

HENRY TAYLOR BEVEL EDGE CHISELS

You'd be hard pressed to find a decent set of chisels that keep such a sharp edge at this price elsewhere, says **Simon Frost**



The chisels required some flattening before sharpening, but no more than expected

In terms of price, this set of five bevel edge chisels from Henry Taylor sits comfortably in the mid-range, at £130 for the set, including a basic fabric tool roll. More expensive than run-of-the-mill DIY chisels and not as costly as some professional tools, it's unusual to find a set of such high-quality chisels as reasonably priced.

At blade sizes of 25mm, 19mm, 12mm, 9mm and 6mm, it is an excellent all-round set. Most woodworkers are unlikely to need bevel edge chisels in sizes beyond this range very often, although if you're hand-cutting dovetails, you'll need to purchase a 3mm or smaller chisel separately for the daintier sets of pins.

Long-lasting edge

I flattened the backs of all five blades using my sharpening films adhered to dead-flat



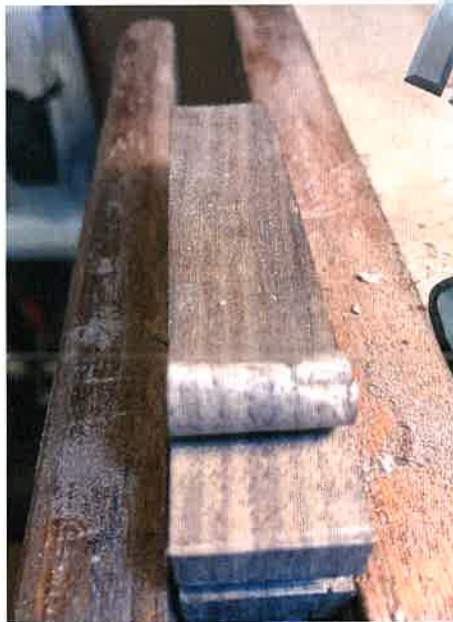
The stained beech handles are durable and attractive, although I found the rounded profile wasn't ideally suited for fine work with the smaller chisels



The blades are perfectly adept at cleaning up waste from dovetails, although I felt the handle shape was better suited to less intricate work



These can site in a knife line and chop through hardwood with ease, although the smallest chisel in this set will not do for daintier dovetails



Paring is a pleasure with such sharp tools



float glass, and although they varied a little in flatness, none were out of flat any more than one would expect from a new set. The blades are hand-forged in Sheffield from high speed steel, and due to their hardness take a bit of work on the films (or stones) and final stropping to get deadly sharp, but this results in an edge that lasts very well indeed.

Handles & ferrules

The handles are an attractive dark stained beech and secured with handsome brass ferrules, making them suitable for use with or without a mallet. They're well balanced and nicely finished, although I found the rounded profile a little bulky when applied to the smaller blade sizes, and felt a further refined handle shape providing more secure grip would be better for finer work.

I daresay that many people would be tempted to remove the jarring red 'Diamic' stickers from the handles, too, but that's a matter of personal preference.

Conclusion

If desired, wooden handles can always be adapted or replaced by the user – what matters most is that cutting edge. These chisels are capable of paring beautifully smooth, thin slithers of material and chopping waste very cleanly and accurately from hardwoods. You'd be hard pressed to find a decent set of chisels that keep such a sharp edge at this price elsewhere. ✂

SPECIFICATION

Blade length: Approximately 125mm (5in)
The set includes: F55 – 3/8in (6mm); F56 – 1/2in (9mm); F57 – 5/8in (12mm); F59 – 3/4in (19mm); F60 – 1in (25mm)

Typical price: £130

Web: www.classichandtools.com

THE VERDICT

PROS

- Excellent value for money; keep a sharp edge very well

CONS

- Handles can be a little cumbersome for fine work

RATING: 4.5 out of 5