

CHISEL NOTES

BROAD TYPES OF WESTERN CHISELS

- BUTT CHISEL - SHORT BLADE & SHORT BODY
25-30°
SIDES MAY OR MAY NOT BE TAPERED
CARPENTER'S & SHIPWRIGHT'S CHISELS
FIT IN TOOL BOX, TANG HANDLE MORE COMMON
- BENCH CHISEL - LONGER BLADE THAN BUTT
25-30°
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, BEVEL EDGE
CHOPPING & PARING - NOT PRYING
CAN BE STRUCK OR PUSHED
- PARING CHISEL - LONGER THAN BENCH CHISEL
20-25°
SLENDER, SOMETIMES TAPERED BLADE
"MODERN" EXAMPLES BEVEL EDGE
PATTERN MAKER'S CHISELS
CRANK-NECK CHISEL
NOT STRUCK
- FIRMER CHISEL - LOOKS LIKE A BENCH CHISEL BUT MORE
30° +
STOUT.
OFTEN STRAIGHT SIDED
USUALLY SOCKET HANDLED
PARING & STRIKING
- FRAMING CHISEL - USUALLY 1" & WIDER
30° +
LONG HANDLE
USUALLY SOCKET HANDLE
IF HOOPED HANDLE THEN STRUCK, OTHERWISE
PUSH ONLY
BEVEL EDGE & STRAIGHT SIDES
- CORNER CHISEL - SPECIAL CASE OF FRAMING CHISEL
30°
STRUCK

MORTISE CHISEL, ENGLISH OR "PIG STICKER"

35°+

SHORT, STUBBY

TANG HANDLE

STRUCK

STRAIGHT SIDE, SOME HAVE SLIGHT TAPER
TO RELEASE FROM MORTISE WALL.

MORTISE CHISEL, SASH

35°+

LONGER, SIMILAR SIZE TO BENCH CHISEL

STRUCK

USUALLY SMALLER WIDTHS,
WINDOW SASHMAKER'S GEAR

MORTISE CHISEL, GERMAN PATTERN

35°+

HEAVY BLADES, USUALLY UNTAPERED

STRUCK

TANG HANDLE & HOOPED (KOWIG OWNS NAREX
BRAND EXAMPLE)

