

◀ Siegley bench plane patent drawing

Secretary: Kenneth Jackson [secretary@wwa.org.za](mailto:secretary@wwa.org.za) Editor: Trevor Pope [tpope@iafrica.com](mailto:tpope@iafrica.com)

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# Crosscut

**Next Turners' meeting – Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024** from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Topic - Turning table legs – from square to round – Herman Potgieter and John Speedy

**Next Main club meeting – Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024** from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Software tools to support cabinet making – designing and costing of projects – by Graham Swallow.

New WWA Account number. **FNB 63026931287** – please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **full name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**.

## News

**Turners' meeting. Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024** from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Many tools such as files come without handles, or the handles are in a poor state. Trevor demonstrated the making of a simple tool handle for a tool with a tang. The geometry of the tang and the hole needed to hold it were explained. The importance of the ferrule was emphasised, with one made and fitted to show how to. Then the handle was shaped and friction-polished using Carnuba wax. The picture on the right shows this step. The handle was then parted off. Armed with this knowledge, wood-turners have no excuse for missing or broken handles.



**Main club meeting – Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024** from 18h00 at **Made in Workshop** – Buying Chinese – a talk by Mike Aldous on his experiences of buying tools from Chinese web sites – what is good and what to avoid. Mike emphasised that all the usual e-commerce issues apply, but are made worse because of language difficulties and the remoteness of the suppliers. He said that many of the descriptions are written using Google translate, so they require careful reading, to ensure you know exactly what you are getting. Billing should be in our local currency, and a payment service such as Paypal or a virtual credit-card improves safety. Use a dedicated shipper, not the local post office, if you want to get your goods in a reasonable time. Shipping costs can overwhelm the initial cost, so be aware. Mike mentioned some more reliable suppliers and tools that he has had success with.



**WWA AGM – 2024**. The 2024 Annual General Meeting for the Wits Woodworking Association took place at the Main Club meeting on Wednesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 18h00 at **MiW**. A new

committee was elected and will meet for the first time in June to allocate portfolios and office bearers. The minutes have been distributed by email – please refer to these for more details. The membership fees for the next year have been confirmed and remain unchanged. You should have seen an email from the secretary as follows:

Membership Type	Annual Fees
Ordinary Members	R600
Country Members (Residing outside of Gauteng and at the approval of the Committee)	R100
Scholars	R100

These membership fees are applicable for the year starting 1 May 2024, ending 30 April 2025.

Please can you pay your fees into our FNB bank account using your name followed by the word “SUBS” as a reference.

The banking details are included in the Crosscut Newsletter each month and included below for convenience:

Bank: First National Bank  
 Account Name: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association  
 Account Number: 63026931287  
 Reference: Please provide your name followed by “SUBS”

Please do not pay any amounts into our old Nedbank account as the account has been closed and any amounts paid into this account will be forfeited.



2 - 5 May 2024  
 09h00 - 17h00 daily  
 Kyalami Grand Prix  
 Circuit, JHB

**Hobby-X** has now passed. From a wood-working point of view, there were not many of the usual suppliers such as Hardware Centre, Tork craft, Adendorfs, etc, partly due to the high cost of exhibiting.

Here are some more pictures of the show. Thanks to Jeanette and Rudi for the pictures.

messe frankfurt





**Reminder - New WWA Account number.** Due to ongoing difficulties in changing signatories and poor service from Nedbank, the committee resolved to change banks. Anesh, our treasurer has opened an account with **FNB** and requests that all payments be made into this new account: **63026931287** – please add this to your beneficiaries list. Please make sure that your payment can be identified by adding your **name**, perhaps cell number and **reason for payment**. Annotations such as “annual subs” or “WWA shirt” without your name are not helpful – Anesh will not be able to trace your payment. Please note that the **Nedbank account will be inactive from the 01<sup>st</sup> April 2024**, so any funds paid into the Nedbank account may be forfeited.

### Access times for **Made in Workshop** for WWA members :

MiW times for WWA members are as follows

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9AM to 12AM. However please take note of the following: WWA members CANNOT just arrive at MiW and use machines unless they have booked them with MiW. This refers to the bookable machines such as the panel saw, thicknesser/planer, drum sander, spindle moulder as well as CNC machines of any kind.

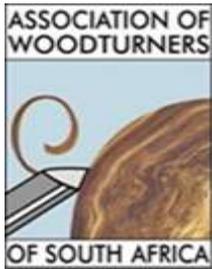
Machines such as the bandsaw and the Triton router table need no booking.

Henry also requires that all the major machines may only be used if the WWA member is familiar and fully understands the importance of the correct and safe use of these machines. Speak to Graham regarding training and qualification to use machines.

Bookings can be made during office hours of 8h00 to 17h00, weekdays by contacting one of these numbers:  
Henry – 083-269 9505; Josh – 083-768 7853; or Trenton – 081-365 6039

### Schedule for Regular Events at **Made in Workshop**

1. Second Saturday of month at 9h00 - Herman – all things turning related – 083 631 0501  
[hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com](mailto:hermanpotgieteresq@gmail.com)
  2. **Show & Tell** meetings are held at Hardware Centre every Friday Morning at 09:30. All WWA members welcome. Contact Eugene on 0824953394 or [eugene@antlerfin.co.za](mailto:eugene@antlerfin.co.za)
- This list is subject to change, so please consult your *Crosscut* each month for any updates.



