

Woodcarving Mallets

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



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A woodcarving mallet is a round, heavy wooden mallet used with carving chisels and gouges, its broad face striking without rotation and spreading the blow across the tool. It suits both delicate carving and vigorous stock removal.

Key Features

- Round barrel or square faces
- Beech, lignum vitae and birch heads
- Weights from 300 g to 1 kg
- Tapered and turned handles
- Broad faces for chisels and gouges

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Carve relief and in-the-round work
- Drive gouges for deep cuts
- Strike carving tools precisely
- Teach traditional carving craft

Safe Operation

1. Grip near the head for control
2. Swing from the wrist for taps
3. Let the mallet fall with the tool
4. Move the chisel with the grain
5. Check the cut line as you work

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep hands clear of the chisel edge
- Do not strike with excessive force
- Check the mallet head fits the handle
- Wear eye protection for chips
- Store away from the bench edge

Maintenance & Consumables

- Sand and oil the head
- Check the wedge is tight
- Keep the face smooth
- Store in the carving kit
- Re-head if cracked

Specification & Buying Notes

A 500 g barrel-headed maple or beech mallet suits school carving. The broad face should stay true for clean strikes; quality wood dries stable.