

Two Wisdom Planes

I would like to present for your examination two planes that represent the ultimate end of plane evolution that started in Roman times.

Now some people call these little beauties Miracle Planes. It would be a miracle if they plane. Others call them Wonder Planes. I wonder if they will plane.

In fact, these planes have been dubbed by tool aficionados worldwide as “Wisdom” planes. As only the “Truly Wise” can ascertain their real beauty. “Pretty, ain’t they”?

The makers these two planes, one bevel up and the other bevel down, have overcome many of the problems associated with more conventional planes, and created a true marvel of plane making beauty combined with innovation.

Both planes are made of stamped sheet metal. No more need to use cheap cast iron planes, subject to cracking when dropped on a hard concrete floor. These little planes survive drops without cracking and rarely sustain even a dent. The sides are no thicker than a 60 gauge drill bit keeping the weight to a minimum (that’s the smallest in your 135 bit set). The frogs are this same material, riveted in place so as not to move forward or back as in those troublesome Stanley planes.

Unlike conventional plane makers unwilling to assume the extra expense of widening the mouth to a generous width, these little planes have a wide mouth able to pass any shaving up to the thickness of a small board.



Neither of the planes has that hideous slick Japanning seen on so many planes. One of the planes is coated on the sides and top (including the blade) with “real” tar paint which provides a sticky feel to the touch to prevent slipping. Also, the dull black color reduces the glare associated with “Japanned” finishes. One of the planes is equipped with a fine adjustment feature with backlash of only a single turn of the knob preventing that too quick movement of the blade. No expense is spared in providing the plane with a brass knurled locknut holding the blade to the cap.

The only thing these planes appear to lack is a good aluminum cutting edge blade.

The modesty of the planemakers is further defined as their name does not appear on either plane intensifying the mystery behind, “Who were these master craftsman?” and “Where have they and their craft gone as they melted into history’s oblivion leaving only these few relics behind?”

William Johnston
913-492-6942
johnston@everestkc.net