**SEPT**  
20th - 23rd '24

**AWSA SYMPOSIUM**

For further info contact:  
Gert Ferreira on 083 265 5835 or [info@awsa.org.za](mailto:info@awsa.org.za)



**AWSA Annual Symposium.**  
The date and venue for the 2024 AWSA symposium have been announced. It will take place at the Northlink College, Tygerberg Campus in Panorama, Cape Town from the 20

**International Guest Turner**  
**~ PHIL IRONS ~**

**@ Northlink Tygerberg Campus**  
Rothschild Boulevard,  
Panorama, Cape Town

Hosted By:



**No one who loves the woods stays on the path.**  
Millie Florence

to 23 September 2024. The main demonstrator will be Phil Irons who is a regular visitor to Cape Town. There will be a main demonstration room as well as two break-away rooms with demonstrations, so there will be a lot to see and take in.

Phil Irons will probably do three demos, which he describes as follows:

- 1. How I create my hollow forms** with emphasis on shape, form and proportion, chucking and hollowing technique.
- 2. Kintsugi for wood.** How I make a feature of splits, cracks, worn holes etc rather than trying to disguise them with sawdust and superglue.
- 3. Colouring to enhance.** How I use spirit stains to bring out the hidden figure in white woods with contemporary coloured spirit stains.



## Mystery Hand-plane

Trevor Pope

If you attended the AGM and Main Club meeting in May, you may have seen my mystery plane. Alistair gave this to me, covered in rust and missing the blade and cap iron. It has no identifying marks at all, so its maker was a mystery.

Various people sent me suggestions, but none matched. A Google reverse-image search wasn't much help either. After more Googling, I did manage to identify the make and model as a **Siegley #8 dating from between 1892 and 1901**, from pictures of a few similar ones for sale. There weren't any exact matches however.

The plane body is the size of a typical Stanley No.8 with a 65mm cutter width. The sole is corrugated top and bottom, which is most unusual. The blade and the cap iron are missing, but I found some pictures of these. Both would have had identifying markings on them. Later versions of the plane had the name cast onto the top of the body.

The frog has an unusual cruciform shape, and above it is a cross-pin between the two sides, which is used to hold down the cap iron. The middle picture shows that the sole is corrugated and is about 60 cm long.

This picture shows the adjustable mouth. Because the frog is fixed to the sole, an adjustable insert is used to allow the width of the mouth to be set by slackening off two screws on the top side.



There are a couple of type studies on the internet that show similar planes, but nothing exactly the same as my example. These pictures from one study show what the blade and cap iron probably looked like.

One unresolved feature of my #8 is the extra holes in the sides – I'm not sure what purpose these serve. Suggestions?

The plane body in the picture on the left is a #4 size and the cap iron is marked 5, so it is the wrong one, but no matter, it clearly shows the design of the cap iron and tensioning screw.

(This #4 also has an adjustable mouth, but the insert is missing.)

Here is a close-up of the cap iron. There are two grub screws that are used to adjust the location of the cap iron.



The next picture shows the depth adjustment mechanism and how it engages in slots on the rear of the blade.



This picture shows the two prongs on the top of the adjustment yoke, which engage in the slots on the back of the blade. In the example I have, one of the prongs is broken off, so this picture shows how it should be.

### Why did Siegley choose this particular design?

If you look at the history of Siegley planes:

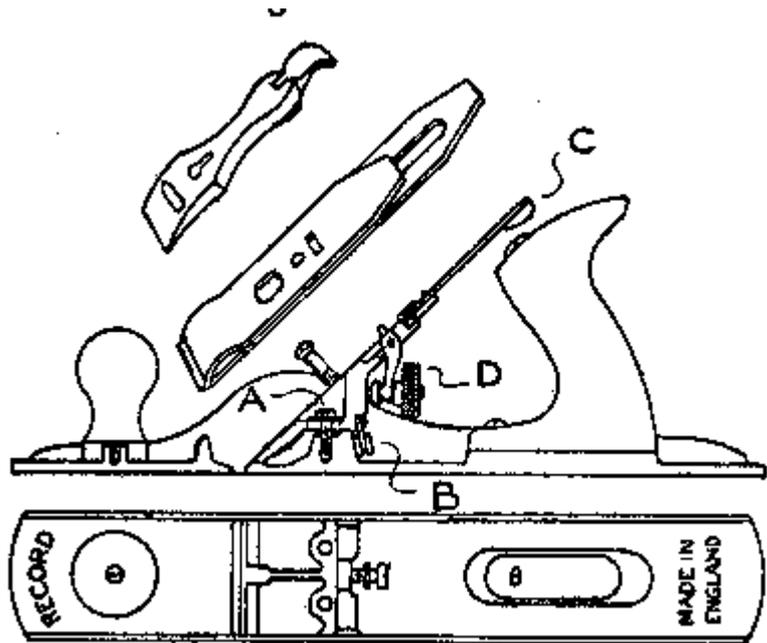
“Siegley only made bench planes for about 9 nine years, from 1892 until 1901, at which time Stanley bought his plane manufacturing business.”

