely on the shoulders of Steve Zluky, as the provider of most of the tools that stumped us. Awards were next with prizes given for the displays and the President's award, followed by a silent auction and raffle. Thanks go to Ken and Annette Vliet for their efforts, as this was another memorable CRAFTS picnic.

Display of French coach maker's planes made by Chuck Grannick.

WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND PLUMB BOBS
By Herb Kean

A strange title, no? It has to do with both people and bobs. ----- Since Doris passed away, Sherri Pollak, and Donna Garay have been giving me many home-cooked meals. And they are fabulous cooks. So what's with the plumb bobs? ---- Donna collects Wizard-of-Oz statuettes, and Sherri collects plumb bobs. The statuettes I get from eBay and give them to Donna now and then. Sherri's collection is easier to add to as I can make the bobs myself. For a few years now I bring a bob that I have made when I go to Sherri's for dinner. She loves them as she has an extensive collection. Lately, I have been making bobs that are unique: pumpkin bob, carrot top bob, open bob, etc. David (Sherri's husband) thought the open bob was so unusual that he sent it to Wolfgang Reuter in Germany. Wolf is the world renowned plumb bob expert and writes a journal with many articles about bobs in it every few months. He was impressed with the open bob and asked Dave if he had any more. ANY MORE? He had a couple dozen more and sent him photos of some of them. Wolf decided to write a story about the maker (me) and asked for all kinds of info. He wrote the story with the info and the photos. I am not going to bore you with my life's story as Wolf wrote it up, but I will give your editor the photos that he has asked for. And one further piece of info:

I make all my bobs (steel, brass, ancient ivory, ebony, boxwood, rosewood, lignum vitae, walnut, and a few exotics) on a machinist lathe not a wood lathe. The reason is simply that the machinist lathe yields far greater precision products than a wood lathe. Yes, I agree that if you were turning baseball bats in production, a wood lathe wood be better. But individually designed plumb bobs is a different story. Especially where threads are involved, particularly threads that are not common today, like a 17/64" diameter- 23 pitch thread. If you ever had to make a thumbscrew to fit an existing thread like the one just described, you would have to have a machinist lathe, an extremely rare die or retap the hole with a more common thread size.

All are about 6" - 7" except the one next to the quarter. All tops and tips screw off.

Here are some of the bobs that are now in Sherri's terrific collection:

Lignum vitae body, brass top, steel tip.

Ancient ivory top, gaboon ebony, boxwood, rosewood, brass, steel tip.

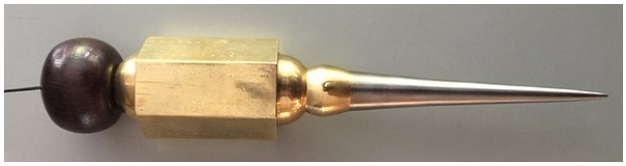
Brass top, brass body-top that is hollow for jewelry, bottom of body is macassar ebony, steel tip.

All brass, steel tip.

All brass. Wheel spins.

Brass top, lignum vitae body, steel tip.

Brass top, pink exotic body, brass ring, steel tip. Both the top and bottom diameters of the body are larger than the hole that they go through the ring.



Ceylon ebony top, brass body, steel tip.

Macassar ebony top, brass body, steel tip.

All brass except steel tip. The internal mechanism locks the line by tightening the top.

"Open Bob" ----- Center rod steel, top brass, tip steel, wings brass pinned to center rod.

Brass top, lignum vitae body, steel tip.

"Carrot Top" ------ Brass top, macassar body, steel tip.

"Pumpkin" ------ Brass top, walnut body, steel

Continued on pg. 8

The Stanley Family of No. 62 Rules and Some of Their Relatives'

By Stewart May

To avoid confusion, the title of this article refers primarily to the following 'nuclear family' of Stanley rules: numbers 62, 62-1/2 and 62C. After reviewing these three, I'll list of what I believe to be similar rules to two of them – so-called 'relatives' - located in other parts of the Stanley Rule family tree.

