

Mr. Kanes shop tools

The Claw Hammer

A hammer with one side of the head split and curved, used for extracting nails.



The Tape Measure

A tape measure or measuring tape is a flexible ruler. It consists of a ribbon of cloth, plastic, fiber glass, or metal strip with linear-measurement markings. It is a common measuring tool. Its design allows for a measure of great length to be easily carried in pocket or toolkit and permits one to measure around curves or corners.



The Chalkline

A chalk line or chalk box is a tool for marking long, straight lines on relatively flat surfaces, much farther than is practical by hand or with a [straightedge](#). It is an important tool in [construction](#) and [carpentry](#), the working of timber in a rough and unplanned state, as it does not require the timber to have a straight or squared edge formed onto it beforehand.



The Utility Knife

A good utility knife is another asset for the woodworker. There are many different kinds, but the kind that uses disposable blades is the most common. The blade retracts into the grip for safety. The woodworker will use the utility knife when cleaning out mortise joints or scribing wood, as well as many other uses.



The Chisel

A long-bladed hand tool with a beveled cutting edge and a plain handle that is struck with a hammer or mallet, used to cut or shape wood, stone, metal, or other hard materials.



The Level

Every woodworker needs a couple of levels. You probably won't need one of the 6-foot levels used in construction, but 48" is a good length for many of the woodworking projects you'll do. Usually, you'll also need an 8" level too, usually known as a torpedo level. You'll check the level and plumb of your construction. Level is horizontal, and plumb is vertical. Most quality levels are made of either brass-edged wood or of metal. There will be a bubble reading for level, and another one for plumb. When the bubble is exactly between the lines, you have a level or plumb surface. You can also get string levels and laser levels, but the woodworker will use these types of levels the most often.



The Screwdriver

Screwdrivers are another must-have in the woodworker's set of hand tools. Not only will you need Phillips and slot, or flathead screwdrivers, you'll need star drivers and Torx drivers, too. A quality construction is vital to a good set of screwdrivers. So many of them are made out of soft metal, and the first time you put any "umph" behind them, they strip out, becoming absolutely useless.



The Hand Saw

In woodworking and carpentry, hand saws, also known as "panel saws", "fish saws", are used to cut pieces of wood into different shapes. This is usually done in order to join the pieces together and carve a wooden object. They usually operate by having a series of sharp points of some substance that is harder than the wood being cut. The hand saw is a bit like a tenon saw, but with one flat, sharp edge.



The Saw Horse

Saw horses, of course, are a natural in any woodworking shop or construction site. There are actually patterns available that you can use to build your own stacking sawhorses. If you build your sawhorses properly, they'll hold up to 500 lbs. apiece. They're even fairly cheap to build. Your saw horses will serve countless uses around your shop, from providing backup as you saw and drill, to extending your work surface while using power saws.



The Work Bench

A workbench is sturdy table at which manual work is done. They range from simple flat surfaces to very complex designs that may be considered tools in themselves. Workbenches vary in size from tiny jewelers' benches to the huge benches used by staircase makers.



The Tool Storage System

Tool storage is totally up to your own personal style. Some people are just messy, and leave things piled around. They simply remember that they left the moisture meter on the router table. However, think about your organizational system. You may want to build locking cabinets or open shelves. Many woodworkers display fasteners in Mason jars that they twist into lids that have been nailed to an overhead board. Others have spent too many hours picking fasteners out of the shattered remains of Mason jars, and don't like that method.



The Power Drill

The next power tool you should purchase is a power drill. Now, many people swear by cordless drills, but they're more expensive, and they can't do everything that an electric drill can do – that's where the term "power" comes in. Power drills are not as expensive, and they're more powerful than cordless drills, which do have their place in your shop. The steady power that comes with a corded drill makes it a better tool for extended use, especially when using large bits such as paddle bits.



The Layout Square

A layout square (sometimes also referred to as a combination square) is a triangular-shaped measuring tool designed for making square marks or angles on stock.

The layout square has three major functions. First and most often, it is used for making square marks on a piece of stock. Second, a layout square has markings making it easy to determine an approximate angle of a mark or cut. Finally, a layout square allows the user to mark angles in a similar manner to the method for determining an existing angle.



The Sabre Saw

Every woodworker should have a sabre saw. Often called a jigsaw, it will allow you to cut curves and patterns in your stock materials.



The Circular Saw

A circular saw is a power-saw using a toothed or abrasive disc or blade to cut different materials using a rotary motion spinning around an arbor. A hole saw and ring saw also use a rotary motion but are different from a circular saw. Circular saws may also be loosely used for the blade itself.



The Palm Sander

A good palm sander is vital to any woodworker's power tool collection. The palm sander will use $\frac{1}{4}$ sheet of sanding paper, and is small enough to get into tight places. However, you should be careful not to sand patterns into your finished work with the palm sander. They usually move in a circular pattern, or back and forth. Either way, they can leave swirls and streaks in your wood that show up once it is stained, so be sure to keep it moving across the surface you are sanding so that you don't sand grooves into your wood.



The Random Orbital Sander

A random orbital sander is actually a step up from the "little brother" version – the palm sander. The random orbital sander uses hook and loop (Velcro) to fasten the sanding disks to the sanding pad. The random movement of the disk helps to avoid sanding patterns into your wood. Your main precaution with this tool is to make sure that your hardware supply store has discs in stock in every grit. Otherwise, you'll have a sander that you can't use because you can't find sanding pads for it.



The Table Saw

Now, we start getting into the first permanent fixture in your woodworking shop – the table saw. Of course, table saws can be loaded in the bed of your truck, so, technically, they're portable. But, the table saw is not one you can pick up with one hand and head to the worksite. The table saw will be the workhorse of your shop, so get a good one. You'll use it to rip, miter, shape, square, groove, and join, so a good saw that suits your needs is vital.



The Rip Fence

Your table saw should have a rip fence. You'll want one with fine-tuning adjustment that runs parallel to the blade. Some rip fences have an adjustment knob on each end of the fence, others on just one end. The main thing to look for is torque. When you move the fence, do both ends move evenly, or does the far end hand up? This can be a real problem, and you'll save yourself a lot of frustration and stock lumber if you have a rip fence that stays parallel to the cutting blade.



Vocabulary test

1. Another name for the sabre saw. _____
2. A palm sander is supposed to be moved in what pattern when sanding? _____
3. What is the main differencer between a power drill and a cordless drill?

4. What tool with a blade can be struck by a hammer? _____
5. This tool marks long straight lines. _____
6. Name two saws that are used for "ripping" wood. _____
7. This tool could be called a "flexible ruler". _____
8. These two things could be used to hold your wood while you are cutting it.
_____, _____.
9. What tools check for levelness and plumb of projects? _____
10. Name 3 uses of a layout square.