

ATTIC DUST

APRIL 29 MEETING AT SOUTH GLASTONBURY

We are going to meet next at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, thanks to arrangements made by Dwight and Carol Burritt. (The necessary map and program are enclosed.) After a brief business meeting, Ken Roberts will give a slide talk on the rise and fall of the Sandusky Tool Company of Ohio, one of the few important tool makers in this country. If you have any wooden planes stamped Sandusky, you'll see where they came from.

Next, we'll see a film on how the Cooper made the barrels that were so widely used for shipping liquids and dry materials on both land and sea. We'll need your cooperation on this, since we expect you to show your prized coopering tools after the film. We'd like a good variety. Harvey Jeacock will handle this part, with the intent of identifying the use of each type of tool and the characteristics of each.

After lunch, we'll have a tool cleaning and preserving session. A panel of drafted cleaners will tell and show how they clean their tools. You'll be able to decide then whether or not you prefer to stick with your way of doing things. If you think others might like to see your method, then by all means come equipped to show how you do it. We expect that each participant will end up with one or more cleaned tools to show what his method can do. If you have a particular tool to clean and preserve, and would like suggestions on how to do it, bring it along and show it to Bob Sutter for discussion during the session.

A What'sit session will conclude the formal program. Following this, and before leaving for home, you'll be able to visit the Historical Society's restored house, just across the street from the Church.

W.F.& JOHN BARNES CO. CATALOG REPRINT

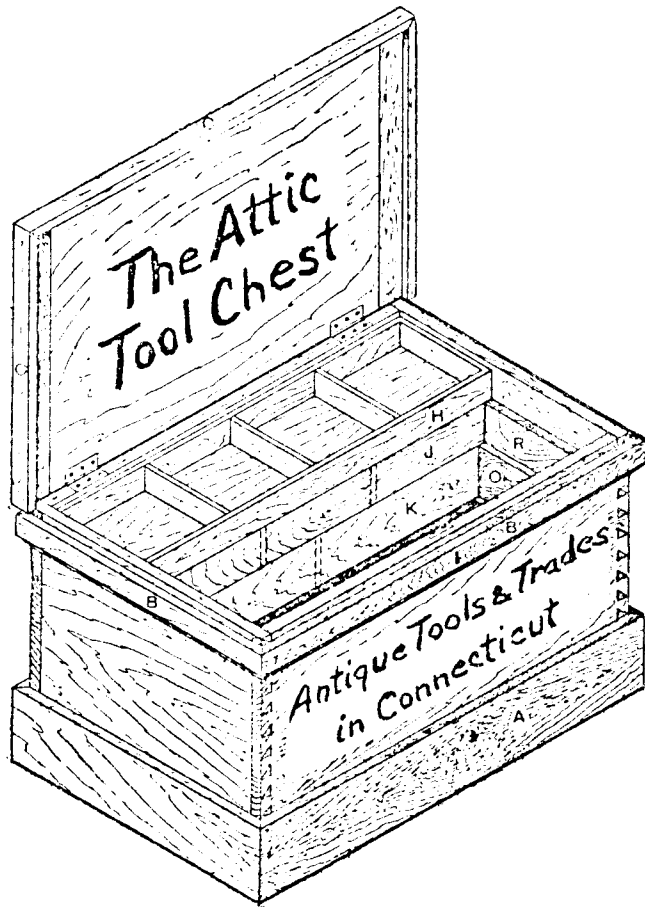
Fresh off the press (dated Feb. 1978) is the enclosed reprint, published by the Midwest Tool Collectors Association. The Midwest people offered us copies at a special price, and we were happy to accept the offer. It's a fine reprint.

NEW MEMBERS

Once more we say welcome to new members: Arlin and Betty Shattuck, 1981 Rt.12, Apt.D4, Gales Ferry, Conn. 06335.

DUES

Our membership has reached 128, but unless you remember to pay your 1978 dues, we'll be shrinking after our next meeting. (Our By-Laws require us to drop members who have not paid their \$5.00 by the first meeting of the year.) Other societies provide a form at the bottom of a page for you to use for this purpose - we don't. Not that we're Scotch, we just think you would prefer not to fill in a form needlessly, we also think that you don't have scissors handy, and we don't like the idea of you cutting up the Attic Tool Chest. If you send your check to Dwight Burritt, 229 Olde Stage Road, Glastonbury, Ct.06033, he is quite capable



of guessing that it's for dues.