Because of my recent acquisition of the 62C, the caliper version of this group, I started to wonder about Stanley's need to produce so many models and variations of their traditional rule line. While I'm sure there's been work on this, and a number of you have your own first-hand knowledge; each of the six rules listed in this article are in my collection - and I will share here my own 'hands-on' review, allowing you to make your own assessment.*

To place a stake in the ground, in 1930 Stanley was producing 75 traditional rules (not including specialty and special order rules) - down from a peak of 132 just before WWI - still however, a significant number. Much of this can be attributed to a legacy of competitor acquisitions, primarily during the third quarter of the 19th century. Perhaps a stronger reason was their strategy to dominate a mature rule market, by offering a wider selection of rules – something they apparently had the luxury to do. This would come to an end with greater utilization by carpenters of zig-zag rules and tape measures; exacerbated over time by WWI, the Great Depression and WWII.

Figure 1: Stanley Rule #62 - Front

About the 62, 62-1/2 and 62C:

First let's understand the similarities of these three rules, so as not to repeat the same information for each one – which I will do for their differences. The 62, 62-1/2 and 62C in this article all happen to have the Sweetheart logo (1922 to 1932) and can thus be found in Stanley's 1927 dealer catalogue. They are all 4 fold, 2 foot, fully brass bound carpenter rules. They all have square joints (vs. the arch joints found in a number of other lines). All are in inches and all have graduations in 8ths, 10ths, 12ths and 16ths (the 62 added 12ths sometime after 1878). Numerals on both sides are all in the exact same position (with the exception of the one caliper leg on the 62C). For the record, Stanley did produce a special request metric version of the 62, not found in catalogues (not sure about metrics for the other two).

So, while they are not the same, there's an awful lot of overlap and similarities between these rules. Now let's take a look at their differences…

Figure 2: Stanley Rule #62-1/2 – Front

As many of you know, the 62 and 62-1/2 are the more common of the three. The 62 (figure 1) can be found all over eBay and probably in every rule collector's collection - often in 'as new' condition. What makes the 62 unique amongst the three is that it is 1" wide. Aside from some differences in placement of graduations, that's it, 1" wide!

The 62-1/2 (figure 2) has two major differences from the 62: at ¾" wide it is the narrow version of the two and it does not have drafting scales (probably the lack of room and perhaps to give the 62 an additional feature/function). Finally, due to its narrow width, the 62-1/2 has a slightly shorter square joint than the 62 – a minor difference. See (figure 3) for a direct comparison of the two rules; note the lack of drafting scales on the 62-1/2.

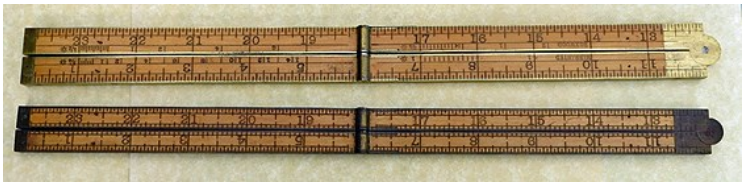


Figure 3: Stanley Rules #62 and #62-1/2 – Inside

Worth mentioning at this point are that such differences, both major and minor, added to the complexity and cost of the manufacturing process. Interestingly, in the 1927 catalogue, both rules are price listed at 90 cents. Not sure why they didn't differentiate between the two as they did with other rules, although aside from the quantity of material utilized, these two rules are very much alike.

Now we come to the 62C (figures 4 and 5). Here the one difference from the 62 is the 6" left handed caliper (drafting scales were added in 1925; so yes, there's another difference prior to that year). The caliper, of course, added to the rule's functionality and makes it a very different rule; and it came at a price…the 1927 catalogue listed the

Figure 4: Top above - Stanley Rule #62C - Front
Figure 5: Bottom above - Stanley Rule #62C - Back

62 at $0.90 and the 62C at $1.80; exactly double the price - no small amount at the time. Finally, the 62C is that much more different than the narrow 62-1/2 because of its additional functionality, greater size and use of drafting scales. Looking at the 62C, it is obvious that some rules did have enough to distinguish themselves from even 'close family', so that their manufacture and sale made more sense.

