



## Guide to Hammers

Trow & Holden has been making stoneworking hammers for more than 125 years. Located in the heart of granite country, we have access to the ideal testing ground for developing and refining our specialized tools until they are perfectly suited for use. It's important to remember that each Trow & Holden hammer has been designed for a purpose.

From steel specifications and tempering to shape and features, our hammers are designed and manufactured according to their intended function.

Hammers that are hardened and tempered to be swung only for striking stone cannot be used to strike hand tools. Nor can they be set and struck by another hammer. Other hammers have been designed specifically to combine a stone-cutting feature with the added versatility of a striking face.

These hammers are most easily identified by the chamfered edges of their striking face, which resemble the striking end of our hand tools.

As with any Trow & Holden stoneworking tool, take care to regularly maintain your hammer's "like new" shape and check frequently for any signs of unusual wear.

**Do not use a hand tool or hammer if there is a question about its condition or performance. And remember, always wear eye protection.**

To ensure your safety as well as the long life of your hammer, please take time to review this guide and become more familiar with our full collection of hammers and their unique features.

### Striking Hammers

*for tool-striking only*

#### Hand Hammer

Our well-balanced, tempered Hand Hammers are noted for their long-lasting durability, ideal for years of reliable service.



The traditional round-eye Hand Hammer is paired with a narrower handle, which adds a slight bounce to its strike. Offered in 1/4 lb increments, this hammer provides a tailored fit for consistent repetitive strikes.

The oval-eye Hand Hammer helps keep the head of the hammer square with the handle, even as the handle begins to wear. The striking face is also larger, with a slight pitch to help promote solid contact when delivering aggressive blows.

#### Bell Hammer

An alternative to the Hand Hammer, the Bell Hammer will make full contact with hand tools despite misalignments that would otherwise result in painful mis-strikes.



#### Brass Hammer

A perfect soft hammer for lettering or detail carving, the Brass Hammer helps prevent bruising of the stone and reduces chisel shank wear.



#### Round Hand Hammer

Like our other round hammers, the Round Hand Hammer helps deliver a more solid blow every time. However, it is generally reserved for lighter duty application in which the hand may need to switch from a standard position to a more controlled grip around the mallet head. The 1 lb to 1-1/2 lb hammers are medium hard for smaller chisels and finer work; sizes 2 lbs and up are fully hardened for greater impact.



#### Soft Stone Hammer

An annealed (or unhardened) hammer, the Soft Stone Hammer produces a lighter impact, which can provide more control when working in softer stone.





## Dual Purpose Hammers

*for shaping stone and striking other tools*

### Stone Buster

Featuring a carbide stone-splitting blade and hardened striking face, the Stone Buster can be used in three ways: 1) swinging the hammer's carbide splitting blade directly into stone; 2) using the hammer's striking face to strike hand tools; 3) placing the hammer's carbide blade against the stone and striking the back end of the Stone Buster with another striking hammer of comparable weight.



### Hammer Set

A perfect complement to the Stone Buster, the Hammer Set can be used employing the same three techniques listed above. However, the Hammer Set is used for pitching or trimming edges rather than splitting, with a carbide tip that is comparable to Trow & Holden's standard Hand Set.



### Carbide Hammer Point

Like the Stone Buster and Hammer Set, the Hammer Point can be swung directly into stone, set and struck by another striking hammer, or used as a striking hammer. Its rugged carbide point is ideal for aggressive roughing and makes quick work of removing high spots.



### Quarry Buster

Like the smaller Stone Buster, the Quarry Buster can be swung to deliver a powerful splitting blow, or placed on the stone and struck by another hammer of comparable weight. The striking head can also be used to strike other large hammers, such as our Slab Splitter and Bull Set.



### Slab Splitter

Among our heaviest tools for splitting stone, the Slab Splitter should not be swung directly into stone. Using it is a two-person operation in which one person holds the hammer in place, while the other delivers a striking blow with another hammer of comparable weight. The Slab Splitter is available with a steel or carbide tip; however, Carbide Slab Splitters should only be used on polished or sawn stone.



### Bull Set

The Bull Set is designed for roughing out or shaping large blocks of stone. Like the smaller Hammer Set or a standard Hand Set, the flat blade of the Bull Set provides two stone-cutting edges for trimming and shaping. Also a two-person hammer, one person should hold the Bull Set at a slight angle while the other hits the steel striking face with another hammer of comparable weight. Like the Slab Splitter, the Bull Set should not be swung directly into stone, and only swung as a striking hammer. Also like the Slab Splitter, the Carbide Bull Set should only be used on polished or sawn stone.



*NOTE: In addition to being designed for the most aggressive stone splitting, trimming, and pointing applications, all of these hammers also feature wear-resistant striking faces for striking or being struck by other hammers. However, avoid using the steel striking face for hitting stone — this will lead to pitting and unsafe, abnormal wear.*



## Stone Cutting & Trimming Hammers

*for striking stone only*

### Stone Mason's or Mash Hammer

The Stone Mason's or Mash Hammers are made to be swung for stone striking only — they should not be used to hit other hammers or hand tools, nor should they be struck by another hammer. Use the flat, square face for stone trimming, and the blade for splitting. Available in steel or with a carbide-tipped splitting blade.



