

## **TITANIUM TOOLS**

## Stiletto Hickory Replacement Instructions

Wear safety glasses and USE CAUTION when performing the following procedure.

- 1. Before beginning line up the wooden wedge with the slot in the top of the replacement handle. With a pencil, make a mark on the thick side of the wooden wedge where the top of the handle ends. This will allow you to see when the wooden wedge is fully inserted down into the handle slot. It is important not to exceed the slot depth with the wedge, as this can cause damage to the new handle.
- 2. After cutting the old handle off below the head, turn the head over and punch the remaining handle material out from the top of the "eye" of the hammer head. Insert the slotted end of the new replacement handle into the bottom of the hammer head. Firmly tap the bottom of the handle with a mallet or other hammer to tightly set the handle into the eye of the head, but not so far as to "peel" or cut into the wood of the handle at the bottom of the eye. Rely on the mechanical bond of the wooden and steel wedges to make the head-to-handle connection strong.
- 3. Next, place the thin tip of the wooden wedge into the slotted end of the handle that is protruding out of the top of the hammer head. It is normal for the wooden wedge to be wider than the slot and the eye opening. Firmly tap the wooden wedge all the way to the pencil mark on the wedge, so that the wedge is fully inserted in the handle slot. There should be approximately 1/2" of the wedge protruding past the end oh the handle. DO NOT continue driving the wedge in any further.
- 4. After fully driving the wooden wedge in, trim off the excess wedge and handle material as close to the top of the head as possible. USE CAUTION when cutting off excess material. Position the two steel wedges on the trimmed end of the handle and wood wedge to get an idea of the spacing. Position the larger steel wedge to the wider front of the eye, and the smaller steel wedge the back of the eye. When you have the wedges evenly spaced in the eye, not in contact with the sides of the eye, firmly tap the wedges in one at a time completely flush with the trimmed surface.
- 5. To keep the cut end of the handle from losing moisture and shrinking inside the hammer head, put a few drops of mineral or "butcher block" oil on the end grain to help retain the moisture content. This will prolong the service life of the handle.

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