Some close 'relatives' to the Stanley 62 family.

Taking a close look at other rules I come up with the following three, which in my estimation have a strong overlap with two members of the Stanley 62 family:

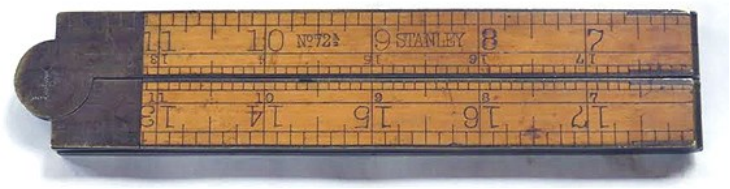


Figure 6: Stanley Rule #72-1/2 - Front

The Stanley 72-1/2 (figure 6) is certainly close to the Stanley 62…Both are 2 foot, 4 fold, fully bound, with square joints. The numbers are placed the same and both have drafting scales. What gives here? Well the 72-1/2 is 1-3/8" wide vs. the 62 at 1". As a result, the 72-1/2 has middle plates to strengthen its joints (something the 62 doesn't have or need) and a longer/wider joint, also probably to support its size. Two other differences are relatively minor…the 72-1/2 doesn't have 12th graduations and its numbers are larger given the extra width of each leg. So, the 72-1/2 is to the 62 what the 62 is to the 62-1/2 (1-3/8" to 1" to ¾"w). I would argue that these rules are very closely aligned.

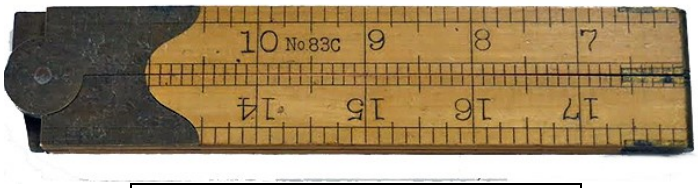


Figure 7: Stanley Rule #83C - Front

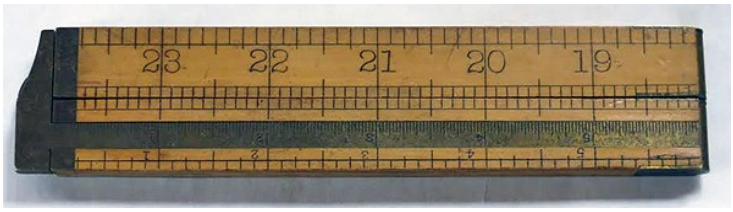


Figure 8: Stanley Rule #83C - Back

The Stanley 83C (figures 7 & 8) obviously has a lot in common with the Stanley 62C…Both are 2 foot, 4 fold rules, each equipped with a 6" caliper (the 83C with graduations in 32nds; the 62C in 16ths before 1923 and 16ths and 32nds after 1924). Both have outside plates at their center joints; their numerals are placed in identical positions (reading left to right on the inside and outside of each rule); and both have drafting scales. Interestingly, the two are shown in the Stanley catalogue, side-by-side as a distinct category – 'two foot, four fold caliper rules' – making the 62C part of both families.

Major differences are that the 83C is 1-3/8" wide vs. 1" for the 62C. In addition, the 83C came with what Phil E. Stanley calls a modified ogee arch joint while, as previously mentioned, the 62C had a square joint. That ogee joint, by-the-way, is almost twice as long as the 62C square joint. Finally, the 83C is not fully bound. This rule is already hefty; if fully bound it would indeed be that much heftier and it's cost perhaps prohibitive (the 83C originally sold for $1.60 vs. the 62C at $1.80). Once again, while the rules are very different in size and proportion, almost everything else about them is the same.