### Ultimate Mash Hammer

The Ultimate Mash Hammer features a more rugged carbide tip in its splitting blade, as well as a slightly concave trimming face with carbide trimming edges.



### Trimming Hammers

Trimming hammers come in a variety of styles and weights, with steel or carbide tips. Like the Mash Hammer, they are also used to split, trim and square stone edges, but their more slender profile makes them particularly balanced and accurate. Available with double concave trimming faces or with a splitting blade and trimming face, the symmetric design of our Trimming Hammers allows you to turn the hammer's head over on the handle for more even wear. For easier resharping, the concave trimming faces have been shaped to match the contour of small 6" or 8" diameter grinding wheels.



### Double Blade Mason's Hammer

The Double Blade Mason's Hammer features two splitting blades, one horizontal and one vertical, both with our most rugged carbide tips for heavy-duty splitting.



### Stinger

One of our newer carbide hammers, the Stinger combines a carbide-tipped splitting blade with a carbide-tipped point. This versatile hammer is great for pointing, splitting, trimming, or splitting in any stone, and it is available with a vertical or horizontal blade.



### Mallorcan Hammer

Available only in steel, the Mallorcan has been crafted after a traditional style hammer native to Spanish dry stack stonewalling. Featuring a pick and trimming face with a dimpled recess, this hammer is perfect for moderate pointing, texturing, and trimming carried out while building dry stack stonewalls.



### Rock Pick

These specialized 16 oz and 24 oz Vaughn® hammers have been fitted with Trow & Holden's industry-leading carbide to offer enhanced durability and performance. Available in three head configurations, these hammers are ideal for trimming and texturing thin stone. However, ***these hammers should only be used to strike stone, and special care should be taken to make clean, square contact with stone surfaces.*** Making uneven contact with the stone (including irregular surfaces) will quickly lead to chipped or broken carbide.





## Specialized Hammers

*for striking stone only*

### Solid Tooth Bush Hammer

For shaping, texturing, or smoothing stone, Solid Tooth Bush Hammers will leave a stippled finish on a stone surface. Consider using steel Bush Hammers for more aggressive applications, as the steel teeth are more forgiving. Like the Rock Pick, the Carbide Bush Hammer requires square and even contact with the stone surface to avoid uneven wear or breakage.



### Carbide Mill Pick

Traditionally used for redressing the grinding surfaces of mill stones, the



Mill Pick is handy for chiseling lines into stone or dressing edges. While the Mill Pick can also be used for light trimming of thin stone, the over-swinging required to shape thick pieces of hard stone can result in a broken handle.

### Carbide Mosaic Hammer & Hardie

A duo designed to be used as a set, the Mosaic Hammer and Hardie are traditionally used for cutting tile for detailed mosaic work. The point of the Hardie gets driven securely into a block of wood, leaving the hardened steel chisel edge as a fulcrum for precisely placing and cutting mosaic materials with the Mosaic Hammer.



## About Hammer Handles

### Handle Types

All Trow & Holden hammers are available with wood or fiberglass handles. In some instances, a handle will be included in the price of a hammer because we feel it is best suited to the hammer's use. Either wood or fiberglass replacement handles can be purchased separately if needed. When choosing a handle, consider the following:

**Wooden handles** generally absorb more vibration, can be more susceptible to changes in work environment, which may lead to loosening or breakage; and replacements are easier to install and less expensive.

**Fiberglass handles** provide increased durability; feature thick rubber grips to help reduce handle vibration and slippage; are permanently installed using heavy-duty epoxy; and may not be appropriate for hammers designed to be flipped periodically for even wear of alternate trimming edges (e.g., Trimming Hammers, Mash Hammers, etc.).

### Installation & Care

Over the course of normal usage, wooden handles may loosen within the hammer eye. As needed,

drive additional steel shims into the top of the handle to take up excess looseness (do not use nails or screws). Additionally, let the hammer head and top of handle soak in linseed oil. The oil will be absorbed through the top of the handle, causing the wood to swell and tighten within the hammer eye.

When installing fiberglass handles, clear a sturdy, level space where the hammer head and handle can be left undisturbed for 24–48 hours at room temperature. Use wood or metal shims to hold the handle plumb in the hammer eye while the epoxy cures.

### Replacement Handles

When ordering a replacement handle, be sure to note the style and weight of your hammer. This will help determine the proper replacement.

Handle sizes and styles have been carefully considered and matched to each hammer's weight, style, and intended use. Excessive handle wear or breakage may be an indication of improper hammer usage. However, should you experience abnormal handle movement or breakage during normal usage, please contact Trow & Holden directly for service.