

TRIMMING A BLOCK OF WOOD



With a little effort, a bit – a hand tool for woodworking – can be used to trim a rough block of wood into a fine finished surface by using specialty chisels (=wood removing operation). The oldest wood bits date back to Roman times (found in Pompeii). They already succeeded in trimming blocks to desired thickness and width, but the real rise came in de Middle Ages, where every craftsman made his own bits, especially while instrument making and in construction areas.

Meter Stamp Postalia type F ↑



Industrial production broke through in the 18th century. At the end of that century the 'double chisel' (=shaft and reversing in one) was invented. As the reversing chisel bends the wood chip into shavings, everything gets less clogged and it is therefore more pleasant to use.

Special cancellation →

Although the wooden bits survived for centuries, around 1860 the metal planer was developed by Bailey. They gradually gained interest. They were and are is produced by Stanley. The chisel in the bit must be properly adjusted: firstly parallel to the flat layer, secondly according to the thickness of the shaving. The planing position also matters.



The metal bit is used in above carpenter's workhouse. Above the flat layer, the button presses into the wood and further the handle pushes the bit itself.

Illustrated postal stationery – Congo 1929 ↑