

Claw Hammers

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



Photo: Evan-Amos — Public domain — via Wikimedia Commons (Claw-hammer.jpg)

A claw hammer drives and pulls nails: the flat face drives, the claw pulls and pries. Curved claws suit most woodwork; rip claws suit demolition. A well-balanced hammer is the most used tool in any woodworking shop.

Key Features

- Heads 300-600 g typical
- Curved and rip claw styles
- Wood, steel or fibreglass handles
- Face options: smooth or milled
- Vibration-damping grips

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Drive nails into wood and board
- Pull bent and mis-driven nails
- Pry apart light joints and crates
- Strike chisels in woodwork

Safe Operation

1. Grip the handle near the end
2. Swing from the elbow, not the shoulder
3. Strike the nail square and true
4. Rock the claw under the nail head
5. Lever with a block to protect the work

SAFETY NOTES

- Never strike with the side or claw of the hammer
- Check the head is secure on the handle
- Keep fingers clear of the strike area
- Do not strike hardened steel with a claw hammer
- Wear eye protection against debris

Maintenance & Consumables

- Check the head-to-handle fit regularly
- Sand and oil wooden handles
- Keep the face clean and free of dents
- Replace cracked handles
- Store hanging in the rack

Specification & Buying Notes

A 450 g curved claw hammer with a comfortable grip suits school woodwork. Balance beats weight for control. Quality heads stay tight; cheap wedges work loose.