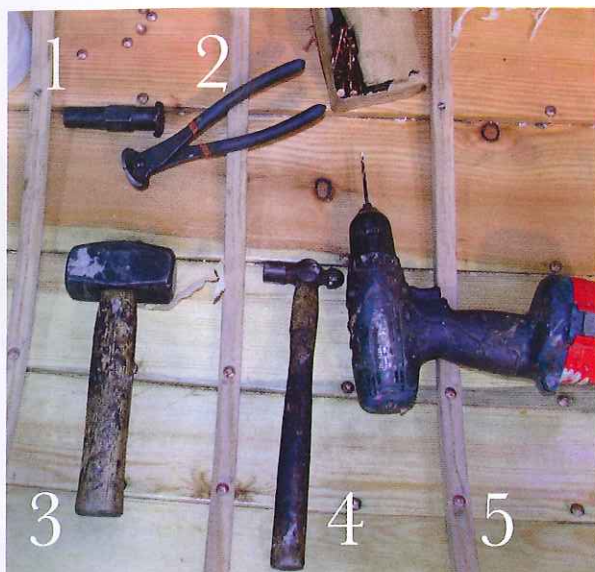


Boatbuilder's Notes



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Riveting (or boring)

BY ADRIAN MORGAN

These are the simple tools needed to build a clinker boat. Well, you need a few more for the planking – planes, screwdrivers and suchlike – but to rivet the planks together you can do it all, singlehanded, with this little lot.

The sequence is: drill hole from the inside through the plank land; drive through nail – from the outside; place rove on nail; hold roving tool onto rove; tap nail head with

hammer, while pushing down on roving tool; once rove is flush with the plank, snip off excess copper nail. Back up nail using lump hammer on the nail head, peen cut nail over the rove using gentle, small taps, starting round the base of the nail to set the rove, before hitting the nail directly. These tools (left) have built 14 boats and repaired nearly as many. NB: here I am roving up a 3ft (90cm) cradle boat. Size up accordingly!

1 Roving implement: Mine is simply an old bottlescrew barrel.

2 Pincers: To clip off the exposed end of the nail once the rove has been driven down over it.

3 Lump hammer: This is my backing up weight. You can use anything that provides a heavy, firm, solid surface which you hold against the head of the nail.

4 Ball peen hammer: Of various weights, this one is good for the 12-gauge copper nails I customarily use on small boats. Larger nails, heavier hammer, although it is a question of lots of small taps, rather than clouting the nails, the aim being to achieve a nicely rounded, peened-over rove

5 Drill: The hole should be the diameter of the flats of the nail (not the corner) – in other words, a little tight.



6 Driving nail through land using ball peen hammer outside and claw hammer inside to stop bounce

7 Setting the rove using the flat of the ball peen hammer to drive rove down over nail (bottlescrew over rove)

8 Snipping off the excess nail

9 Peening over the nail by chasing around the rove. Finish with a few light taps on the cut nail end. Tap lightly and often directly on the nail to avoid crippling it inside the wood



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