EXCERPT FROM THE HANDYMAN'S BOOK WOODWORKING

Alfred Williams, our Philadelphia member, has suggested that we show where the tool chest we use in our heading came from. It's from the Handyman's Book on Woodworking that was published in London in 1903. Paul Hasluck was the editor of the book. The preface of his book explains that Hasluck had been the editor of two weekly journals, WORK and BUILDING WORLD. From these publications he assembled the 760 page book, with its 2545 illustrations. He also edited a book on metal working, with an identical number of pages, that came out a year later.

This piece from the preface catches the eye: "This book will be found especially useful to colonists and persons in out-of-the-way places, as it teems with practical hints and details that must be of the utmost worth to those whose very existence often depends on their ability to use woodwork- ing tools".

The two books, with others, will be on display at our April 29 meeting.

The enclosed excerpt on tool chests is limited to three designs, a simple one, a fancier one, and a more voluminous one. Whereas you may not want to build a chest, you can learn what tools went where in such chests, and how they were built.

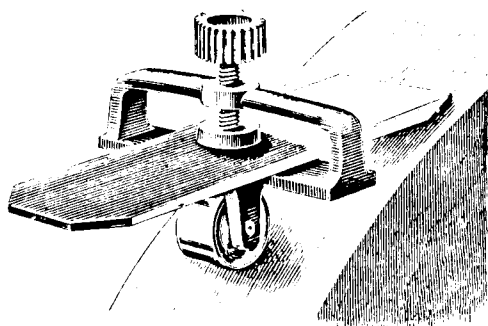


Fig. 194.- Tool-grinding Rest.

Your Editor has been bothered for years whenever he encountered a tool grinding rest with a roller involved in it. If you've ever sharpened a plane iron on a whetstone, you wonder how a roller device could move any reasonable distance on the stone without running off the stone; and yet there are catalog illustrations showing just such a gadget on a flat, rectangular whetstone. How much more sensible is the use shown in the figure, where the problem of holding an iron at a constant angle on a rotating grinding wheel is solved very neatly.

ONE PRODUCT OF THE
COOPER ON NANTUCKET
ISLAND.

From Harper's New
Monthly Magazine
June 1873



Excerpt from: THE HANDYMAN'S BOOK OF
Tools, Materials, and Processes
Employed in WOODWORKING. Edited by
Paul Hasluck. Published by Cassell
and Company, Limited, in 1903

WORKSHOP FURNITURE.

WOODWORKER'S TOOL CHEST.

THE woodworker's first job, when he has attained sufficient skill, should be the construction of a good tool chest. The work

in many cases the tool chest is simply a box with a sliding till or two, into which the tools are thrown anyhow. An ideal tool chest provides a place for everything, and then everything can be in its place. The

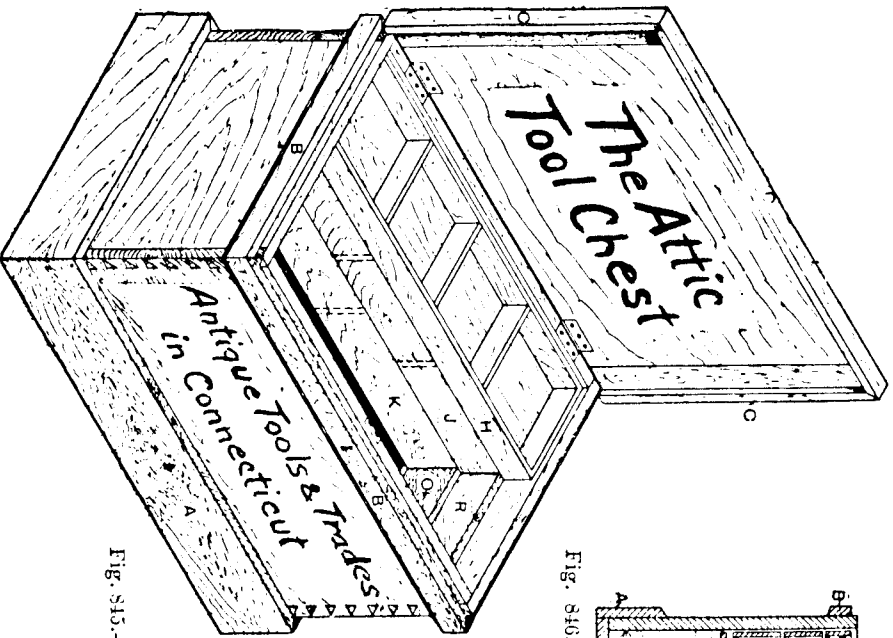


Fig. 845.—Tool Chest.

