

THE AMATEUR CARPENTER

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The Amateur Carpenter by A. Hyatt Verrill

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A. HYATT VERRILL

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CARPENTER**



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By

A. HYATT VERRILL

Author of "The Boys' Outdoor Vacation Book,"
"An American Crusoe," etc.

WITH OVER 200 DIAGRAMS
BY THE AUTHOR



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CHAPTER I

TOOLS AND THEIR CARE

EVERY one will find a knowledge of carpentering useful and entertaining. About the house, out-of-doors, on the farm, or when camping out, there are always opportunities for the amateur carpenter to show his skill and his handiness with tools and lumber. Although any one can "knock together" some sort of a bench, box or shelves, yet to make a well-finished and presentable job requires a familiarity with tools and their use, as well as a knowledge of how to use the materials to the best advantage and how to accomplish the end in view with the least possible waste of labour and material.

There is a right and a wrong way to do everything, and if you once learn the wrong way it will be very hard to overcome mistakes and do things right, so let's start right in the first place. The old motto, "Be sure you're right, then go ahead," is a splendid slogan for the amateur carpenter.

There is also another proverb which you will

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do well to bear in mind, and that is, "A good carpenter is known by his tools," for without good tools no one can expect to do neat and workman-like carpentry.

One does not require many nor expensive tools in order to do ordinary carpentering, and a really good carpenter or joiner can accomplish wonderful results with only a few tools, but it requires more skill to turn out good work with a poor kit of tools than with a proper equipment, and time and money will be saved by having proper tools to start out with.

On the other hand, too many tools are almost as bad as too few, for if you have a large assortment of saws, planes, chisels, etc., you will be confused and will often select the wrong tool for the work in hand, to say nothing of the trouble of looking after and caring for them.

The really essential tools for an amateur carpenter are as follows:

A claw-hammer	Gouges
A cross-cut saw	A steel square
A rip-saw	Rule or tape
Two planes	A level
A screw-driver	Sandpaper

A mallet	A keyhole- or compass-
A brad-awl	saw
A gimlet	A nail-set
A bit-brace	An oil-stone
Bits	Cutting-pliers
Angers	Files
A countersink	A carpenter's pencil
Chisels	

With these tools and an assortment of nails and screws one can make almost anything from a simple shelf to a house. There are many other useful tools which will greatly lighten your carpenter work and will add little to the expense, and among these are:

A saw-set	Dividers
A carpenter's gauge	A mitre-box
An expansion-bit	A hack-saw
Clamps	A draw-knife
A tack-hammer	An iron vise
A saw-vise	A plumb-bob and line
A bevel-square	A mitre-saw
A breast-drill	

In selecting the tools it is poor economy to buy cheap or inferior things. The best carpenter in

