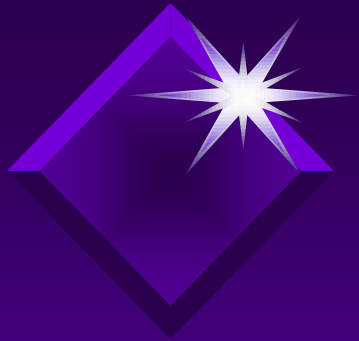


WOOD CHISELS

& Their Uses





History of Chisel

- ❑ **Chisels** have been around since ancient times. Even today, perhaps no carpenter, factory worker, sculptor or construction worker can do without these indispensable, little hand tools.
- ❑ The term "**Chisel**" is believed to have evolved from the Latin word "*seco*" (I cut) or the French word "*ciseau*." As ancient, archaeological discoveries indicate, the crude, stone-fashioned forerunners of today's chisels, may have been the first of its kind used by primitive man. Although improved, versions are believed to have been used for marble carving in 6th century BC Greece, inscriptions on an ancient tomb of 7th century BC Egypt.

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Size of Chisel

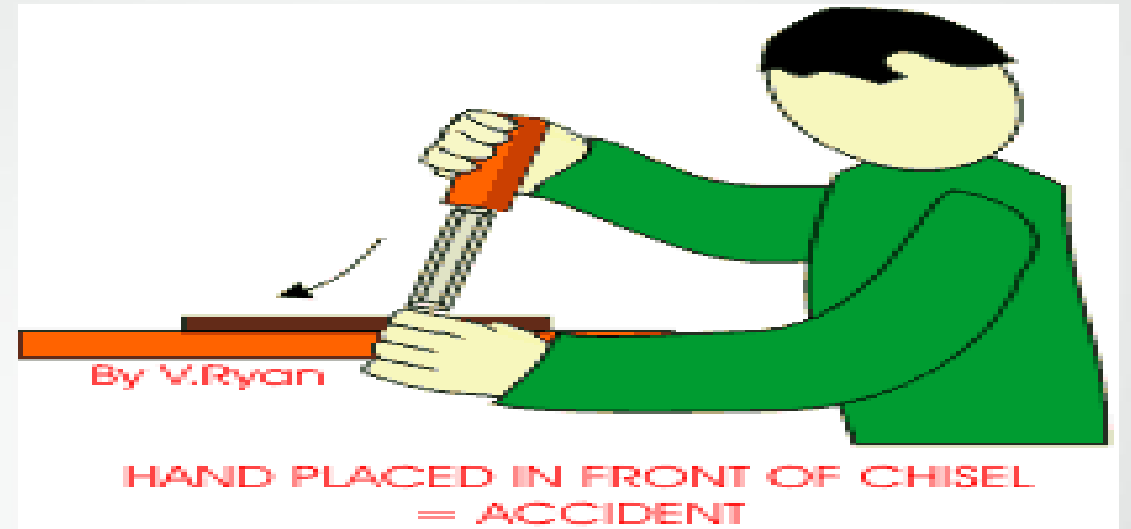
- There are as many types and **sizes of chisels**, as there are specific applications. However, as chisels are basically small, hand-held manual tools, the lengths of the different types of chisels, within a particular set, are more or less the same. However, the width of their individual cutting blades comes in various sizes, depending on the nature and complexity of the tasks/projects in hand.



Misconceptions about Chisel

- **Chisels**, whether metal or wood-type, are perceived to be **very simple** and **easy to use**, as opposed to power tools. However, **the truth is that it does require considerable time (even years) for the user to acquire enough experience and skills to use them correctly and effectively**. A sculptor is one glaring example. This is because the precision of a cut, gouge, or carve will depend largely on the correct, pressure (force) exerted on the chisel and base material, as well as the precise, angular-positioning of the blade to the surface of the materials or objects.

Warning!!!



- As with power tools, safety measures are also required when working with chisels. Head, eye, finger and upper-body protection gear, such as helmet, vest, safety goggles and gloves are essential, particularly when working on material such as stone, concrete, marble, metal or wood. Moreover, incorrect blade angle and pressure (force) exerted on the chisel and on the material surface, can spoil or damage the base material/s or object/s being worked on.