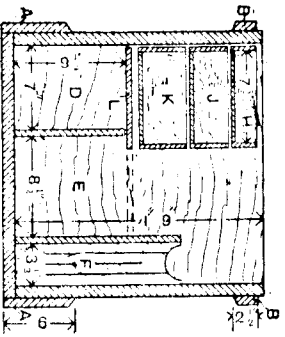


Fig. 846.—Cross Section of Tool Chest.

will afford him good practice in the use of tools, and the chest, when finished, will enable him to keep them under lock and key when they are not in use. In too

chest illustrated by Fig. 845 will be found to fulfil these conditions, and in this an attempt has been made to eradicate faults common to others. The letter references

in Figs. 845 to 847 are:—A, bottom plinth; B, top plinth; C, rim round lid; D, compartment for bead-planes, plough, etc.; E, compartment for various tools, planes, etc.; F, compartment for saws; K, bottom till; J, second till; H, top till; L, sliding-board to cover compartment E; M, cleats to hold division between E and F; N, runners for sliding-board I; R, runners for tills; S, runners for tills K. The length of the chest must be sufficient to accommodate a rip-saw, so the chest is 33 in. long internally; and if it is made 20 in. wide by 21 in. deep, it will be found convenient for all purposes. For the outside case white deal not less than 1 in. thick is used. In gluing up the front, back, and ends, to obtain the necessary width the joints should be tongued or dowelled, the former being the better method (see pp. 191 and 192). In dovetailing the framework of the chest make the pins small, and have them not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart; take care that the joints in front and back do not come immediately opposite those in the ends, or at some future time the chest may break in two. Fig. 846 is a transverse section through the chest, Figs. 847 to 850 showing details of construction. The plinths A and B run all round the chest, and are 6 in. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide respectively, and 1 in. thick, with the top edge of A and the bottom of B finished with a plain bevel; the top edge of a $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. bead being worked on it also. The plinths may be mitred at the corners, but it is better to dovetail them, and so obtain extra strength and good appearance. The plinth B is kept down about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. from the top of the chest to form a rebate for the lid to shut upon. The bottom of the chest is formed with boards 1 in. thick, tongued and grooved, and nailed on cross-ways—that is, the grain runs from front to back of the chest. The lid also is of 1 in. deal, with the joints tongued and grooved, and the ends clamped (see pp. 208 and 209). It overhangs the chest all round about $\frac{1}{16}$ in., and is hung with a pair of strong brass butts (see p. 298), and the self-acting spring lock is put on; then the rim C can be dovetailed together at the corners, and nailed to front and ends.

This should result in a good fit where the rim of the lid meets the plinth B. This finishes the skeleton of the chest.

TOOL CHEST PARTITIONS, ETC.

For the inside fittings of the tool chest use good yellow deal or pine, which can be finished by staining, although sometimes a more fancy wood is used. From Fig. 846 it is seen that the chest is divided in its width into three parts:—D, for bead-planes, plough, etc.; this is 7 in. wide, and is covered by the sliding tills; E, for miscellaneous tools, best planes, or anything which is not in everyday use; and F ($3\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide inside) is the saw till. These are divided by the two partitions shown, that between D and E being 9 in. high, and that between E and F 14 in. The three tills H, J, and K slide to and fro to give access to compartments beneath, and when in place at the back of the chest form a covering for compartment D; and a sliding board beneath the tills, when pulled out as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 846, covers compartment E. The bench-planes, etc., which are

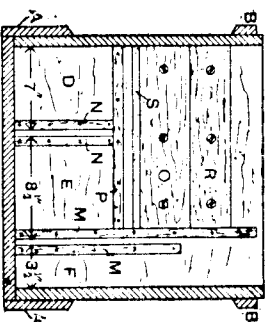


Fig. 847.—End of Tool Chest with Cleats and Runners.

