

Glossary of Tools

adze: a tool, like an ax, used for chipping or slicing away the surface of wood.

auger: a carpenter's tool for boring holes in wood.

bellows: an instrument fashioned to furnish a strong blast of air, used to blow a fire.

bench hook: an iron hook by which a board may be gripped.

bevel square: a joiner's and mason's tool, used for setting off angles.

broad ax: chisel-edged ax used for hewing round logs into square beams.

chisel: a cutting edge with an oblique angle, the tool is worked by blows from a hammer.

draw knife: a blade between 2 handles, it cuts by being drawn towards the cutter's body.

felling ax: large ax designed for cutting down trees.

firmer chisel: a thin all-purpose chisel (sometimes called a forming chisel).

froe: tool used for splitting out shakes (sometimes called a splitting froe).

gouge: a chisel for cutting rounded holes in wood.

hatchet: a small ax with a short handle.

hoe: a tool used to break up the surface of the ground.

holdfast: something that holds, such as a hook, clamp or bolt.

mortise & tenon: a square hole (mortise) into which the shaped end (tenon) of some other part of a framework is fitted so as to form a joint.

pickax: a digging tool with a chisel edge on one end and a point on the other.

plane: a tool used to smooth the surface of woodwork by paring shavings from it.

ploughshare: the large pointed blade of a plow which cuts a slice of earth.

reap hook: a hook with a cutting edge used for cutting grain.

rule: a graduated strip of metal or wood used for measuring length.

saw: a cutting tool, one edge of which is a series of continuous teeth.

sickle: a hook with a serrated edge used for cutting grain.

spade: a digging tool, the handle is grasped and the foot used to push the blade into the ground.

square: a tool used for determining right angles.

steelyard: a weighing instrument that uses balances and counterweights.

wedge: a piece of wood, thick at one end and tapering at the other, used as a tool for splitting wood.

whipsaw: a long narrow 2-handed saw.