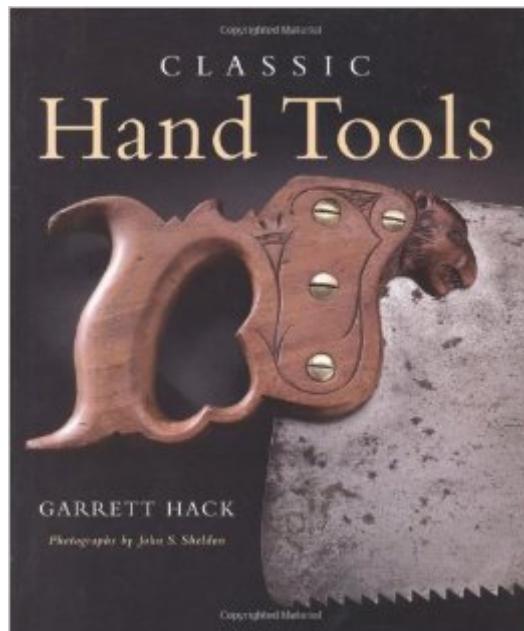


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# Classic Hand Tools



## Synopsis

Before the machine age, all woodworking and carpentry was done with hand tools, and an amazing variety of tools evolved for a wide range of tasks. Many of these tools are as elegant as they are ingenious, and *Classic Hand Tools* celebrates their great heritage in words and pictures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Garrett Hack feels that his hand tools have become extensions of himself and are linked with what he makes and how he makes it. He also believes that learning about hand tools and how to use them is part of the pleasure to be gotten from working with wood. His beautiful and informative book, "Classic Hand Tools", will convince even the most casual "weekend wood-butcher" that he's right. Hack's presentation of hand tools is organized according to their normal purposes: boring, sawing, planing, marking and measuring, striking and chiseling and he provides historical insights into the development of the more common hand tools. For example, "Striking Tools" starts with axes and hatchets and moves through bills and throes to mallets and hammers. Each major section surveys numerous variants of the class of tools being dealt with, and covers use, maintenance, sharpening and tuning. As a bonus, most sections contain informative sidebars providing advice and tips from the master. Although the author's bias is for Western tools built before World War II, he includes explanations and discussion of some Eastern hand tools and explains what's involved in making your own tools, buying used tools and strategies for restoring old ones. There's even a

section on workshops, benches and clamps. This handsome work is illustrated by more than 300 photographs and 40 drawings and features an introduction, bibliography and index. John Sheldon's superb photography more than exceeds the exacting standards of the Taunton Press. Garrett Hack, a farmer, tool collector and trained architect, has been making furniture professionally for more than 25 years. He is a regular contributor to Fine Woodworking magazine.

I highly recommend *Classic Hand Tools* for many reasons, but in a nutshell it is a book to help me get through the long winter here in Minnesota. I read it randomly and don't mind at all reading parts several times. Not only is it well written, (I'm a "professional writer" so I'm hard to please) it is beautifully produced with many excellent photos. You get a short course of the history of hand tools... with a special emphasis on planes. Mr Hack also produced a book of this size and quality, specifically about planes. I plan to get that one on also. The book is not limited to woodworking tools; Hack also touches on blacksmithing -- the sort that many tradesmen would have had to know in the days before mass-produced tools. Also there is a chapter on how to buy used hand tools.

I received this book for Christmas and just finished it. It is a great introduction to the use and care of hand tools. It has very informative and interesting side bars and is wonderfully illustrated. It blends the aesthetic with the practical very well. Just one hint: skip over the section on handplanes and just purchase Hack's "Handplane book" which is the definitive book on handplanes.

Wonderful book that reviews the history and illustrates the uses of just about every tool you'll find in your shop that's not driven by a motor. Sidebar anecdotes and interesting facts are liberally scattered throughout the pages, but the text is so wonderfully written and it flows so seamlessly that I frequently miss these 'nuggets' because I'm so engrossed in the text. The color photography is terrific in places and breathtaking in others. Overall, this is a 'must-have' book that easily makes it into my top 5 desert island books should I ever become stranded on a sandy knoll in the South Pacific.....

The breadth of Mr. Hack's knowledge is truly impressive. The book gives enough detail to understand the history, care and use of a tool while not becoming boring. His technical understanding of tools was very good and he did a nice job of conveying it. I'd recommend it.

This a book written by an accomplished professional who loves wood and hand tools, which reflects

in the way this book looks and read.I have the one Garrett Hack wrote on handplanes, which is naturally more in depth. Both are an instructive read and a treat to the eye, with large beautiful photos nicely printed.

This is an incredible book. I do think it is too similar to Sandor Nagyszalanczy's Art of Fine Tools. This book is a much better read and offers more utility for someone who will actually put these tools to use. Sandor Nagyszalanczy's book is a beautiful art book but maybe not a strong reference guide apart from the incredible photography. I'm amazed that Taunton released such similar books back-to-back.Garret Hack is well known for building some fantastic pieces of furniture. His articles have filled pages of Fine Woodworking magazine for many years. His work never fails to impress me.Turns out Hack has a lot of tool knowledge and not just in how to use them well. This book stands out to me not only for the great photos and discussions about the different tools, but also for the side-bar tips that are tucked into the text every few pages. Lots of tools, lots of photos and lots of information.Take a look at the generous preview. I think you'll be impressed by what you see of the book and end up wanting it.

This book reads easily and gives you better appreciation and understanding of hand tools. After reading this book, I've gained more confidence with the use of my tools and am not so quick to use a power tool, when I can satisfy what's needed with a hand saw (instead of a table saw).

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