in everyday use, can be packed away on the sliding board between the tills and the highest partition. Fig. 847 shows one end of the chest with the tills about 1 in. wide by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick; between these the partitions fit. The cleats holding the partition between E and F are fixed first, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. apart, and are as shown at M N (Fig. 847), the one nearer the back of the chest being continued nearly to the top, the other, nearer the front, stopping at the same height as the partition, namely 11 in. The cleats N must be $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. high from the bottom of the chest,

and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart. The back partitions having been placed in position, fix the ledges *r*, with their top edges $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the bottom of the chest; they run from the back to the long upright cleat *m*, and on them works the sliding board *L*, 9 in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; this is clamped at the ends for the sake of strength and to make it slide more easily. It

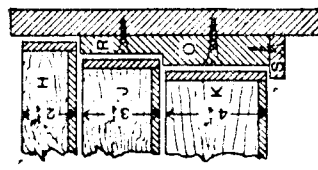


Fig. 843.—Section of Tool Chest. Runners must be a good fit endways to avoid jamming against the ends of the chest. The runners for the tills (see Fig. 848) are made long enough to reach from the back of the chest to the long upright cleat *m* (Fig. 847), and should be of hard wood. The principal piece *R*, which forms the runners for the two top tills, is $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide by 1 in. thick, rebated to half its thickness at *o* for a depth of $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. A piece of hard wood *s*, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in., is screwed on to the thick edge of *R*, and forms the runner for the bottom till. These runners can be fixed in position one on each end of the chest, leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. clearance between the bottoms and the top of sliding board *L*. The partition between compartments *E* and *F* can be made and fitted between the cleats *m m*; along its upper side is a strip of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deal, cut to fit between the cleats on each end of the chest, fixed level with the top edge on the side nearest the front of the chest and packed off about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. The slot thus formed can be used as a rack for squares, the stocks resting on top of the partition, and the blades hanging down out of the way inside the saw till.

RACKS FOR SAWS AND CHISELS.

The saw racks in the chest, as shown in Figs. 849 and 850, are 14 in. long, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

wide, and 1 in. thick, shaped at the top ends. Each has three slots, or, rather, saw kerfs, and in one rack (Fig. 849) the middle kerf runs from the top to within 3 in. of the bottom, the others stopping the same distance from the bottom, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the top. In the other rack (Fig. 850) the middle slot is stopped at both top and bottom, the others being open at the top end. These two racks are fixed at about 8 in. from each end by screwing through the horn at the top of each to the front of the chest. The partition being then put into its place, screws can be put through it into each saw-rack, which will hold all in place. When placing the saws in the racks, the points are inserted in the closed slots of racks, and the handle ends dropped into the open slots, two saws pointing one way and one the opposite way. To take chisels, etc., a piece of hard wood, 2 ft. long, 1 in. square, with a series of notches 1 in. apart cut into it wide enough to take the tools, can be screwed to the front of the chest, just above the top of the partition; this leaves an equal space at each end to allow the hand to be inserted to remove saws from the rack. The handles of the larger chisels will be just inside the front of the chest, convenient for withdrawal when wanted for use, and the blades will hang out of the way in the saw till.

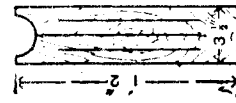


Fig. 849.—Saw Rack.

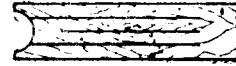


Fig. 850.—Saw Rack.

TOOL CHEST TILLS, ETC.

The three sliding tills for the inside of the chest only remain. They will all be 9 in. wide outside, but varied in depth, as shown by Fig. 848, on which dimensions are marked. They should be of $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. stuff, with $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. bottoms and divisions, the rims dovetailed together, and the fronts and

back rebated to receive the bottoms, the grain of which should run across the width of tills; and at each end the bottom should be of hard wood. The divisions should be

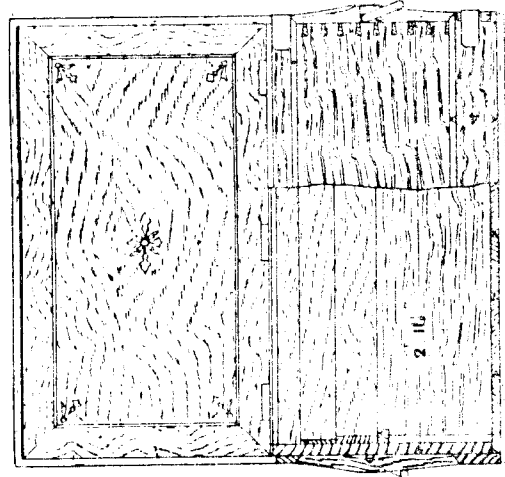


Fig. 851.

