

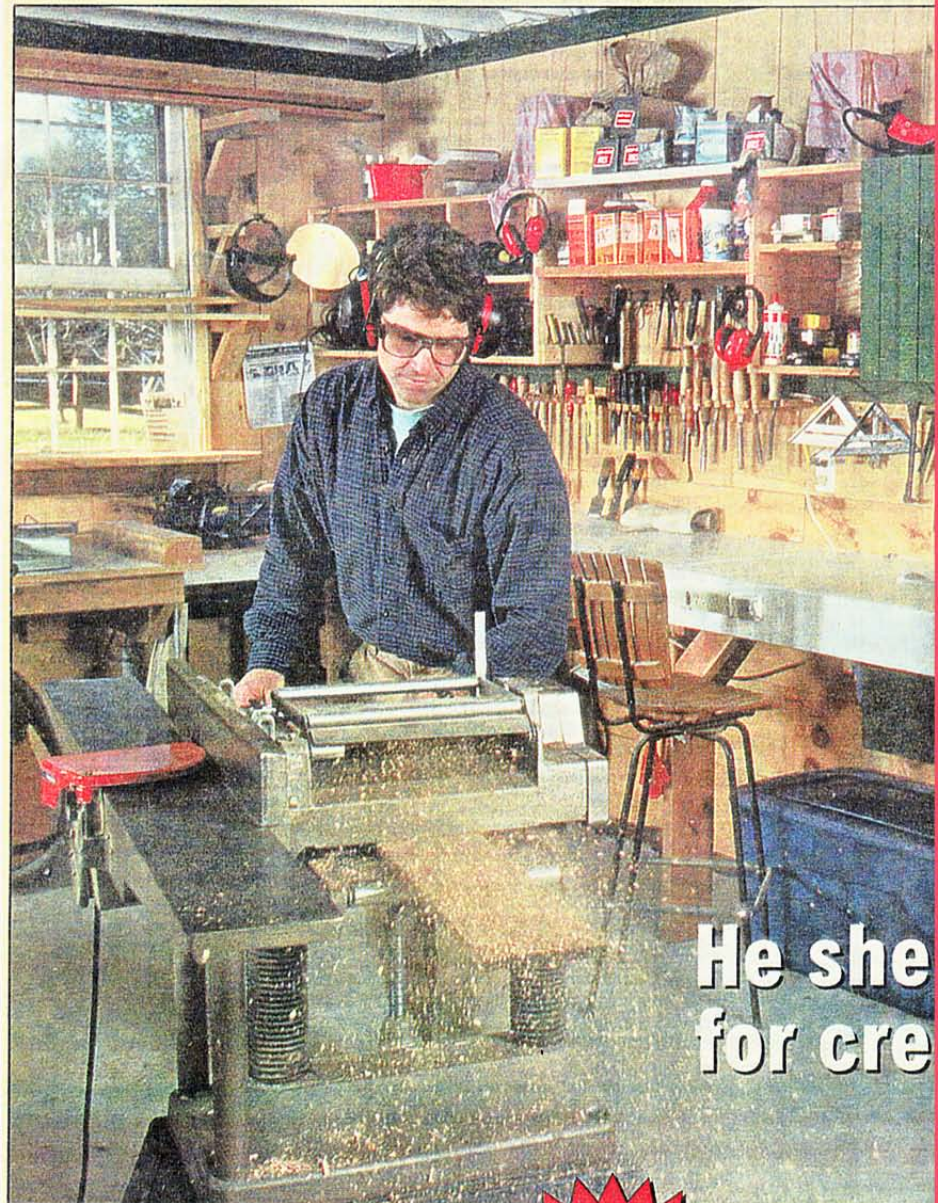
NEWS FOR AND ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH WOOD

Keys to color with Jeff Jewitt

Understanding wood stains and dyes for better results

Step-saver project rolling clamp station

Don't waste time fetching each one and roll them all into place at once



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The Stiletto Titan has a groove at the top of the head with an inset magnet that can hold a nail in place for easier starting in hard-to-reach spots.

Titanium hammer light but powerful

By A.J. Hamler
Staff Writer

The Stiletto Tool Co. has introduced a hammer with a titanium head that lowers the tool's weight, but still packs a wallop. Although Mark Martinez, owner of Stiletto Tool, has been involved in carpentry for several years, he said the idea for the Titan hammer came about when he was enjoying some leisure time.

"It had to do with standing over a titanium golf club and hitting a golf ball farther than I ever did with a steel club," he said. "I wondered if a titanium hammer would drive a nail better than steel."

The head of the Titan weighs 12 oz., compared to the 21 oz. head offered on another of the company's hammers, but delivers the same driving force as the heavier tool, according to Martinez.

"It's not a matter of weight, but rather a matter of volume and velocity," he explained. "That particular head is occupying the same amount of space as a steel head would occupy. When you swing a titanium hammer, it's so light that it's natural to swing it harder. What happens is that the velocity of that head is twice that of a steel head."

In addition to being easier to use and lighter to carry, Martinez said the hammer can also have positive health benefits. He said the low weight can help reduce repetitive-motion injuries and "carpenter's elbow," especially when nailing for a long time or nailing in positions that require the ham-

mer to be used above head level, such as with kitchen installation work.

Martinez said he has also gotten positive feedback from the growing number of women in woodworking and the building trades.

"Women are seeing that they don't need to be excluded from woodworking, so you see more women getting involved," he said. "Because this hammer weighs 12 oz., they have no problem grabbing that hammer and using it for extended periods of time."

Martinez added he had a number of thinner handles made that are easier for smaller hands to hold. The Titan can be special-ordered with the slender handle.

The Titan is available with a choice of either a straight handle or a curved ax-style handle. The head comes with either a smooth face or milled face. All versions of the Titan sell for \$64.95.

For more information, circle number 892 on the Reader Service Card in this newspaper, or contact: Stiletto Tool Co., 174 E. Broadway Ave., Atwater, CA 95301. Tel: 800-987-1849. Web site: www.stiletto-tools.com.



The Stiletto Titan is available with the straight handle shown here, or with a curved ax-style handle. The hammer head comes with either a smooth or milled face.

New
tools

- Epic launches new line ■ Titanium hammer
- TMT rip fence ■ Down-draft sanding tables
- Makita portable saw ■ Robland jointer/planer