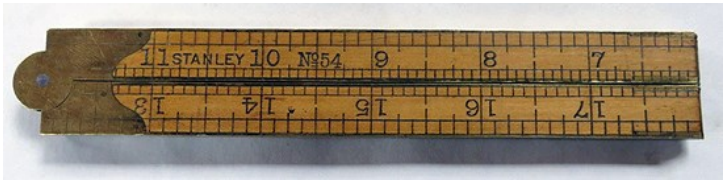


Figure 9: Stanley Rule #54 – Front

The Stanley 54 (figure 9). Ditto for the 54 vs. the 62! I will spare you the details. I'm holding both of them in my hands as I write this article and fail to see what sets them apart except for their joints –square for 62; arch ogee for 54 (original price for the 54 was $1.10 vs. the 62 at $.90). Somebody help me out here…am I missing something? Why not produce these two rules as one?

There we have it and you can judge for yourself. The easiest way for you to do that is to compare photos of like rules in this article and, should you choose to do so, do a deeper dive into their technical features and uses.

*Author's note: While I utilize the actual rules and the 1927 Stanley catalogue as my primary sources, there's nothing like getting a little help on dates and other facts from Philip E. Stanley's, "Boxwood and Ivory – Stanley Traditional Rules, 1855-1975"; published in 1984 by The Stanley Publishing Company.

STANLEY'S RAREST PRODUCTION PLANE

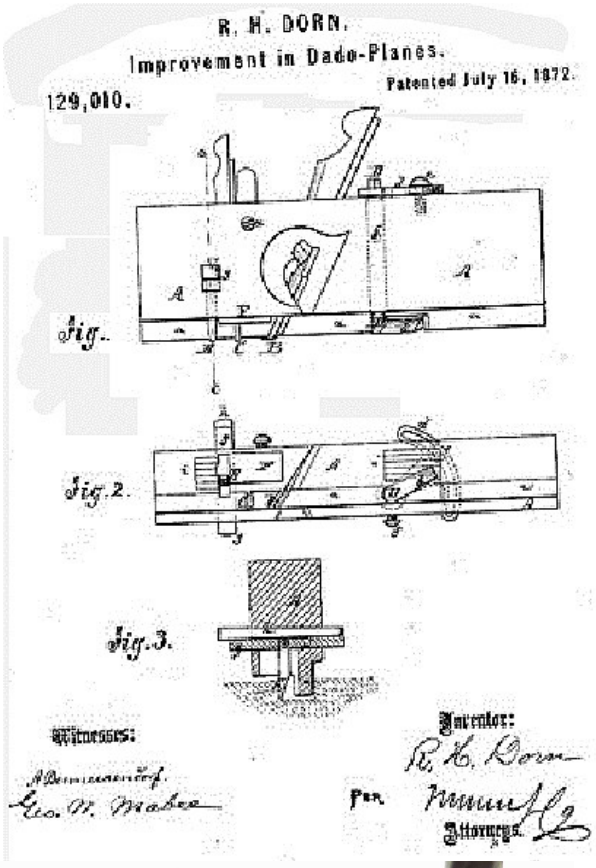
By Bob Garay

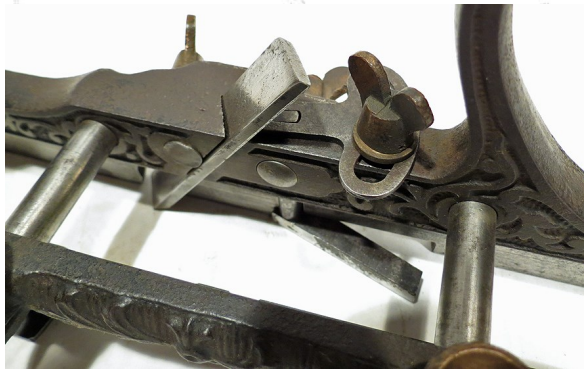
Rufus H. Dorn Adjustable Dado Plane - Patent July 16, 1872. Manufactured by Stanley Rule & Level Co. only in late 1872.

