Hand and Power Tool Glossary

**Abrasive Disks:** Consumable disks that are fitted into various power tools.

**Air Stapler:** A pneumatic staple machine much like a small nail gun.

**Angle Grinder:** A handheld tool powered mostly by electricity but also by compressed air, used with a variety of attachments for grinding, cutting, polishing etc. Used in every type of construction. The tool gets its name from the fact that the cutting head is mounted at an angle to the drive shaft of the motor.

**Auger Bit:** In woodworking, a tool for drilling holes in wood.

**Back Saw:** A small hand saw that has the top of the blade stiffened with a metal rib of steel or brass.

**Ball Peen Hammer:** A mechanic's style hammer with a rounded peen.

**Belt Sander:** A handheld carpentry power sander that uses the linear action of a cloth and resin-based belt running around two wheels. Mostly used as a rough to intermediate sander.

**Bench Grinder:** A workshop machine that drives abrasive wheels and other accessories. Used for grinding, sharpening, cleaning and buffing.

**Bevel Edge Chisel:** A woodworking tool with the side edges bevelled. It is used for general cutting.

**Caulking Gun:** A lightweight steel frame with a squeeze grip handle for applying a range of caulks, sealants and fillers that are marketed in tubes.

**Cee or Gee Clamps:** All steel precision clamps used by metal fabricators.

**Chalk Line:** A string line that is covered with powdered chalk. When stretched tight on a surface and flicked the chalk leave a straight line on the surface.

**Chuck Key:** A small tool to suit a particular drill chuck consisting of a bevel gear on a shaft with a sliding bar handle used to tighten and undo the chucks on drilling machines and electric drills.

**Circlip Pliers:** Mechanics pliers used for fitting circlips or retaining rings. Can be classed as internal or external.

**Claw Hammer:** A carpentry tool the hammer face is used for driving nails and the opposing claw is used for withdrawing nails and other prising or levering work.

**Combination Square:** A all-purpose all steel square. In its standard form it is a right angle and a mitre square, and with an additional bases it is a multi-angle bevel or protractor and a tool to find the centre of bar stock.

**Coping Saw:** In hand tools. A small saw for cutting curves. Typically for scribing around mouldings on skirtings (baseboards) and cornices.

**Compound Miter Saw:** A woodworking power tool that can cut compound angles. The saw can cut angles of up to 45 degrees either side in relation to the vertical fence. In addition the blade can be angled or tilted in relation to the machine's base.

**Cordless Power Tools:** Power tools that have their own source of power, normally rechargeable batteries.

**Countersink Bits:** Machine and hand bits for countersinking holes in wood, metal and plastics.

**Drill Chuck:** The part of a drilling tool that holds the drill bit.

**Drill Press**: A drilling machine either floor or bench mounted. A rotating vertical axis holds the drill bit, and it is lowered into the work usually by a hand operated lever.

**Electric Air Compressor:** An electrically power machine for producing compressed air for use with air powered tools.

**Ear Muffs:** Ear protectors that muffle sound and protect the ears in noisy environments.

**Ear Plugs:** Cylindrical foam hearing protectors that muffle sound and protect the ears in noisy environments.

**Easy Clamps:** One handed clamp that works through a ratchet handle like a caulking gun.

**ELD Box:** A earth leakage detector ELD, also known as an RCD or residual current device, is an electrical safety device that detects faults in electrical systems within milliseconds and shuts off the current before harm can be done. When fitted into a portable junction box for mains power leads or cords it is called a safety box etc.

**F Clamps:** Carpentry clamps in the shape of an F

**Fiberglass Tape Measure:** A wind up type of builder's long tape measure. Comes in various lengths up to 50M.

**Firmer Chisel:** A woodworking chisel with square sides to the blade. There are no side bevels. These chisels are stronger and can take more punishment than bevelled edge chisels.

**Glass Cutter:** A simple small tool for cutting glass.

**Hacksaw:** A metalworking hand tool for sawing metal and hard plastics etc.

**Hot Glue Gun:** An electrical tool for heating up adhesive sticks into a liquid state for simple no fuss glue jobs.

**Impact Screwdriver:** A cordless electric screwdriver that uses vibration or impacts on the screw head to drive or remove screws.

**Jack Plane, Metal:** The all-purpose Carpentry and Joinery metal plane. Between the try plane and the smoothing plane in size.

**Jig:** In machining, A device to make repetitious work easier. At the same time it makes it more accurate and faster. Ranges from home-made to highly complex.

**Keyless Chuck:** A chuck to an electric drill or similar that can be operated by by hand, rather than by using a chuck key.

**Li-Ion Battery:** A rechargeable battery using Lithium Iron technology.

**Masonry Bit:** A drill bit with a Tungsten Carbide insert at the tip that is used in a percussion or hammer drill for drilling into concrete and masonry.

**Mitre Clamps:** Joinery clamps used for holding mitred corners together. Also known as Picture Frame Clamps

**Needle Nose Pliers:** Pliers that have elongated narrow jaws.

**Offset Snips:** Metal snips with the handles cranked or offset to give knuckle clearance.

**Orbital Sander:** In woodworking: A finish sander that has an orbital motion.

**Peen:** The rounded or sharp thin end of a hammer head opposite the face

**Pipe Cutter:** A hand tool for cutting metal pipes. Ranges in size from a small copper pipe cutter through to say 300mm diameter steel and cast-iron pipes.

**Pliers:** Small hand tool with a scissor like action used for gripping, cutting and bending

**Plumb:** Exactly vertical. If a member is vertical it is said to be "plumb". If not, it is said to be "out of plumb".

**Pop Rivet-Tool:** A tool for fixing pop rivets. Comes in various layouts and sizes depending on the rivet size, but the small pliers like tool is the most common.

**Ratchet Mechanism:** A device used to convert a full circular motion of a tool or machine, into smaller arcs of motion to give more power and or convenience. Consists of a ratchet wheel and pawl.

**Reduced Shank Bit:** A drill bit that steps down in diameter at the shank to enable it to fit into a smaller drill chuck.

**Retracting Tape Measure:** The device that replaced the carpenter's folding rule. A spring loaded self-retracting thin steel tape measure.

Rotary Hammer Drill: An electric tool for drilling larger holes in masonry and concrete.

**Snips Handing:** Snips can give a curly offcut on the left- or right-hand side for ease of use, or they can have no bias and so are called straight cutting.

**Spirit Level:** A hand tool with curved sealed glass vials containing a liquid and a bubble of air. The glass bubbles are located parallel to or at right tangles to the body of the level to give horizontal or vertical readings.

**String line:** Line usually out of string, but also used is wire, cord, nylon fishing line etc. When stretched tight it is used as an aid to creating straight lines.

**Swarf:** The fine metal shavings and dust caused by drilling or sawing steel. The leftovers of the operation.

**Tin Snips:** Snips or shears for cutting thin sheet metal.

**Vernier:** A device consisting of a primary scale and a sliding scale, normally the sliding scale has one less divisions than the other. Thereby making it possible to read the primary scale to greater accuracy.

**Vernier Calliper:** An engineering calliper with a vernier scale for accurate measurements. Also known as a Vernier Gauge

**Vise Grips:** Small adjustable hand tools that can grip and lock onto and hold together small objects.

**Woodworking Pipe Clamps:** Clamp ends that are attached to standard diameter steel pipes.

**Woodworking Vise:** A vise that is built into a carpenter or joiner's bench. Optimised for holding timber.