

CARPENTER

Building Sprint City

UBC Carpenters Erect North America's Largest Corporate Campus



6. Innovative hammers, left to right: Hart Woody has overstrike-proof tangs, side claw, and easily replaceable wood handle; Stiletto 14-oz. titanium framing hammer is half the weight of steel; Stanley steel-core AntiVibe hammer neutralizes shock waves; Estwing Hammer Tooth straightens twisted studs and joists.

Stiletto's new 14-oz. California-style, titanium-head hammer, which comes with a straight or axe-style wood handle and a smooth or textured face, defies conventional wisdom (photo 6). Titanium not only won't rust, but it's nearly as strong as steel at about half the weight. The reduced weight lightens tool bags and promises to do your elbows a favor.

John Mackay, training coordinator at the New Jersey Carpenters Technical Training Center, tried titanium hammers with straight and axe-style wood handles. He reports that they're the most comfortable hammers he has ever used.

I tried the hammers, too, and found that they can drive 16d sinkers with about the same number of blows as a 23-oz. steel-head framing hammer. But only sustained use in the field will determine whether titanium is indeed friendlier than steel for production framing, not to mention whether it'll hold up to long-term professional use (we'll keep you posted in future issues). And be prepared for sticker shock; the hammers cost \$65.

Bear in mind that hammer weights refer to head weights only, which means that the total weight of equally-rated hammers can vary considerably (more on that in a minute).