

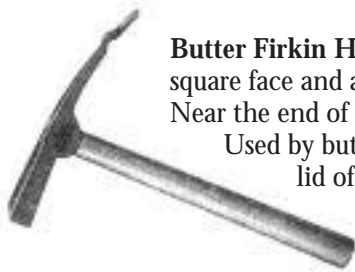
Please Pass The Butter Firkin Hammer

by Clayton DeKorne

The *Dictionary of Woodworking Tools* by R.A. Salaman (Taunton Press, 800/888-8286) offers ample entertainment for the serious tool nut. This compendium illustrates a wide variety of hand tools used in the woodworking trades prior to the industrial revolution. "Woodworking" is used liberally here; the list covers tools from trades long forgotten, such as the gun stocker, spoon maker, cooper, and millstone dresser.

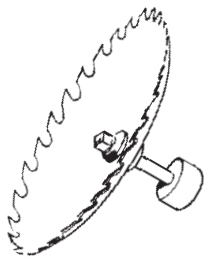
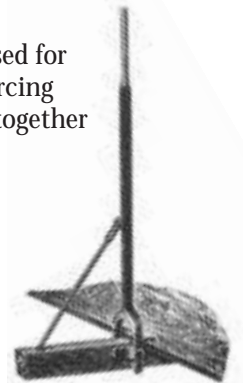
Avid tool collectors will find this book an indispensable reference, would-be inventors can seed their imaginations from its pages, and serious restorationists might use it as a resource to shed light on traditional work methods. But don't expect a manual that will have direct relevance to your daily work. Mostly, this book is pure fun.

Here's a condensed version of some typical entries.

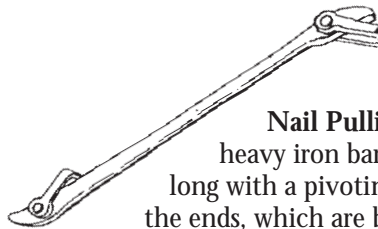


Butter Firkin Hammer: An eyed hammer with a square face and a long tapering pane, plain or clawed. Near the end of the pane there is an upward "kink." Used by butter makers and grocers for taking the lid off a butter casket without cutting the hoops.

Flooring Cramp: Used for "cramping up" — forcing floor boards closely together before nailing.

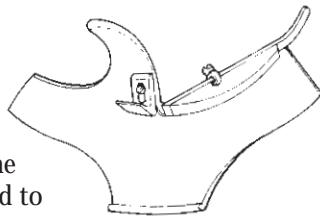


Concave Saw: This machine-driven dish-shaped circular saw is able to cut on the arc of a circle, as for cask heads and chair parts.

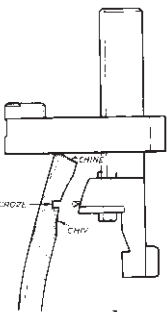
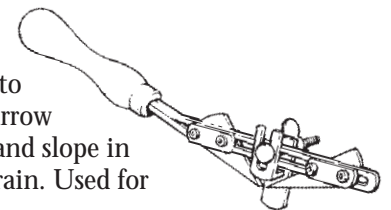


Nail Pulling Bar: A heavy iron bar about 3 feet long with a pivoting iron loop on the ends, which are bent to form a fulcrum. Used for drawing spikes out of ships timbers and similar work.

Cooper's Chiv: A type of plane with a circular fence. The word chiv is used for both the tool and the surface of the barrel staves it is designed to cut, which in the U.S. is also called the *howel*. This tool has also been called a "go devil."



Tectool: The trade name given to a modern grooving tool. Two narrow cutters are mounted on a stock and slope in opposite directions to suit the grain. Used for cutting grooves along edges.



Cooper's Croze: The purpose of this croze, with its router-and-spur cutter, is to cut a groove (also known as the croze) around the inside of barrel staves to accept the barrel heads.

Obsolete Tool Names

- Clavot or Clove Hammer (Claw Hammer)
- Elsin (Awl)
- Groping Iron (Gouge)
- Inbowing Plane (Moulding Plane)
- Loker (Carpenter's Plane)
- Navegar, Nafugar (Auger)
- Sage (Saw)
- Thixel (Adze)
- Twybil (Mortising Adze)



Timber Scribe: Medieval carpenters used a scribe to mark the members of a wood-framed building to ensure each tenon would be fitted into the mortise for which it was intended. More recently, a large version of the Timber Scribe has also been used by electricians for cutting grooves to accommodate electric cables.