

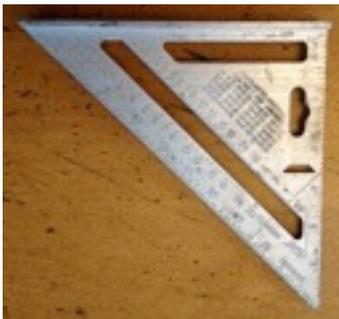
Personal Tools

Basic Skills 101

- The following is a description of the tools you will be expected to bring to class with you. I have included photos of my own personal tool set to help you identify items when you are acquiring your tools (at the store, from your existing personal collection, or borrowed from friends and family).
- I will give my personal opinion about types and styles of tools, but do not endorse one particular brand or style over another. My preference is based on the type of use my tools get (daily heavy use). It makes sense for students to purchase inexpensive tools first and invest in better tools if they decide to pursue more carpentry. Tool choice comes down to personal preference, but it takes some time working with tools to develop that preference. When you are just getting started, it can be nice to know what others recommend. All I require is that the tools you bring function, and **especially that the safety gear is adequate.**
- I always advocate shopping at local outlets for materials and tools. However, the selection and quantity of hand tools at these stores is often inadequate. You may consider shopping online for good deals and high quality, shopping at a local outlet in a larger metropolitan area where there might be greater selection, or visiting one of the big box stores. The big box stores carry a wider variety of tools, and more quantity, but don't offer high end hand tools. What you find there will certainly be adequate for this course.
- Most students have or are able to borrow some or all of the tools on this list. If you need to purchase all the tools, you shouldn't expect to spend more than \$80.
- If you have additional questions, or if the procurement of tools is a financial challenge, please contact info@hammerstoneschool.com.

Tool Belt:

Select a tool belt that has two pouches as well as a hammer loop. Small, lightweight, canvas tool belts with string ties are adequate for the basic skills class, though you will find them frustrating in the long run.



Speed Square:

You will discover how incredibly handy and complex this apparently simple tool is. Metal is preferable to plastic, though plastic will suffice.

Hammer:

Any type of hammer is adequate for the basic skills class, but the long handle and large head of a framing hammer allow you to drive nails faster.





Tape Measure:

Measure twice, cut once! For the basic skills class, a 16' tape is adequate, but if you end up doing more carpentry, you will want one at least 25' long. The wider the tape, the easier it is to use for framing. If you are doing finer woodworking, you will want a more delicate, narrower tape.

Utility Knife:

Also known as a box cutter, the utility knife holds replaceable blades. There are more styles of this tool than you might think. A lot of the new "features" end up being bulky. The features I do appreciate are the quick release button (yellow button near the blade) and the easy access blade storage compartment (yellow plastic at the bottom). This stanley provides those features in a slim design that easily fits in the appropriate pocket in my tool belt.



Carpenter's Pencil:

A short pencil is better than a long memory! this is probably the most used tool in your pouch! Carpenter's pencils are wide and flat, which makes them easy to sharpen with a utility knife, and the point remains useful longer between sharpenings than a normal round pencil. However, any pencil will do, short or long, round or rectangular, as long as it can make a mark.



PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):

Safety is of paramount importance in our classes. In addition to the obvious dangers of cutting tools and ladders, flying objects and dust and loud noises can seriously injure you or cause long term damage. The only injury I've gotten on the job that required medical attention was a wood sliver in my eye (and that was even while wearing safety glasses). I prefer headphone style ear protection to foam earplugs that are inserted into the ear canal, but either style works. Eye protection is a personal preference. Get glasses that are close fitting and comfortable (try them on in tandem with your ear protection - the combination can cause discomfort). I like a scratch resistant coating to make a pair last longer.

