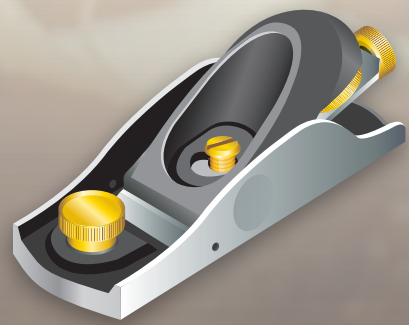


# Hand Planes

From the editors of  
CANADIAN  
**Woodworking**  
& HOME IMPROVEMENT

## STANDARD PLANES



### BLOCK

About 6" long. Generally used in one hand for a very wide variety of tasks - from easing sharp edges and adding heavy chamfers to quickly assisting with many other aspects of woodworking.



### SMOOTH

About 10" long. Lighter and smaller than most other planes. Great for general trimming and smoothing, but they excel at leaving a finish-ready surface.



### JACK

12" - 15" long. Versatile and are great for many tasks around the workshop like removing machine mill marks and prepare the surface for finer hand planes to take over.



### FORE

18" long a large plane that excels at leveling and smoothing larger panels, and is often used after a Jack for further smoothing a surface.



### JOINTER

22" long, capable of flattening the largest of surfaces like table tops, its length ensures it won't dip into valleys, but will remove high spots. Also great for truing and shooting edge joints.



### JAPANESE

These wood body planes work while pulling the plane towards the user, and are generally much simpler than Western-style hand planes. Flat-bottomed Japanese planes are available in many different widths and lengths, as well as numerous curved-bottom styles.

## SPECIALTY PLANES



### RABBET

Varying sizes. Used to cut rabbets to a certain depth. They have a depth guide to stop cutting the joint at a certain depth, as well as a fence to cut rabbets at a certain width. They tend to look similar to most bench planes. The blade extends flush with at least one outside edge of a rabbet plane, and they are sometimes available in both left or right hand models.



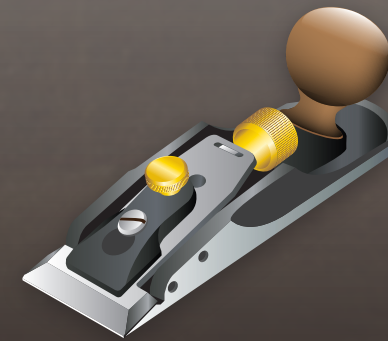
### SHOULDER

Varying sizes. Mainly for fine-tuning protruding joinery like tenons, etc. Available in a few different sizes, but are generally much higher than they are wide.



### COMBINATION

Exceptionally flexible, these planes can create tongues, grooves, rabbets, beads and reeds of many different dimensions. A wide variety of cutters can be purchased and used in a combination plane.



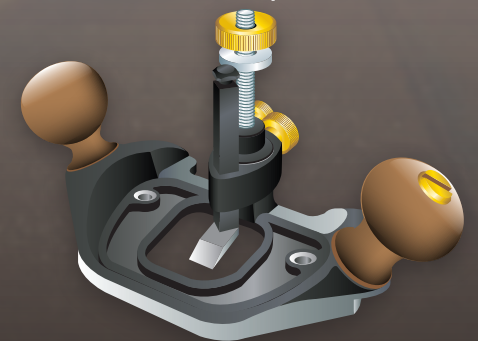
### FLUSH/TRIMMING

Great for flush trimming wood plugs, glue squeeze out, etc. Sized similar to a block plane, it can be used one-handed with a gentle touch.



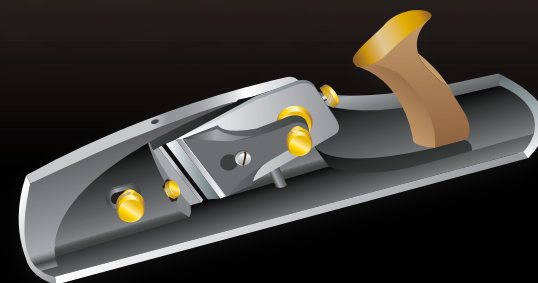
### PLOW

A simpler, scaled down version of a combination plane, but doesn't have the same level of complexity and functionality as a combination plane. Will cut grooves, rabbets, tongues and beading.



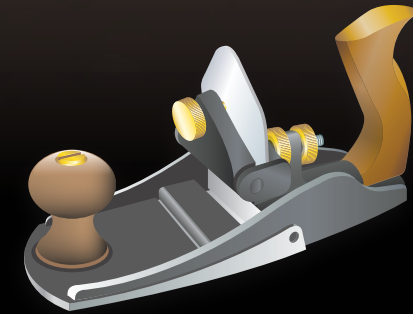
### ROUTER

Good for trimming stopped or through dados and grooves to exact depth. Blades of different widths can often be purchased.



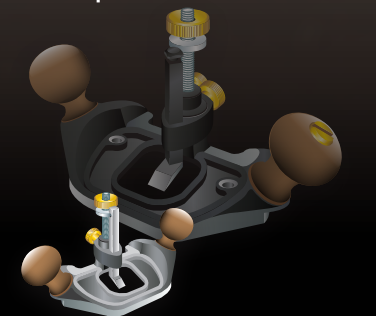
### SHOOTING

A heavy plane dedicated to shooting end grain or mitred pieces in order to leave an exceptionally clean joint. Works with a dedicated jig to hold the workpiece in place while making the pass with the plane.



### SCRAPING

Mid-sized plane for final smoothing, especially when reversing grain or highly figured wood is involved. Looks like a standard plane, but holds a scraper slightly forward of vertical, instead of a blade.



### MINIATURE

Router, rabbet, palm, block, shoulder, etc. - these planes all have the same functionality as their full-sized cousins, but are smaller and much more detail oriented.

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## TIPS

- To get the best results from any hand plane always ensure the blade is sharp and adjusted for the proper depth of cut.
- Some hand planes are available in low-angle versions, which excel at cutting end grain.
- Some hand planes are available in high-angle versions, which excel at cutting figured grain.
- Generally speaking, match the size of the plane to the size of the job. Small planes are best for removing small shavings, while large planes excel at removing larger shavings.