



June 2007

# Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024

Reproduction of Stanley #1 - See <http://www.supertool.com/601.htm> - yours for only \$595-

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Editor: Trevor Pope ([tpope AT iafrica.com](mailto:tpope@iafrica.com)). All written content and opinions are those of the editor, unless stated. © Copyright reserved.

Go to <http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/tpope/homepage.html> for back issues of Crosscut.

**Next Main Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> June** from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Talk on a new range of wood finishes by Timberlife.

**Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> June** at 18h00 at the new WWA clubhouse at REEA. Buddy Lawson will give a demo on chasing threads by hand.

## News

**May Main Club Meeting.** At the AGM, the previous committee agreed to stand and was duly elected. Two additional members (Paul and Richard) were co-opted onto the committee. Paul will assist Dave with organising topics for meetings and the prizes for the year-end braai. Richard will assist with the monthly Raffle and the Show-and-Tell. Norman Cheerin showed a simple method of staining using a spirit based stain. He also managed to squeeze in the odd joke.

The 2007/2008 committee members and their contact details are listed here:

Chairperson	Jenny Tomlinson	082 885 5090	(011) 613-8341	<a href="mailto:jenny@regency.co.za">jenny@regency.co.za</a>
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Turner's Rep.	Steve Barrett	083 556 2690	(011) 408-8910 (w)	<a href="mailto:Steven.barrett@liberty.co.za">Steven.barrett@liberty.co.za</a>

**May Turner's Meeting.** At the turner's section AGM, Shorty Oberholzer, Rick Florence and Grant Mansell-James stood down and three new members were elected. John Speedy and Dries Blignaut demonstrated methods to mount work using hot-melt glue. This is useful for remounting pieces that are finished on one side. They can be mounted on the reverse side so that the other side can be finished. They showed different approaches for centring pieces once glued, before the glue cools and sets. John's approach is a simple one, mostly working by eye. Dries uses a special jig, custom made for him by Lionel, to reduce the uncertainty to a minimum. Both techniques can give an accurately remounted platter.

The members of the 2007/2008 turner's section committee are:

Chairperson	Steve Barrett	083 556 2690	(011) 408-8910 (w)	<a href="mailto:Steven.barrett@liberty.co.za">Steven.barrett@liberty.co.za</a>
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	Chris van Heeswijk		0824692964	<a href="mailto:Cvanhees@goldfields.co.za">Cvanhees@goldfields.co.za</a>

## From the committee:

**Clubhouse Floor.** The levelling and painting of the floor was completed just in time for the first meetings of May. A durable grey epoxy coating was applied and this should stand up to many years of wear and tear. Thanks to Costa for organising and supervising this work. It has made the clubhouse much more habitable.

**Training.** Don't forget to consult the list of courses on the notice board. Payment for courses booked will be in advance, to ensure attendance.

**Toymakers.** The toymakers meet on the first and third Monday of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the new clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on (011) 678-8062 or [renato@pixie.co.za](mailto:renato@pixie.co.za) for more information.

**Wednesday Workshop.** The Wednesday evening workshop is on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Winston Klein on (011) 674-1513 for more information.

### For Sale:

**Router** – Startel Pro 1900W, with 12 bits, micrometer depth gauge, variable speed, spindle lock and rubber grips. Brand new, not used. Asking R1000-. Contact Ivor Appleton on 011 646 3034 after hours.

**Dewalt planer / thicknesser model dw50.** Excellent condition - fully reconditioned. R4500-00.

**Ryobi thicknesser model ap-10.** Made in Japan. R1500-00. Contact Norman Cheerin on 082.443-7325.

Approximately **3 cubic metres of timber**, including Iroko, Meranti, Imbuia, etc. Sizes range from 600mm to 1200mm. Please contact Russell on 076 972 4999 or [rgerlag@mf.co.za](mailto:rgerlag@mf.co.za). Russell is based in the south of Johannesburg.

## Adjusting and Using the Stanley Number 78 Rebate Plane

Trevor Pope

The first section is copied from <http://www.supertool.com/StanleyBG/stan10.htm> - by Patrick Leach - well written and duly acknowledged.

### **#78 Duplex fillister and rabbet plane, 8 1/2"L (8 1/4", 1936 on), 1 1/2"W, 3lbs, 1885-1973.**

This is another popular Stanley plane, on which the company built a great fortune. Nearly every workman of the time had one of these planes in their kits. This plane was so popular and functional, that it still is made today. Any hand tool enthusiast should consider this plane, or one like it, be it a competitor's or a wooden version, as part of his arsenal.

The plane has two beds for the cutter - one positioned for normal work, and the other for bull-nose work. The cutter has no cap iron, and is held in place by a thumb screw activated lever cap. Earlier models, with the common floral vines cast into the handle, required hand adjustment to set the iron, but



in 1925, a lever, which engages machined grooves in the backside of the iron, was provided to accomplish this. Around 1910, the handle has a fish scale-like pattern cast into it.

There is an adjustable depth stop on the right hand side of the plane, secured in place by a thumb screw. Directly below the depth stop, is a three-pronged spur to score the grain that sits flush with the side of the plane. It can be turned up out of the way when it isn't needed. There is no spur on the left of the plane.