Figs. 851 and 852.—Elevation and Sections of Tool Chest.

trenched into the sides, forming in *K*, *J*, and *H* two, three, and four compartments respectively. One of the bottom divisions should be fitted up for the brace and bits, with racks for the bits fitted round the brace. Other divisions can be fitted with racks for small chisels, gouges, gimlets, bradawls, and various other tools, the aim throughout being to have a place for all, so that nothing can roll about and get damaged. Turn-buttons to take the tenon and dovetail saws can be screwed on to the under-side of the lid, so that when it is closed they will be in position between the top till and the front of chest. The purpose of the cleat *x*, running up higher than its fellow, is to stop the tills from coming into collision with the stocks of squares when in their rack. The sliding-board *L* can be grasped underneath with the fingers when it is desired to draw it forward, and it should have a couple of thumb-holes cut in its top as a means of pushing it back. Each till should have a pair of flush-rings inserted in the front, so that either can be

clean pine, and the fittings may be mahogany. Fig. 852 is a part end elevation and part cross section. To make the case, plane up two pieces of 1-in. pine 2 ft. $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $19\frac{1}{4}$ in., and two pieces 1 ft. 9 in. by $19\frac{1}{4}$ in., for the sides and end

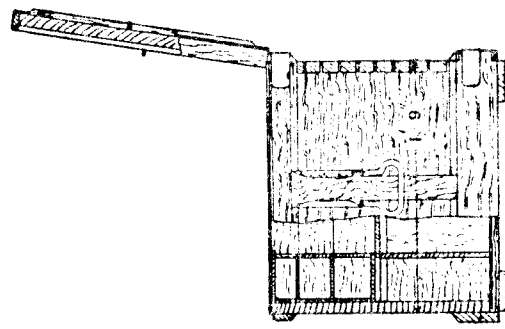


Fig. 852.

Figs. 851 and 852.—Elevation and Sections of Tool Chest.

ANOTHER TOOL CHEST.
The carcass, plinths, and lid of the chest illustrated by Fig. 851 should be of good

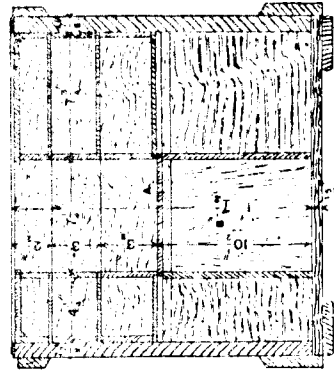


Fig. 853.—Cross Section of Tool Chest.

glue-jointing if the required width cannot otherwise be obtained. Dovetail together, using rather large pins, and spacing them at about 1½-in. centres. Glue up and screw

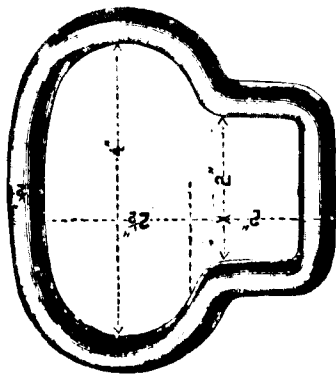


Fig. 854.—Tool Chest Handle.

on the bottom, which is of ¾ in. tongued and grooved matchboarding. Clean up the outside edges of the bottom boards level with the sides and ends, and fix the plinth, which may be dovetailed at the corners the opposite way to the sides. The runners at the ends for the trays are shown on the left-hand half of Fig. 851. At the top for 2½ in. the end is covered with mahogany veneer (veneering will be explained later); below this a piece of 3 in. by ¾-in. mahogany is fixed to form a runner for the top trays, and under this a piece of 3½-in. by ¾-in. mahogany is fixed to support the second pair of trays. To carry the bottom trays, a piece of mahogany 1½ in. square is used, and this also has a ¾-in. rebate for the board, which slides to cover the well in the centre of the chest A (Fig. 853); this figure shows on a larger scale a section through the chest. The top edge of the chest is next levelled with a plane, toothed, and a ¼-in. by ¼-in. facing glued on and mitred at the corners. When dry, clean off level inside and outside. The handles are of ½-in. round iron bent to the shape shown by Fig. 854, and welded at the bottom straight part, not butt jointed. The handle carriers are of hard wood, and shaped as in Fig. 855. The safest way of securing the handles is by means of screws, with the heads on the inside of the chest. The ¾-in. runner pieces inside

may be left loose until the screws have been put in for fixing the handles. Some chests have loops of rope for handles, but the metal ones are better and stronger. The handles should be kept sufficiently high up the ends of the chest to prevent any tendency to turning over if at any time it should be lifted with a crane.