By the time Stanley found success with the Bailey patent bench planes other makers were exploring the metallic plow plane and combination plane. Stanley was looking to get into the combination plane market. Their expertise in making the metallic bench plane gave them confidence that this would be financially productive. By the early 1870's they were producing combination plow planes, In 1871 they produced the Charles Miller Patent # 41, 42, 43, & 44 adjustable Plow Planes.

In 1872 they purchased Rufus Dorn's patent for a combination dado plane and manufactured them in cast iron in the fall of 1872. This early example has the swing-out cutter, which is perfect and completely original. The swing-out cutter can be locked in position at the top of the plane body. The swing out cutter and locking arm can be seen in the patent drawing of the wood plane as Dorn planned it. After Stanley produced this plane they added a support for the swing out arm—not on this earlier version. The support only marginally improved the workability of the plane. By March 1873, the Dorn's Patent plane was replaced by a modification of the design patented by Justus A. Traut and it became the Stanley #46.

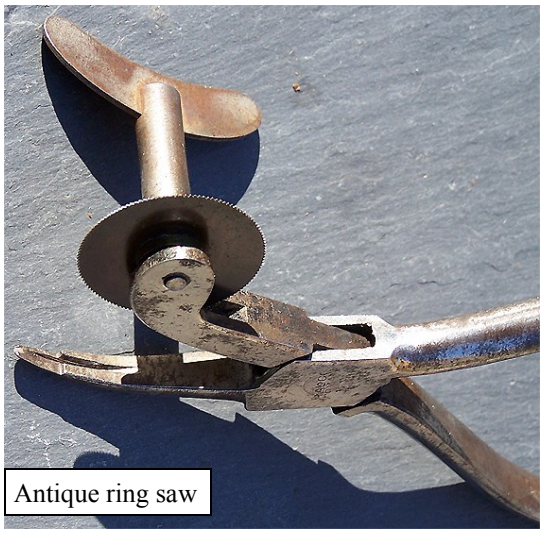
A very short production of 1/2 year makes this plane one of the rarest Stanley production planes.





Above - Dorn patent plane showing swing out cutter with wingnut on top to lock in angle.
Below - Right side of plane showing wingnut locking stem that comes up thru the body for the swing out cutter

An Unusual Saw For The Injured Paw
By Ivan Raupp


Antique ring saw

I've gone to many country auctions over the last 40 years or so. I always enjoy the old tools, both the common and the unusual. Recently, I attended an auction which had a nice mix of common tools and unusual tools. One tool was so unusual that I had never seen one like it before. So I bought it.

The auctioneer has a good sense of humor and described the tool to be a "ring" saw. He said that he happened to have one and actually used it to saw off a ring that was stuck on his friend's hand. The friend had been in some kind of accident and had broken his finger. It quickly swelled and began to turn blue. Pain and swelling prevented the manual removal of the ring. What a scary situation for anyone! To make a long story short, the auctioneer described how he was able to use the ring saw to cut through the ring and remove it, there by saving the friend's finger.

Ring saw in use with blade cutting ring.

It is easy to dismiss a tool as simple as this. One might think that the tool designer had a little too much time on his hands. On the other hand, have you ever tried to remove a ring at the end of the day when your fingers are swollen? Or have you ever tried to remove a ring that you bent somehow? The panicky feeling that you may have experienced allows us to be thankful for the foresight and ingenuity of the human mind. How many of thousands of unusual tools have been invented over the centuries for special purposes by special minds!