MORTISE CHISEL, MILLWRIGHT

35°+

LONGEST TYPE

VERY STOUT

SOCKET HANDLES

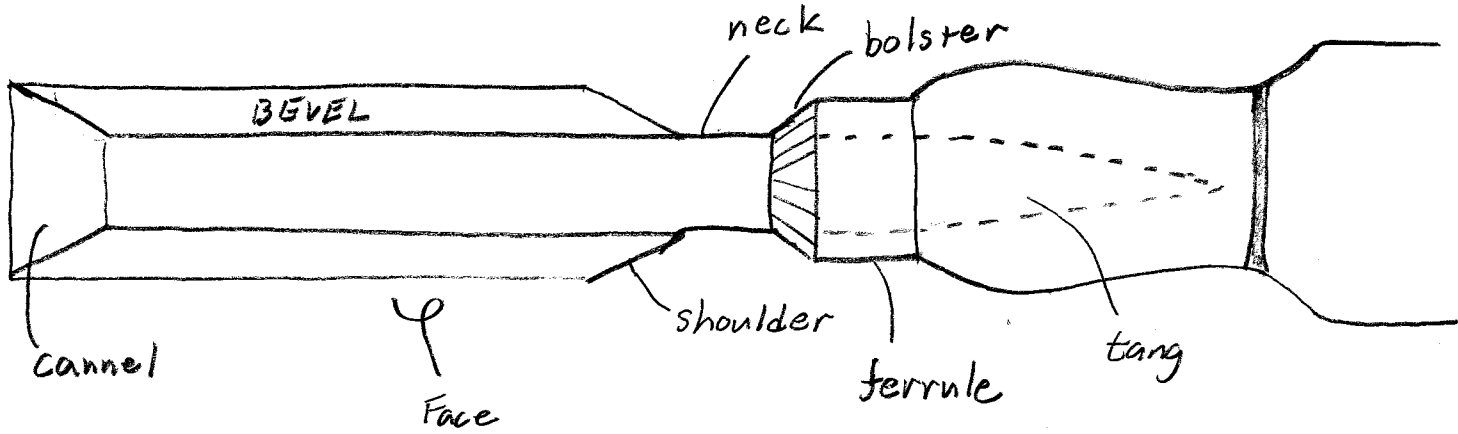
SLICK - WIDE 2-4" BLADES

20-25°

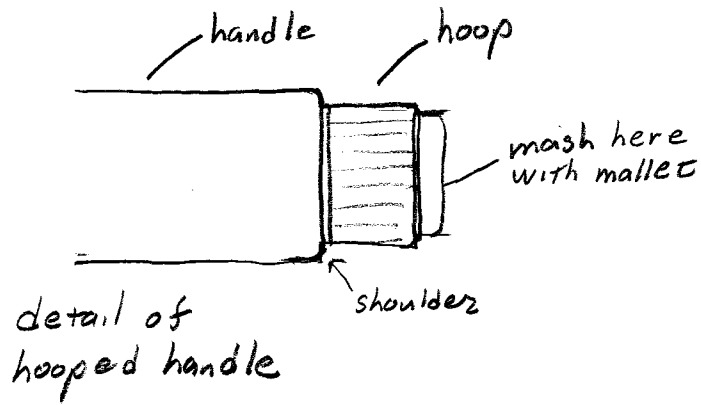
LONG HANDLES, 2 FT NOT UNCOMMON

STRAIGHT OR BEVELED SIDE

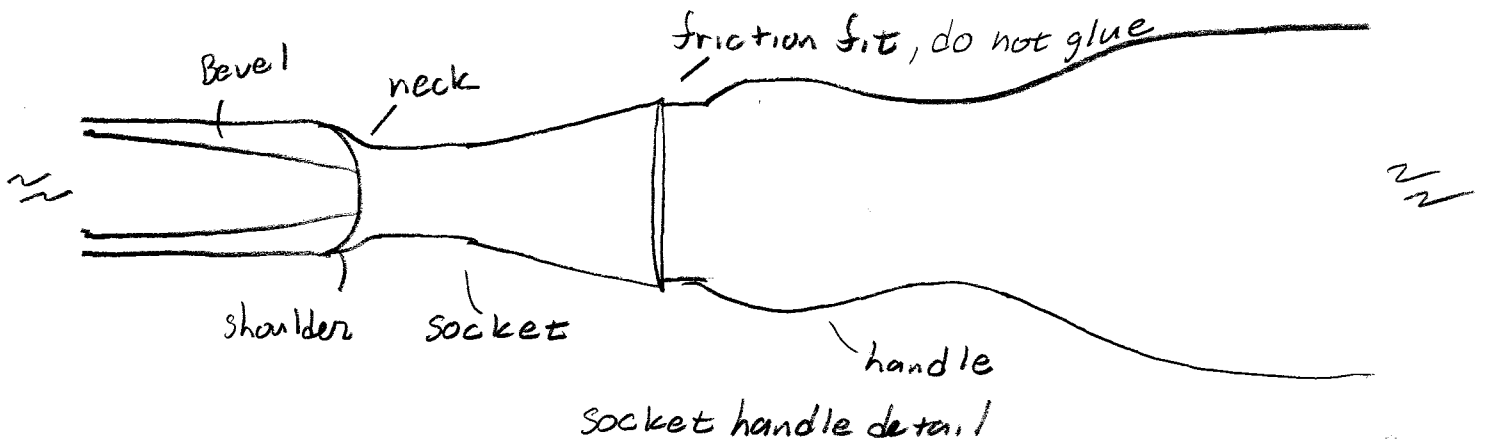
PARING FRAMING TIMBERS



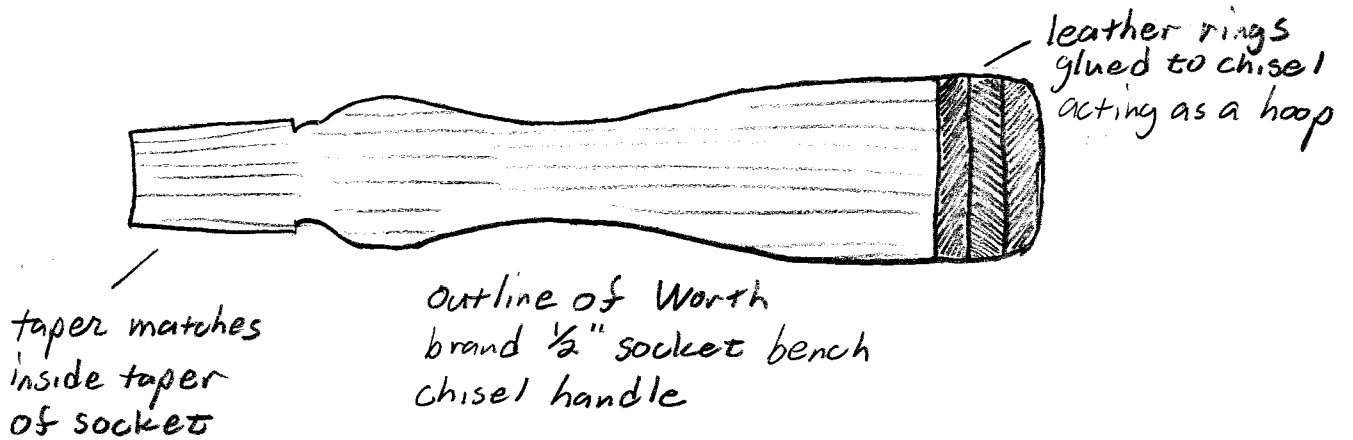
Chisel Anatomy



detail of hooped handle



socket handle detail



taper matches inside taper of socket

outline of Worth brand 1/2" socket bench chisel handle

Bevel edge chisels are a "modern" design 19th century?

Many 20th and 21st century bevel edge chisels may as well be straight sided as their bevels are insufficient to provide the clearance for which they were designed.

note - Japanese triangular chisels have very steep bevels

Left & right skew chisels } specialty paring chisels
Fish tail chisels }

bevel or cannel grinding angle

function of chisel - pare vs. chop

chisel steel - ie O1 will hold lower angle better than A2

type of wood - soft wood - generally need lower angle

hard wood - generally need higher angle

roughly, for paring work	20° to 25°	experiment to find best
for chopping	25° to 30°	
for mortises	> 30° up to 40°	

other specialty chisels include
swan-neck mortising chisel
lock mortise chisel