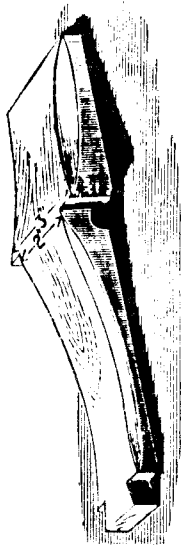


Fig. 855.—Tool Chest Handle Carrier.

TOOL CHEST LTD.

For the lid a piece of pine 2 ft. 11½ in. by 1 ft. 9 in. by ¾ in. must be prepared. In some cases the ends are clamped, but the lid will stand better if properly cross-battened. When the lid has been planed, the inside should be roughed with the toothed plane and two or three battens screwed across the grain on the other side to prevent warping. The inside can then be veneered with a centre panel and a banding about 2½ in. wide, as shown by Fig. 851 (as previously stated, veneering will be explained later). Use Spanish mahogany veneer for the centre panel, and a light or dark fancy wood veneer for the line, which may be about ¾ in. wide, and for the

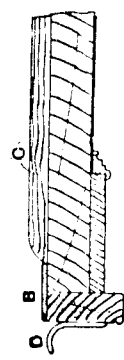


Fig. 856.—Section through Front of Tool Chest Lid.

centre and corner inlays. Some workers veneer the centre, and have a margin about ¼ in. thick, as shown on the under-side of Fig. 856, a planted moulding being used for covering the edge of the veneer. When the glue is thoroughly dry the battens may be removed from the back, and the mahogany plinth A (Fig. 856) screwed to the front and the ends; the parts seen when the lid is open should be polished.

Pieces of 1½-in. by ¾-in. hoop iron B (Fig. 856) can now be screwed round the top of the lid to protect the edges, and the space between filled in with ¾-in. deal boards C, screwed across the grain of the



Fig. 857.—Top Tray of Tool Chest.

lid; the ends can be rounded down to the hoop iron to strengthen it and also to prevent warping. The lid can now be hung with three 2½ in. by ¾-in. brass butt hinges (see p. 298) as shown in Fig. 851. A strong lock can then be let in the front, and a sash lift D (Fig. 856) screwed to the plinth at the front. Fig. 852 shows that the top plinth at the back is kept above that of the sides and front to support the lid when open. In addition to the lock, one or two holes should be bored through the lid at both ends and countersunk in the hoop iron, so that the lid can be screwed down for travelling, etc. The outside corners of the chest should be protected with angle plates on the plinth, as shown on the right-hand side of Figs. 851 and 852, and these may be made by bending pieces of 1½ in. No. 16 B.W.G. iron 6 in. long to a right angle, punching the holes and countersinking for No. 10 screws.

INSIDE FITTINGS OF TOOL CHEST.

For the interior fittings of the chest a small nest of drawers at the back is sometimes used, but some prefer trays, as shown, as the drawers are liable to stick if a tool gets misplaced. Also they take

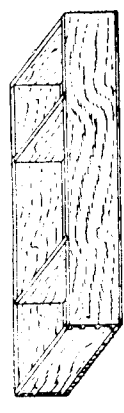


Fig. 858.—Second Tray of Tool Chest.

a lot of material and labour, and the drawers are more difficult to secure than trays when the chest is packed. The arrangement of the interior is shown in sec-

tion by Fig. 853, which also gives the size of the trays. These should be of ¾-in. mahogany, dovetailed together like a drawer, the top trays being fitted with lids, as shown by Fig. 857; the total depth over all is 2½ in. Fig. 858 shows one of the lower trays, and these do not have lids. The cross divisions in the trays may be made to meet requirements, but the following plan of dividing is a good one:—Top tray at the back, space 1 ft. 4 in. long at the centre with divisions about 8 in. at each end; second tray, the same as the top; and the bottom tray, one division in the centre. For the narrow trays, the top

