

Suggested Tools

I am frequently asked “What tools should I buy?”. This is a tough question to answer because everyone has different requirements based on the type and style of woodwork and on their price point. Nevertheless, with the following list I have attempted to provide some guidance. Please keep in mind that these recommendations/suggestions are based on my own experiences and approach to woodwork. You will undoubtedly get very different (and perhaps better) recommendations from others.

I will expand, delete and modify my suggestions from time to time.

Key:

Alt	Alternative suggestion.
B	These are tools that I would include in a B eginners kit.

See separate document “List of Suppliers” for contact details.

Tool	Type	B	Make	Suppliers
Vises	Face vice	X	Alt: Eclipse “woodworker’s”, 9”, quick action (cheap) Alt: Irwin Record 10 1/2”, Plain screw or quick action. (moderate) Alt: Lie Nielsen Twin Screw (expensive)	McJing Tools Timber Bits Lie-Nielsen
	Bench top vice (“Moxon”)		Gramercy tools Moxon Vice Hardware	Tools For Working Wood
	Engineer’s vice			
Planes	Smoother		Alt: Lie-Nielsen No.4 with 50 or 55 degree frog Alt: HNT Gordon A55 Smoother (TS blade) Alt: Veritas No 4 Alt: Wood River No 4	Lie-Nielsen HNT Gordon Jim Davey
	Jointer		Alt: Lie-Nielsen No. 7 Alt: HNT Gordon A55 Trying (TS blade) Alt: Wood River No 7	Lie-Nielsen HNT Gordon Jim Davey
	Jack	X	Alt: Lie-Nielsen No 5 Alt: Veritas No. 5 1/4 Alt: Wood River No 5	Lie-Nielsen Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec Jim Davey
	Block (Low angle with adjustable mouth)	X	Alt: Veritas Alt: Lie-Nielsen	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec Lie-Nielsen
	Shoulder (small)		Alt: Veritas Alt: Lie-Nielsen	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec Lie-Nielsen
Spoke Shaves	Flat sole		Alt: Veritas Alt: Pinnacle	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec Jim Davey
	Round sole		Veritas	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec
Scrapers	Card	X	Rectangular	Carbatec, Henry Eckert
	Scraper Body		Veritas	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec

	Burnisher	X		
Saws	Dovetail		Alt: Lie-Nielsen (Thin Plate) Alt: Veritas (20tpi)	Lie-Nielsen Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec
	Carcase/tenon saw (rip 15-20tpi)	X	Alt: Veritas Alt: Lie-Nielsen	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec Lie-Nielsen
	Carcase/tenon saw (cross cut 15-18 tpi)	X	Alt: Veritas Alt: Lie-Nielsen	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec Lie-Nielsen
	Panel (Cross Cut)	X	Alt: Refurb. vintage Alt: Bahco Alt: Sandvik	Brad van Luyt Hardware store Hardware store
	Panel (Rip)	X	Alt: Refurb. vintage Alt: Bahco Alt: Sandvik	Brad van Luyt Hardware store Hardware store
Chisels	Paring 3, 6, 12, 18mm		Alt: Iroi "Bronze Backed Dovetail" Alt: Lie-Nielsen "Long handle"	Tools for Working Wood Lie-Nielsen
	Paring 2mm		Stubai	Woodwork Book and Tool Co
	Bevelled edge ¼, ½, ¾, 1"	X	Alt: Narex (cheap) Alt: Lie-Nielsen Alt: Veritas	Fine Tools, Lee Valley Lie-Nielsen Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec
	Mortise ¼ 3/8 ½"		Alt: Narex (cheap) Alt: Lie-Nielsen Alt: Ray Iles	Fine Tools, Lee Valley Lie-Nielsen Tools for Working Wood
	Skew (L and R)		Narex	Fine Tools, Lee Valley
Marking and measuring	Double (sliding) square 150mm	X	Lee Valley	Lee Valley, Carbatec
	Mini double square with narrow blade		Alt: Starrett 14MDmm	Lie-Nielsen
	Solid (Engineer's) 100mm		Measuremax	Machinery House

	Solid (Engineer's) 150mm		Measuremax	Machinery House
	Rulers 600,300, 150mm	X	Alt: Shinwa Alt: Measuremax Alt: Toledo	Japanese Tools Australia, Carbatec Machinery House ?
	Marking knife (double edge)	X		
	Divider 6"	X	Alt: Measuremax Alt: Moore and Wright	Machinery House "antique" shops
	Marking gauge (std)	X	Veritas	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec
	Marking Gauge (fine adj)		Veritas	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec
	Sliding bevel	X		
	Straight edge	X	Shop made	Paul
	Diagonal gauges		Shop made	Paul
	Vernier caliper		Alt: Measuremax Alt: Mititoyo	Machinery House Machinery House
	Ruler stop		Alt: Shop made Alt: Shinwa Alt: Veritas	Paul Japanese Tools Australia Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec
	Scratch awl	X	Shop made	Paul
Power Tools	Cordless Drill/driver (Small)	X		
	Cordless Drill/driver (Medium)			
	Sander (125 mm Random orbital)		Alt: De Walt D26451 Alt: Milwaukee ROS125E	F and K Power tools, Sydney tools VEC tools
	Router, Plunge + fixed base, 1/4", Hnd hld, (Sml)		De Walt D26402KXE	

	Router, Plunge, 1/4 + 1/2", hand/table (Med)			
	Router, Inverted, 1/4 + 1/2", table (Lrg)			
Hammers	Carpenter's mallet	X	Shop made	Paul
	Assembly mallet	X	Shop made	Paul
	Plane adjusting hammer		Shop made	Paul
	Tack hammer			
Sharpening	Water stones	X	King 800 and 4000 or 6000	Carbatec
	Honing guide		"Eclipse"	
	Honing guide	X	Veritas Mk II	Lee Valley, Jim Davey, Carbatec
	Glass plates (x2)	X	10 x 100 x 350mm	
Rasps	Tapered, Flat/round		Alt: Dragon ("Neck shaping") Alt: Gramercy (Cabinet makers)	Stewart MacDonald Tools For Working Wood
Files	Mill 10" smooth cut Mill 10" bastard cut Half round 10"	X	Vallorbe	? Bunnings Bunnings
	File handles	X		Lie-Nielsen
Clamps	Quick action (heavy duty)		Bessey	Carbatec
	Sash		Record	Carbatec
	Quick action (light duty)		Irwin	Bunnings
	Frame clamp		Shop made	Paul
	G clamps 100, 150, 200 mm		Record	