The ring saw is about the size of a pair of pliers. It is chromed and immediately suggests a tool used in surgery or in a dentist's office. It fits nicely in the hand and is finely made. One jaw has a circular saw blade approximately an inch and a quarter in diameter. The teeth are tiny, approximately 1/32nd of an inch in height. In essence, the ring saw is a circular jeweler's hacksaw. The shaft holding the saw extends through the jaw and is attached to a "wingnut" like turning handle. As you turn the handle the saw does its work. The opposite jaw is very narrow and shallow so that it can easily slide between the finger and the ring. The side of the jaw facing the saw has a groove that provides space sufficient to prevent the saw from cutting into the opposed jaw.
The ring saw is easy to use and it is very effective. One cut would allow you to bend open the ring for removal. Two cuts would allow the ring to be removed without bending. The blade is quite thin, so little gold or silver is lost in the removal. Of course the ring could be subsequently repaired by a jeweler.

Editor's note - After Ivan gave me this interesting story Pat Ryan brought to our November meeting a "Whatsit" When he showed it to me I was amazed that it was also a "Ring Saw". This one had a little table saw setup and had a spot to place the ring finger in a rounded slot to gently lower the ring carefully into the saw blade as the user turned it. To right shows this ring saw in application use. Doesn't this seem to always happen. I have never heard of such a tool all my life, and within one month here are two different varieties. Go figure!

The TOOL SHED

CRAFTS of New Jersey
15 N. River Styx Rd.
Hopatcong, NJ 07843

TOOL EVENTS

Nov. 20 - David Stanley Auction, England, David Stanley, www.davidstanley.com, 011-44-1530-222320.
Jan. 23 – York Tool Auction, York, PA 800-248-8114 (Brown Auction affiliate)
Jan. 29 - David Stanley Auction, England, David Stanley, www.davidstanley.com, 011-44-1530-222320.
Feb. 7 – Crafts of NJ Monthly Meeting, Masonic Lodge, High Bridge, NJ, Bob Garay, takeadip@optonline.net.
Feb. 21 - Smith Estate Antique Auction, Antique Tools, Julesburg, CO Michael Auction Service 970-474 -3693.
Mar. 12 – Patina Dealer Sale & Annual Auction, American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Rd., Mclean, VA. Dave Murphy 703-819-6880.
Mar.26 – 67th David Stanley International Auction, England, David Stanley, www.davidstanley.com, 011-44-1530-222320.
Apr. 3 – Crafts of NJ Monthly Meet, Masonic Lodge, High Bridge, NJ, Bob Garay, takeadip@optonline.net
Apr. 16 – Crafts of NJ 2016 Annual Auction, Oldwick Fire House, Rt 523, Oldwick, NJ Steve Zluky 908-534 -2710.

WANT ADS

HELP WITH TOOL COLLECTIONS – A retired shop teacher, I can assist you with tool collection. Finding buyers for your tools. Bob Garay (973) 398-5875 or email- takeadip@optonline.net.
Authentic Tools for traditional trades – jane@shorthillstudio.com www.TimelessToolsandTreasures.com 603-588-2603
NEED HELP disposing of your tools or home items? Entire or partial house clean-outs available. Call Steve Zluky at 908-534-2710.
JIMBODETOOLS.COM – The largest antique tool website on earth buying and selling fine antique tools. Call Jim at 518-537-8665 or email jim@jimbodetools.com.
WANTED – Molding planes made of applewood, & better molding planes from Hudson River valley makers. Joe Hauck 908-236-2072.
THE TOOL EXCHANGE –Australia's home of fine old tools for sale. Our website has over 18,000 photos of tools. We ship to over 30 countries. www.toolexchange.com.au
WVTOOLS: CRAFTS member and eBay seller concentrating on bitstock tools and more.
WANTED - Bell System tools and electrician's pliers. Ted Davidson 609-731-6915
Whitney House Antiques Tool Shop - Over 1000 tools for the collector or craftsman. Lafayette Mill Antique Center, Lafayette, NJ. 07848. Linda Mariconda, - lmariconda@outlook.com - 973-879-1101
ANTIQUE TOOL RESTORATION - John Porritt, Spencertown, NY. 518-392-0603, email - PORRITT3@GMAIL.COM