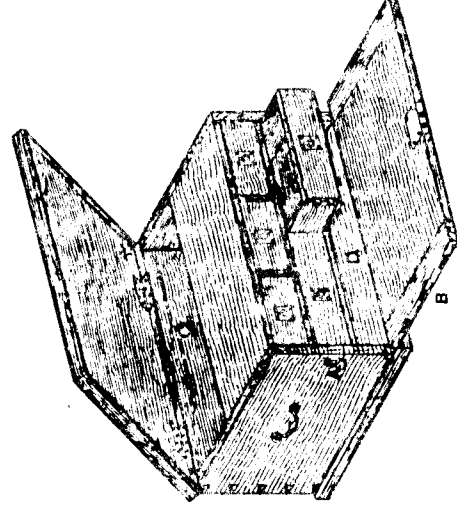


Fig. 859.—Tool Chest with Drawers.

one may be divided the same as the top one at the back; the second tray, with a partition 7½ in. from one end; and the bottom tray, with a division 10½ in. from the opposite end to the tray above. The space in the chest below the trays may be divided longitudinally into three compartments (Fig. 853). The boards to form the divisions are fixed to an upright piece of wood ¾ in. thick, B, secured to the ends of the chest. This part of the chest is just deep enough to take small planes placed on end. A saw rack may with advantage be fitted in the space under the front trays, and the centre space is covered with a board A, which slides back under the back trays. The inside of the chest should be

french-polished, and the outside should have three or four coats of good paint.

PACKING TOOL CHEST FOR TRAVEL.

In packing the chest for travelling, the bottom divisions should be filled first, and the heaviest tools placed in the centre portion: the slide can then be pulled over and fixed with a small screw at one end. The trays can then be filled, and secured either by means of strips fixed across the ends, or by filling the space between them with soft material that will not damage the polish. The lids of the top trays can then be fastened by placing across them at the ends two strips that will just fill up the space between the tops of the trays and

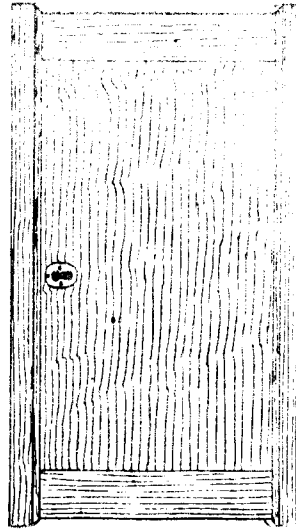


Fig. 860.—Front View of Tool Chest.

the lid, when the latter can be locked and screwed.

SMALL TOOL CHEST WITH DRAWERS.

For the small tool chest with drawers, shown in several views by Fig. 859, a handy size is 1 ft. 9 in. by 1 ft. 2 in. by 1 ft. deep. The sides, ends, bottom, and top are of red deal finishing about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. The divisions are of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. stuff, and the drawer fronts of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. stuff. The sides, backs, and bottoms of the drawers are of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. stuff, but of course these dimensions may be varied to meet requirements. Fig. 859 shows that the front is hinged on to the bottom, so as to drop down and allow of ready access to the drawers. To keep the front from twisting and warping, it must be clamped as shown, and when the front is closed up it is secured to the lid by a lock (see also Fig. 860). In addition, a hook A (Figs. 859 and 861) and eye B (Fig.

861) may be used. The bottom is finished off with a plinth, which if rebated as illustrated in the section (Fig. 862) will have extra strength. The lid should be stiffened by a 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. rim. The

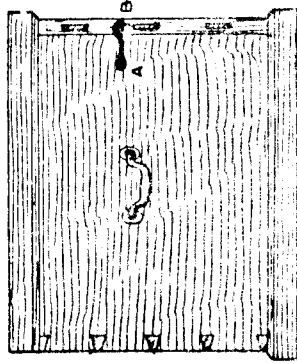


Fig. 861.—End View of Tool Chest.

well C and the space D under the drawers will be found very useful for large tools, etc.

UTILISING TOOL CHEST LIDS.