Subsequent models were made by Stanley. Design changes were made and this unusual frog, blade and cap iron design was superseded.

The reason for this unusual design, was to work around the Bailey patents held by Stanley. In the Siegley design, the cap iron serves two purposes – to hold down the blade and to serve as a chip breaker.



Referring to the diagrams for commonly available Bailey patent planes, you can see that these have a cap iron that acts as a chip breaker, and a separate lever cap (4) that holds down the blade and cap iron assembly. Cutting depth adjustment of the Bailey is effected by the Y lever or yoke (7) that protrudes above the frog, through a long slot in the blade and engages in a narrow slot in the cap iron.



To adjust the width of the mouth of the Bailey patent planes, the frog hold-down screws (A or 10) are slackened to allow the frog (6) to be moved forwards and backwards by turning screw (B or 46).

With the Siegley plane, the frog is fixed to the sole, so the width of the mouth is adjusted by moving the plate at the front of the mouth. This particular model of Siegley has no lateral adjuster (C or 9) so the blade must be moved side to side by tapping on the sides, as was done in older planes.

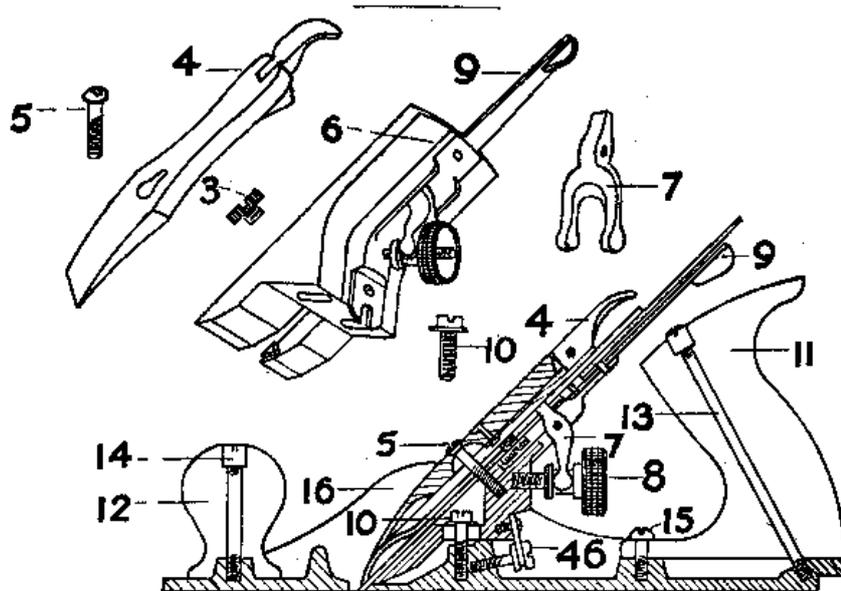


Fig. 22.—Parts of Record Planes.  
 3—Cap Screw. 4—Lever Cap. 5—Lever Cap Screw. 6—Frog, complete.  
 7—"Y" Adjusting Lever. 8—Adjusting Nut. 9—Lateral Adjusting Lever.  
 10—Frog Screw. 11—Plane Handle. 12—Plane Knob. 13—Handle Bolt and Nut.  
 14—Knob Bolt and Nut. 15—Handle Toe Screw. 16—Plane Body.  
 46—Frog Adjusting Screw.

On Bailey planes, the cap iron is set back from the cutting edge by an amount that depends on the use of the plane – fine or coarse work. On the Siegley, this adjustment is effected by the two grub screws you can see on the cap iron in the picture of the #5 above.

On the Siegley, this adjustment is effected by the two grub screws you can see on the cap iron in the picture of the #5 above.

**To make this Siegley #8 work as a plane again,** it will need a new blade and cap iron (4). Also, the top of the Y piece (7) will need to be repaired. A new blade needs slots milled on the rear side, which will require a milling machine and a special cutter. I think a more practical way will be to use a conventional Bailey pattern blade and cap iron, so that the depth adjustment works the same as the Bailey patent. The Y-piece (7) needs to be repaired or replaced anyway, so a stock Bailey one may fit. One unresolved issue will be the cap-iron screw fouling with the frog – I'm not sure how to deal with yet.

The lever cap (4) can be fabricated - cut and filed from mild steel or even brass stock. The hold-down thumb screw can be threaded through the lever cap, like the #5 Siegley example above. A #8 blade is available from various sources overseas. Alternatively, the blade and cap iron can be fabricated. To make the blade, K460 gauge plate can be worked in the annealed state. For the cap iron, mild steel plate can be bent to suit. K460 gauge plate is Bohler's equivalent of O1 carbon steel, which is ideal for plane blades. It may be available in 3mm thickness, if not, then 4mm will also do.

It is debatable whether this work will be worth it. The plane is rare, but it is not complete. It will probably make a good user plane for someone who wants a #8 and is prepared to fabricate the missing parts and repair the Y-piece.