

Planishing Hammers

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Hand Tools



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Planishing hammers smooth and shape sheet metal by hammering it against a shaped stake or dolly, closing the stretched areas and refining curves. The polished face leaves a smooth hammered finish on car, sculpture and panel work.

Key Features

- Polished faces in various radii
- Cross-peen and ball-peen shapes
- Weighted heads for controlled blows
- Wooden or metal handles
- Matched sets with dollies

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Smooth hammered panels after wheeling
- Shape and shrink metal on stakes
- Finish edges and seams on metalwork
- Planishing soft metals for jewellery

Safe Operation

1. Choose the hammer face for the shape
2. Hold the work on the correct stake or dolly
3. Blow firmly and progressively across the panel
4. Work from the outside toward the centre
5. Check the surface and re-crown where needed

SAFETY NOTES

- Wear eye protection - scale and particles fly
- Check the hammer head is secure on the handle
- Keep hands away from the strike area
- Use the correct dolly for the job
- Store hammers face down on wood

Maintenance & Consumables

- Keep faces clean and polished
- Repair or replace loose handles
- Check for mushrooming on the faces
- Wipe with an oily cloth
- Store in the metalwork tool rack

Specification & Buying Notes

A set of planishing hammers with different face radii plus a few stakes or dollies covers the range. Quality forged heads give consistent blows. Match the hammer to the sheet gauge worked.