

TAYLOR MADE test



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GMC/ANTHONY BAILEY

Mark Baker

runs an expert eye over the latest set of tools from Sheffield-based Henry Taylor tools

Latest new tools from Henry Taylor from left to right: 1½in-spindle gouge, heavy-duty hollowing scraper, heavy-duty 'domed' scraper and a heavy duty box scraper

Henry Taylor has been producing fine quality turning and carving tools for more than 150 years. It's always interesting to see new developments from manufacturers, although it's often said that there are no 'new' tools as such being developed. I agree with this in part, but what we are seeing is refinements, adaptations and modifications. These may be in the shape of the tool and cutting edges, the steels used and specialised developments resulting in tools for specific techniques such as hollowing or cutting end grain.

Here are four 'new' tools, by that I mean adaptations, from Henry Taylor. They are all made from M2 HSS, manufactured to a very high standard, impeccably finished and may well help with some of the problems you might encounter. ■

HS188 32mm (1¼in) Spindle roughing gouge

Large work mostly requires large tools. There's no point in trying to rough down a large log or column with a

13mm (½in) spindle-roughing gouge. That would be like trying to start a war armed with just a toothpick. This spindle-roughing gouge is beefy and forged from flat bar, has a 198mm (7¾in) blade and is fitted into a 293 (11½in) handle with a long tang to secure it firmly in place.

The cutting edge is swept back in a continental style instead of the conventional square ground style. This creates a longer cutting edge allowing the user to present the tool at varying angles to achieve the optimum cut and finish off the tool. The tool is finely finished, handles well in use and makes light work of large, square stock or logs and branches. At £52.81 it's good value for money, and is well worth considering if you tackle large work on a regular basis.



HS189 Heavy duty hollowing scraper

The first thing which struck me about this tool is its weight and solidity. It's made from 13mm x 13mm (½in x ½in) bar and has a blade length of 198mm (7¾in) with an 293mm (11½in) handle. It has

a French curve-tip profile which will suit most situations, but, as with most tools, if you need to alter it do so to suit your own situation and needs.

Designed by Tony Wilson, it's designed to minimise vibration during use. The tool is well suited for, and coped admirably with, hollowing both end and side grain in vase forms and boxes. And guess what – I didn't encounter any blade flexing vibration during the cuts I made at all.

I liked the solidity of the tool and that the underneath corners were not sharp meaning it could glide along the rest without digging in the rest. I could make heavy cuts deep into work without the 'chatter' too. A superb edge is created when honed with either a mechanical strop or diamond hone. The tool is impressive in use, is well-balanced and provides a no nonsense solution for heavy and fine finishing cuts. The scraper is priced at £33.



HS191 Heavy duty domed scraper

Domed is not a name I would have given to the profile on the end of this cutter. It's more of a minaret shape than a dome. Having said that, this scraper also has a 165mm (6½in) -long blade, and is made from 1in wide by 10mm (¾in) thick bar fitted into a 293mm (11½in) handle. This tool is also inspired by Chris Child, and again is designed in the same manner as the box scraper to minimise vibration due to blade flex. The dome shape works well on curves whether it's bowls, platters, boxes or semi-enclosed forms, and takes a superb edge when honed. Because the underside edges are smooth and have had the edges removed, it can also be easily used as a shear scraper. I liked this and the box scraper, not only because of the lack of vibration in use, but because they felt right in my hands. This scraper costs £33.

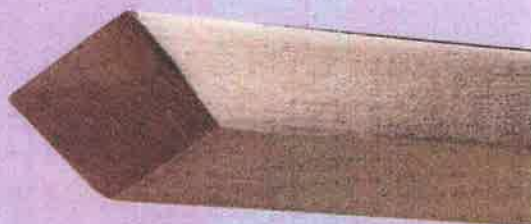


HS 190 Heavy duty box scraper

The HS 190 Heavy duty box scraper has a 163mm (6½in)-long blade, is made from 1in-wide by 10mm (¾in)- thick bar, and is fitted into a 293mm (11½in)- handle.

Inspired by Chris Child, this scraper has a square end and the left-hand side of the blade is relieved for some way with the top edge of the relief removed a little. This means the section which intersects the square cutting edge is sharp, allowing efficient cuts without having to cut along its full length. When cutting, it can run down the side of parallel-sided boxes or vessels with ease. It creates a very fine, controllable cut without the underside of the blade impeding travel or cutting by rubbing against the lower curvature of the work. It does a good job.

The blade is not too long and is nice and thick without being bulky. The underside edges have been removed to allow the blade to be easily traversed along the rest without catching. Because of the blade thickness and length, you shouldn't encounter undue vibration or chatter due to blade flex, and thus achieve a better finish straight from the tool. It's priced at £32.



Information

For further information about these and other Henry Taylor products, contact:
Henry Taylor Tools, The Forge,
Peacock Estate, Livesey Street,
Sheffield
S6 2BL, Tel: 0114 2340282 Fax:
0114 285 2015, E-
mail:sales@henrytaylortools.co.uk
Website:
www.henrytaylortools.co.uk