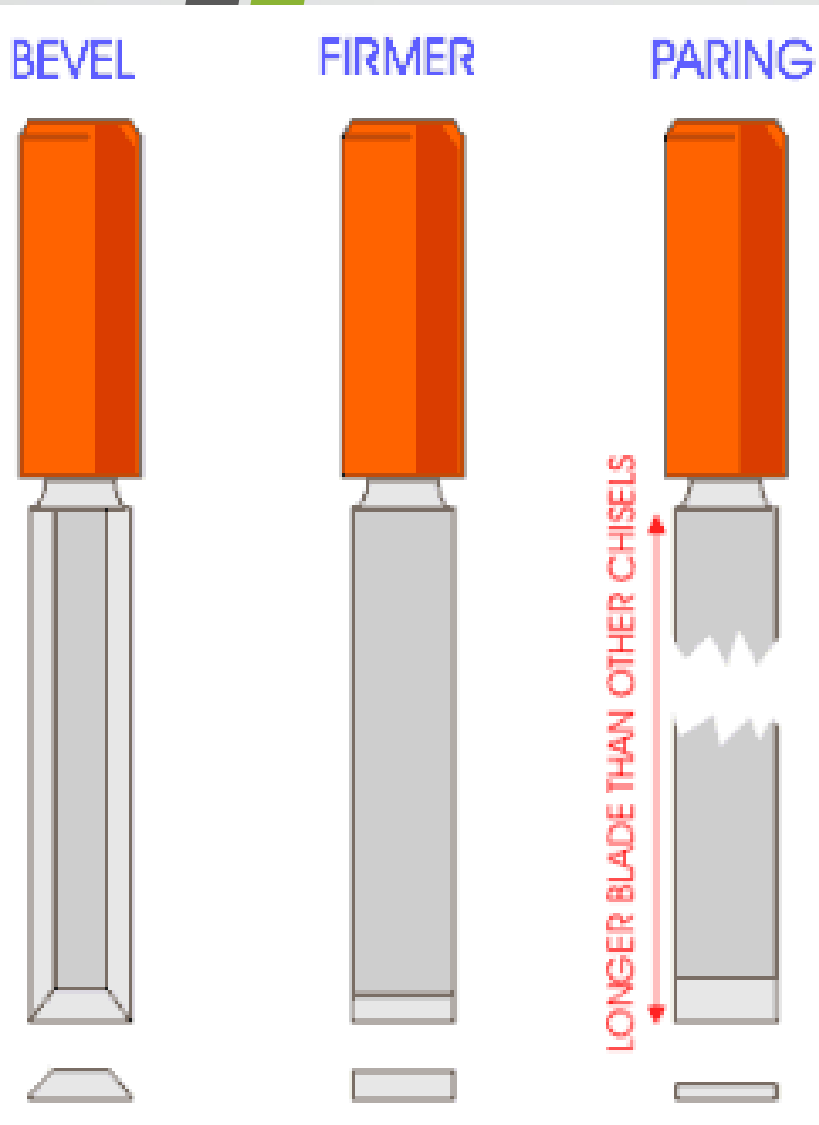
Who Invented the Chisel?

Answer

- Nobody knows when the chisel was first invented and by whom. Yet himself have been around for millenniums, as chisels have been found in Germany dating back 6,000 years. It was most likely invented first by the Gauls or Egyptians.

What is a Wood Chisel?

- a chisel for working wood; it is either struck with a mallet or pushed by hand.
- an edge tool with a flat steel blade with a cutting edge.

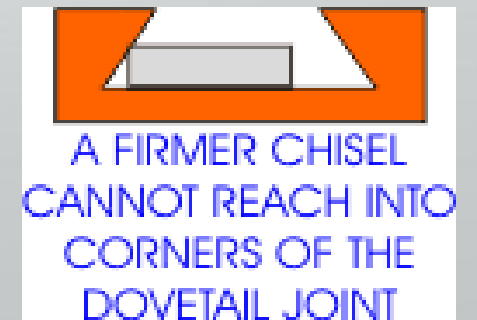


Types of Wood Chisels

Bevel edged chisels are slightly undercut making them easy to push into corners. They are normally used for finishing.

Firmer chisels have a blade with a rectangular cross-section. This means that they are stronger and can be used for tougher/heavier work.

PARING chisel is a longer, thinner chisel which can be pushed into long joints such as housing joints. It is used for cleaning up the joint and to make it an accurate fit.



