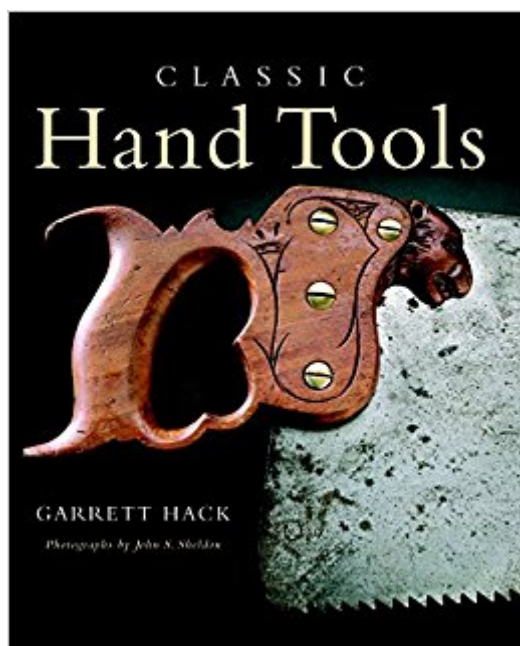


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# Classic Hand Tools



## Synopsis

Before the machine age, all woodworking and carpentry was done with hand tools, and an amazing variety of tools evolved for a wide range of tasks. Many of these tools are as elegant as they are ingenious, and *Classic Hand Tools* celebrates their great heritage in words and pictures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Once upon a time, woodworkers had to rely upon hand tools exclusively; but recently, the development of power tools relegated hand tools to the status of quaint antiques. In this book, Hack, a contributor to *Fine Woodworking* and the author of *The Handplane Book*, rethinks their usefulness. He argues that hand tools are, in some cases, better than their motorized counterparts; they're both quiet and, because they lack motors and generate very little dust, relatively safe. He covers tools of all types: axes, planes, saws, hammers, and measuring devices, some plain and others fancy. Not as good as Aldren A. Watson's *Hand Tools: Their Ways and Workings* (Lyons, 1993. reprint.), this book does contain excellent chapters on making and restoring tools and on buying used tools. And the wealth of beautiful photographs will make even the most casual woodworker salivate. An outstanding book, recommended for all public and academic libraries. A Jonathan N. Hershey, Akron-Summit Cty. P.L., OH Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Hack is a professional furniture maker. He is a regular contributor to Fine Woodworking magazine.

Wonderful book that reviews the history and illustrates the uses of just about every tool you'll find in your shop that's not driven by a motor. Sidebar anecdotes and interesting facts are liberally scattered throughout the pages, but the text is so wonderfully written and it flows so seamlessly that I frequently miss these 'nuggets' because I'm so engrossed in the text. The color photography is terrific in places and breathtaking in others. Overall, this is a 'must-have' book that easily makes it into my top 5 desert island books should I ever become stranded on a sandy knoll in the South Pacific.....

good book

This a book written by an accomplished professional who loves wood and hand tools, which reflects in the way this book looks and read.I have the one Garrett Hack wrote on handplanes, which is naturally more in depth. Both are an instructive read and a treat to the eye, with large beautiful photos nicely printed.

I highly recommend Classic Hand Tools for many reasons, but in a nutshell it is a book to help me get through the long winter here in Minnesota. I read it randomly and don't mind at all reading parts several times.Not only is it well written, (I'm a "professional writer" so I'm hard to please) it is beautifully produced with many excellent photos. You get a short course of the history of hand tools... with a special emphasis on planes. Mr Hack also produced a book of this size and quality, specifically about planes. I plan to get that one on also.The book is not limited to woodworking tools; Hack also touches on black smithing -- the sort that many tradesmen would have had to know in the days before mass-produced tools. Also there is a chapter on how to buy used hand tools.

This book reads easily and gives you better appreciation and understanding of hand tools. After reading this book, I've gained more confidence with the use of my tools and am not so quick to use a power tool, when I can satisfy what's needed with a hand saw (instead of a table saw).

I enjoy wandering through this book from time to time. Good advice on acquiring, repairing and maintaining older hand tools. Very nice reference book.

For me this book started slow but the last third was worth more than the purchase price. Read it and you will see what I mean.Roger

Outstanding read for the hand tool woodworker!

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