The insides of tool chest lids are adapted readily to hold hand saws and tenon saws, the ends of which are held in wooden clips as shown at A (Fig. 863). The handle ends are fastened by means of a button B, the method being just as suitable for tenon saws as for the tenon saw shown. When the button is moved to the position shown by the dotted lines, it will allow of the

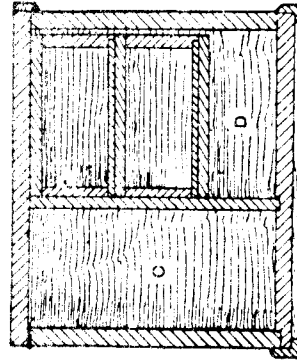


Fig. 862.—Cross Section of Tool Chest.

saw being taken out. Figs. 864 and 865 are enlarged views of the clip and button respectively.

ROOMY TOOL CHEST.

A roomy chest of somewhat different design from any yet illustrated is shown

in transverse section by Fig. 866, whilst Fig. 867 is a half longitudinal section. Dimensions are left to the maker. The stuff for the carcass should be $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick,

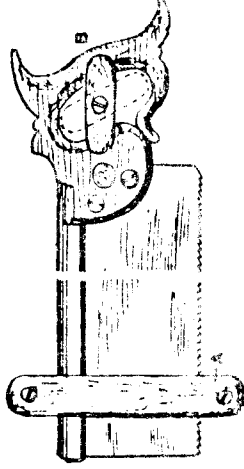


Fig. 863.—Tenon Saw in Clips.

and the corners are dovetailed. At the top a rebate is run round the front edge and the two ends, for the lid to fit over; but for convenience in hinging, the back



Fig. 864.—Clip for End of Tenon Saw.

edge is left square. Round the bottom edge, a narrow V-shaped groove is made to receive the button, which is strengthened by a narrow iron or steel plate, 3 in. by 1 in. standard and wider on. The sides and ends of the lid are $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, and the top of

the lid frame being haunch tenoned together. A small quirked bead is run round the inner edge to hide any shrinkage of the panel, which is not glued in; this bead is mitred at the corners, and the tongue on the outside edge is made flush with the under-side. The sides and ends of the lid are dovetailed together, and to prevent the plough groove on the top edge and the rebate on the bottom edge cropping out, it is partly mitred as shown in Fig. 868. Two or three pairs of strong brass hinges attach the lid to the chest, and straps of leather or webbing are fitted to prevent it opening to more than an angle of (say) 10° or 15° beyond the vertical. A good lever lock should be fitted to secure the box when shut, and iron or brass lift-



Fig. 865.—Clip for Handle of Tenon Saw.

ing handles should be screwed on at each end. The outside of the chest is usually painted black and varnished, whilst the inside is usually finished with clear shellac varnish.

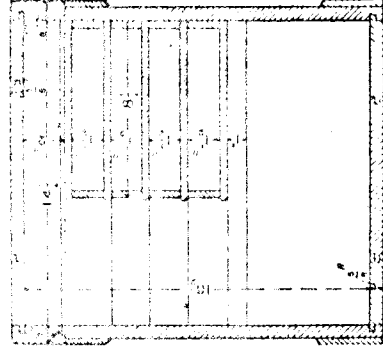


Fig. 866.—Cross Section of Tool Chest.

the chest is thickened up to this extent by pieces glued and nailed on. The top of the lid and the bottom of the chest are framed up with flush panels for strength,

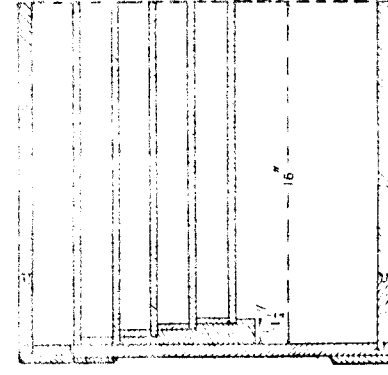


Fig. 867.—Longitudinal Section of Tool Chest.

PROGRAM OF APRIL 29, 1978 MEETING OF ATTIC AT SOUTH GLASTONBURY, CT.

- 9:15 to 10:00 Register at Congregational Church (see two maps)
- 10:00 to 10:20 Business meeting
- 10:20 to 11:00 Slide talk by Ken Roberts
- 11:00 to 11:30 Film on coopering
- 11:30 to 12:00 Showing of cooper's tools
- 12:00 to 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 to 2:15 Panel on cleaning tools
- 2:15 to 3:00 What'sit session
- 3:00 Visit Historical Society House

BRING YOUR COOPER'S TOOLS, YOUR WHAT'SITS, AND TOOLS FOR CLEANING