A rod, threaded on one end, is used as the arm on which the fence is secured. The arm can be attached either to the left of the plane, for working right-handed, or to the right of the plane, for reversing the plane to work left-handed. This is a nice feature designed to handle problem grain while working. However, there is no provision for the depth stop on the left side of the plane, so you'll need to plane to a gauged line, or do it by eye, when using the plane left-handed. The threaded rod has a hole drilled through it on its end. This hole permits a nail, or something similar, to pass through it in order to tighten or loosen the rod. Many of the rods are bent right where the threads start so check this area by unscrewing the rod - you'll notice whether it's bent as you unscrew it.

The fence is secured to the arm with a thumb screw. Sometimes you'll find examples where the thumb screw is replaced with a slotted round head screw. This is due either to the thumb screw being misplaced, or the original thumb screw being stripped. Also, the fence is sometimes broken; when the fence is attached to the left side of the plane, the back portion of the fence is longer than the front portion by about 3/4". Look at the fence, with the thumb screw toward you. The aperture for the arm should noticeably be to the left.

This plane is often found with parts missing - most often it is the depth stop and/or fence. You can usually scrounge parts from other models, but this approach usually ends up costing you more for an assembled one than it does for buying a complete one. It's also possible to find the plane with the section of the sole ahead of the bull nose bed snapped off. Some guys ground this section off so that they could use the plane as a chisel plane or to worked stopped rabbets right to their very end, which can't be done with this portion of the sole present. Planes that were accidentally broken will have the section brazed back onto the main casting.



The #78 pictured with its original box dates from the 1920's, with the most obvious clue being the depth adjustment lever for the cutter. It has the common decal on the handle, which Stanley applied to many of their planes and other hand tools. It can be found applied to the totes on the Bailey and Bed Rock bench planes, special purpose planes such as this one, sliding bevels, try squares, etc. The block planes and some of the other smaller planes, like the #95, used a smaller decal that's noticeably yellow (see the #220 for an

example of this decal).

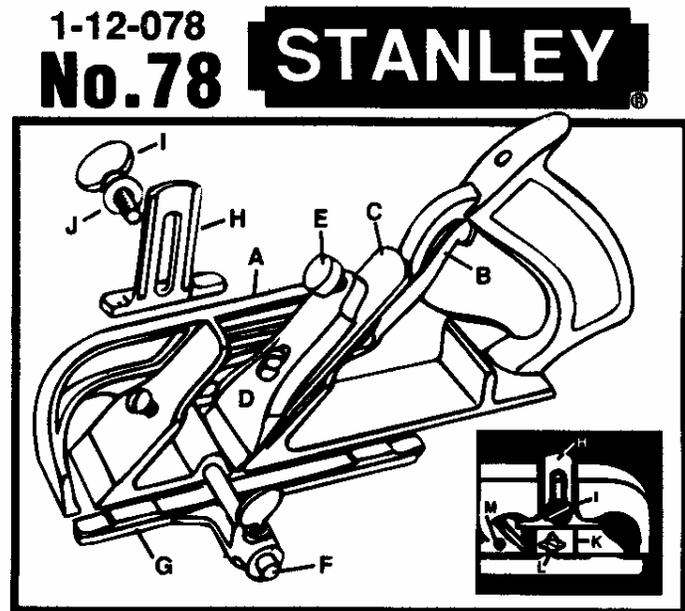
This #78 also illustrates another common occurrence with Stanley - the use of early labels on boxes of later planes. The label on this plane, often called the "picture label" because of the line

drawing of the tool contained within, was in widespread use starting around 1905. When this plane was made, Stanley was in the midst of what is known as the sweetheart era, where tools have the heart logo stamped in them somewhere. Even the box labels had a tiny heart on them as part of the logo. However, Stanley was also frugal in their unwillingness to toss something that was still perfectly usable, in this case a label. So, here is a plane made during the 1920's with a label used a few decades earlier. Keep in mind that it's impossible to date accurately Stanley stuff by the boxes alone. Generally, the latest feature on the tool, in this case the label, is the more accurate clue to the plane's approximate date of manufacture.

<End of extract from Patrick's web site>

### Adjustment and tuning of the #78

The term rebate or rabbet plane is refers to a plane without fences or depth stops. When the plane is fitted with a fence and depth stop as shown, it is also called a fillister plane. The Stanley #78 is the most common rebate/fillister plane and as recorded above, has been produced for over a century. It is still used and is widely available second hand as a result. It has a square blade and a single spur or nicker on the right-hand side. A single rod projecting from the left side supports the fence, as you can see from the diagram. The design of the Record #778 is slightly better in this respect in that it has two rods to support the fence, which is more rigid as a result.



When buying second hand, be sure to properly inspect the plane for cracks and missing parts. As mentioned above, sometimes the front toe is broken off and often the fence and depth stop are missing. Spares are still available from Stanley. Quote the plane model and the name of the part from the list below, to get the right parts.

<i>DUPLEX RABBET PLANE</i>	
A	Plane Body
B	Adjusting Lever
C	Plane Iron or Cutter
D	Lever Cap
E	Lever Cap Screw
F	Fence Arm
G	Fence
H	Depth Gauge
I	Depth Gauge Screw
J	Washer
K	V-slide for Depth Gauge
L	Spur
M	Screw Hole for Fence Arm

The #78 can be used for making fine adjustments to tenons, but if you have one, a shoulder plane (Stanley #90, #92 or #93 or equivalent) with a finely set mouth and low blade angle may be better. To fine tune the width of a groove a Stanley #79 side rebate plane can be used after the #78 has done the heavy cutting.

Continued next month.