

Hand Tools Are Still Necessary For Your Repair Jobs

By ANDY LANG
AP Newsfeatures

POWER TOOLS HAVE MADE IT easier for home handymen to turn out good work faster than professionals could do it years ago. Yet anyone who handles repairs or construction projects around the house can testify that it's impossible to get by without a supply of hand tools. Oddly enough, many of the newer crop of household fixers are far more expert at using their power machine than they are at wielding hammers, screwdrivers and pliers. Here are five tips about each of the most common hand tools:

HAMMER:

- 1—Always hold the hammer handle near the end; never choke it.
- 2—For light blows, use only a wrist action. For medium blows, use the wrist and forearm. For heavy blows use an arm and shoulder action with very slight

wrist movement.

- 3—To prevent injury and get the nail started properly, always begin with light taps.
- 4—Lessen the force of the blows as the head of the nail nears the work surface.
- 5—If a nail begins to bend slightly, strike the head at a slight angle in the direction opposite to that of the bend. If this doesn't work, remove the nail and start a new one.

SCREWDRIVER:

- 1—Always use the longest screwdriver that is practical.
- 2—Be sure the blade tip fits the screwhead properly. If it's too wide, it will mar the work. If it's too narrow, it will chew up the screwhead.
- 3—Hold the handle firmly in the palm of the right hand (if right-handed), using the left hand to steady the blade.
- 4—In softwood, use an awl for making a starting hole for the screw. In hardwood, drill a pilot hole smaller than the threaded part of the screw.
- 5—An apparently useless screwdriver can be given new life by squaring off the blade tip on an emery wheel or with a file.

HAND SAW:

- 1—For crosscutting, hold the saw at an angle of about 45 degrees. For rip sawing, make it 60 degrees.
- 2—Start the saw cut by drawing the saw backward, holding the blade square to the stock.
- 3—Always saw along the waste side of the drawn or scribed line, allowing for the width of the blade to make up the difference.
- 4—If the saw leaves the line, twist the handle very slightly to bring it back.
- 5—Hold the waste end of the stock to prevent splintering on the finishing strokes.

WRENCH:

- 1—The most popular types of wrenches are the monkey,

with parallel jaws; the Stillson, with teeth; the crescent, with an adjustable open end; and the non-adjustable open end.

- 2—A wrench that is not fitted tightly around a nut will round the corners of the nut and hamper its later removal.
- 3—In tightening or loosening a pipe in a fitting, use two Stillson wrenches. One should hold the fitting while the other turns the pipe.
- 4—Press down on a wrench handle to avoid injury if it slips.
- 5—Penetrating oil will help to loosen a nut so that it can be turned more easily with a wrench.

WOOD CHISEL:

- 1—A chisel should be treated as knife (which it is), slicing it through the wood with a minimum amount of effort.
- 2—Always cut away from yourself.
- 3—One hand should grasp

the handle while the other guides the blade well back of the cutting edge.

- 4—Never keep a chisel in a drawer where it may come in contact with other metal.
- 5—If you want to dull the blade edge, use it for opening paint cans or scraping off paint or glue.

FILE:

- 1—In selecting the proper files, remember the principle that file teeth are widely spaced for rough work and close together for fine work.
- 2—The vise in which the metal is being held should be about as high as your elbows.
- 3—Grasp the handle of the file with the right hand so that your thumb rests on top of the handle. Hold the point of the file in the left hand and push across the work with a level stroke and moderate pressure.
- 4—In straight filing, the usual kind, relieve the pressure on the file as you pull

it back, since the cutting is done only on the forward stroke.

- 5—In draw filing, used when making the finishing strokes on long, narrow stock, the file is held at each end and pushed backward and forward lightly so that there is a cutting action each way.

PLIERS:

- 1—The common household pliers are not made for turning nuts and bolts unless you want to ruin them.
- 2—Hold the top handle in the palm of the hand well up against the heel of the thumb. The index finger, middle finger and ring finger should be wrapped around the lower handle.
- 3—By keeping the little finger slightly on the inside of the lower handle, you can reopen the pliers easily.
- 4—An occasional drop of oil in the joint will keep pliers working freely and prevent rust in that vital area.

NEW LUMBER SIZES

Lumber manufactured to new engineered sizes is making its debut in three exhibit houses at the 1964 World's Fair in New York, according to the National Lumber Manufacturers Association. The exhibit houses, built by the House of Good Taste, Inc., were selected to introduce lumber's new dimension because they are presenting the latest in materials, construction methods, and furnishings for American homes. The new lumber sizes are improved and engineered to make designers' and builders' jobs easier by providing standardized lumber products that are dependable in service.

Both dried peas and beans are inexpensive sources of protein.

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- 1—The most popular types of wrenches are the monkey,

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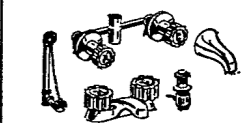
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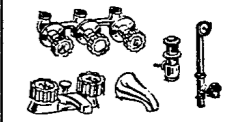
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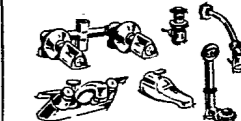
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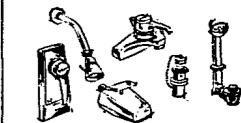
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