How to use a Wood Chisel

Technique 1: Mortise Cuts



Start recesses or mortises by outlining the area with a sharp utility knife or by making a series of shallow chisel cuts perpendicular to the surface. Skip this step and you risk chipping wood outside the mortise. Then remove thin slices by tapping the chisel with a hammer, bevel side down as in Photo 1, to carve out the wood inside the perimeter.

Oops!

Chiseling with the grain can sometimes have disastrous results.

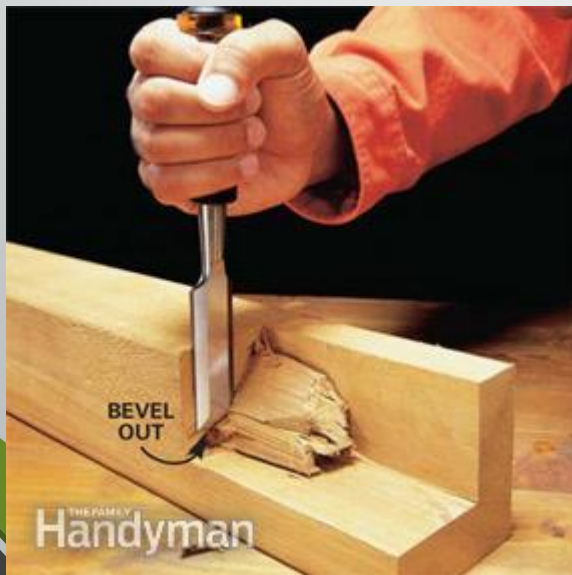


Technique 2: Pairing Cut



If the recess is open on one side, like a hinge mortise, flatten the bottom by paring off thin slices with the back, unbeveled side of the chisel held flat to the wood

Technique 3: Chopping Cut



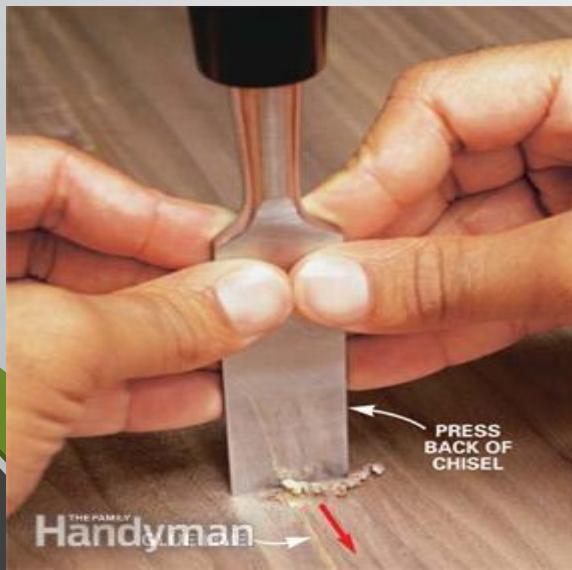
Set the chisel alongside one cut edge and strike it sharply with a hammer to remove wood from notches. This isn't fine work; the cut will be hidden by another board.

Technique 4: Chop and pare



Chisel out dados and other more precise joints a little at a time with a series of shallow cuts rather than driving the chisel too deep .

Technique 5: Scraping



Scraping requires a perfectly flat, sharp edge. The chisel tip should scrape cleanly without leaving scratch marks in the wood.

How to Sharpen a Wood Chisel

Step 1: Use the honing guide.



This nifty little device is going to allow you to see the correct angle of bevel for the chisel.

Step 2: Parallel and Straight



The guide has clear markings to show the degree you'll be sharpening the bevel at in this case 30°.

Step 3: Use oil on your sharpening stone.



Make sure the stone won't move while you're sharpening and use oil

Step 4: Use the heavy grit side of the sharpening stone first.



Step 6: Clean & Crisp

turn over the grinding stone to the fine grit and repeat the process; add some oil, firmly and consistently move the chisel across the surface of the stone.

Step 5: Steady and Consistent



start to firmly and steadily move the chisel across the entire length of the stone.

Step 7: De-Burr



Once you're confident that you've sharpened your chisel to the desired angle, remove it from the honing guide and use a piece of scrap wood to remove any burrs.

Step 8: Backing Off



In this process we're going to make sure the underside of our chisel is nice and flat which will enhance the sharpness of our blade.

