

Woodworking chisels range from small hand tools for tiny details, to large chisels used to remove big sections of wood, in 'roughing out' the shape of a pattern or design. Typically, in woodcarving, one starts with a larger tool, and gradually progresses to smaller tools to finish the detail. One of the largest types of chisel is the slick, used in timber frame construction and wooden shipbuilding. There are many types of woodworking chisels used for specific purposes, such as:

Firmer chisel

has a blade with a thick rectangular cross section, making them stronger for use on tougher and heavier work.

Bevel edge chisel

can get into acute angles with its bevelled edges.

Mortise chisel

thick, rigid blade with straight cutting edge and deep, slightly tapered sides to make mortises and similar joints.

Paring chisel

has a long blade ideal for cleaning grooves and accessing tight spaces.

Skew chisel

has a 60 degree cutting angle and is used for trimming and finishing across the grain.

Dovetail chisel

made specifically for cutting dovetail joints. The difference being the thickness of the body of the chisel, as well as the angle of the edges, permitting easier access to the joint.

Butt chisel

short chisel with beveled sides and straight edge for creating joints.

Carving chisels

used for intricate designs and sculpting; cutting edges are many; such as gouge, skew, parting, straight, paring, and V-groove.

Corner chisel

resembles a punch and has an L-shaped cutting edge. Cleans out square holes, mortises and corners with 90 degree angles.

Flooring chisel

cuts and lifts flooring materials for removal and repair; ideal for tongue-and-groove flooring.

Framing chisel

usually used with mallet; similar to a butt chisel, except it has a longer, slightly flexible blade.

Slick

a very large chisel driven by manual pressure, never struck.

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[Sharpening](#)