

There are of course many other specialized hand power tools, but I find those mentioned are the only ones really needed. If you build one small boat only occasionally, the lower priced power tools will do for awhile, but I think in the end the very best should be bought. Own one or two really good power tools instead of many junky ones. Even the best sometimes gives out, for fairly small motors are doing pretty big work. I never try to stall a tool; slack up and let her turn, for she is fan cooled. Sharp tools cut freely. I suggest anyone owning power tools for the first time learns the art of keeping them sharp. A dull power tool fights back and is a high risk; besides, you become independent of that shop up the street that is not open on Saturdays! These tools like a little pampering at times. Switches get balky, cords fray, and plugs get bent. Look after them. A bit of wax, tallow, or such on the base makes her push steadily. A gummy blade or knife is always unhappy. If you do any building at all, there will come a time when you will nick a cord, or, as has happened, cut it right off! Most of these tools take a tumble or two sometime in their lives; it's not good for them, so try to guard against falls. I notice more and more that the hired help in professional shops doesn't have much regard for nice machines. Lunch time, quittin' time, pay day. Some say it's *The Times*. The better the mechanic, the more respect he has for tools.

The principle of economy also applies to the bigger, fixed-position tools; you can get power-tool happy and have too many with too much money tied up in them, and you may find that only a few are worthwhile. First you must consider the size of your power line into the shop. It's a nice idea to own a big, powerful wood-working machine, but can your line take it? Perhaps it is worth running in bigger voltage—sometimes it is, depending on many things. I find that when using 110 volts you are limited to about 1/2-h.p. motors, which, for many small shops and home builders, is the usual thing. More

can be done with 220 volts, and probably somewhat cheaper. It's fine to have a really big production planer, say 6 inches by 30 inches, but you'll find it will require a motor of such size as to require 440 volts. Sometimes what you think is a bargain is a big but old machine with a high cost of moving to your site. It probably will require more power than your line can handle, and, if it's a jointer or planer, it may be an old "square header," which is outlawed insurance-wise in any shops hiring men and is no good for the loner.

It's sometimes said that the table saw is the basic machine for wood working; maybe so for a cabinet shop, but definitely not for boat work. It has its place in cabin joinery and some straight ripping, but after building a boat or two, you will find the table saw does not get as much use as you thought it would, assuming you have the boatbuilder's friend, the bandsaw. I say own a table saw if you can, but not at the expense of more useful tools. I have no particular choice on these saws—tilt blade, tilt table, micro adjusting fence, and what not. They all work quite well enough for boatbuilding if they are stout and if the controls work with reasonable ease.

The bandsaw you can't do without; it will do more than any other machine: rip, crosscut at all angles, and dozens of other things. Its ability to butt cut and back out is constantly used. I suggest owning as large a machine as you think your power can handle, and of the best industrial grade. Put money into your bandsaw, even if you must do without other machines. A home builder can do much work with a 12-inch machine; 14 inches is better, and 16- to 20-inch saws can face up to pretty big work if used with care. These machines all have the tilt table for bevels, which can be unhandy for some big beveling. Only big yards can support the true ship saw, which has the tilting head with the table remaining level, so heavy work does not tend to slide off.

Though it will probably be of no real interest to those building small or moderate sized craft, it's