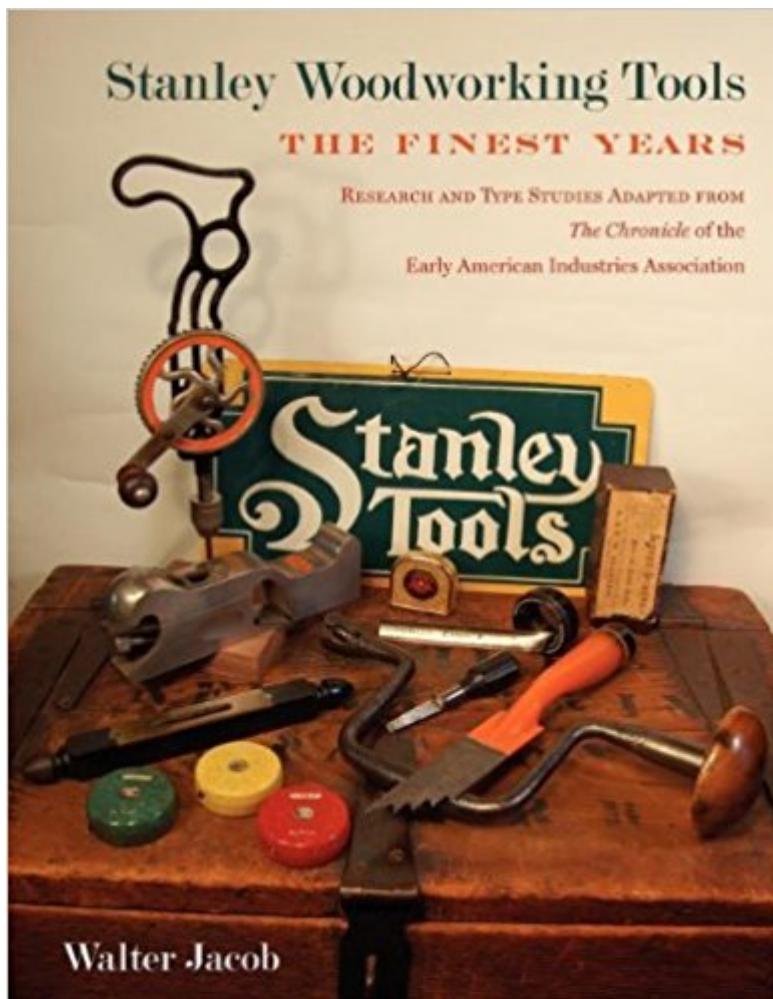


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# Stanley Woodworking Tools: The Finest Years



## **Synopsis**

For more than fifteen years, Walter Jacob has been writing about Stanley Tools for The Chronicle, the quarterly journal of The Early American Industries Association, Inc. STANLEY WOODWORKING TOOLS: THE FINEST YEARS, for the first time adapts his original research and type studies to book format. Not just a reference book, this is a book meant to be enjoyed. John G. Wells, author and collector says: "He has the rare talent to lead the reader through the labyrinth of history and unveil the fascinating story of Stanley's finest years of tools."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Love this book

Has many interesting facts and is an overview of a certain period in time of Stanley Tool Co. Not an exhaustive study.

This is a story - if you want a history without true details this is your quick read - never to be looked at again book. If you want a valued research and identification guide, this text is not for you.

Excellent

Great book !

It was a gift for my father and he loved it. Why do I need so many words to review it?

Stanley Woodworking Tools, The Finest Years, by Walter Jacob presents the inside stories behind many of the tools that Stanley and their amazing group of creative people produced. The 28 chapters in this book lead the reader through major categories of tools, marketing materials and memorabilia. It begins with the early history of A. Stanley & Co, later the Stanley Rule & Level Co, and its acquisition of Hall & Knapp, makers of levels, and try squares; Seth Savage & Co, early rule makers and E. A. Sterns, rule makers of great distinction. It goes on to describe using a Blanchard duplicating lathe to make wooden handles for every sort of tool from axes and adzes to sewing-awls. Stanley put on a big display at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia showing all of the tools they made at that time. Next the book covers miter boxes and a line of adjustable Cabinet Makers Rabbet Planes. The fascinating article on the Stanly Odd-Jobs is an excellent example of the author's dedication to detail and his ability to tell an engaging story about a simple but very interesting tool. Then wooden folding zigzag rules are explored investigating every variation of the spring joint and the units of measure that were needed by their international users. When zigzag rules dropped out of favor Stanley was ready with tape measures, which begins with one of the most fascinating tales in the book: Hiram Farrand's long search for a steel rule that would be flexible for measuring curves, rigid for measuring straight surfaces, and that could be coiled up into a neat small package. The book goes on to screwdrivers, bit braces, hand drills and breast drills; then it covers Beryllium tools, garden tools and plumb bobs. A foray into tools for the householder opened the door for the Stanley Four-Square tools, and the most entertaining marketing graphics that anyone ever created. The Stanley Rule & Level Co. and Stanley Works ' a producer of builder's hardware ' merged in 1920 and the sweetheart trade mark was born. Wonderful marketing material for the Christmas season, Stanley pocket catalogs, and Stanley memorabilia complete this very enjoyable book. Stanley Woodworking Tools, the Finest Years, by Walter Jacob contains a wealth of useful information presented in a delightful manner. It is a must have for everyone who has any interested in using or collecting tools or who has any interest in the industrial revolution in America and the important role that Stanley and their quality tools played in it.

Stanley Woodworking Tools, The Finest Years by Walter Jacob is a fantastic compendium of a series of articles assembled from the pages of The Chronicle, the journal of the Early American

Industries Association. Each article is accompanied by photographs and patent drawings. There's a wealth of information for anyone with even a passing interest in hand tools, the Stanley Rule & Level Company, or the American Industrial Revolution. This would be a great gift for those tool fanatics in your life!

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