

CARPENTER

Total Station — More Jobs in Sight

Rugged Lightweight

Stiletto introduced the world's first titanium hammer a couple of years ago. Christened the "Titan," it featured a 14-ounce cast-titanium head with a smooth or milled face, a built-in magnetic nail holder, and a curved or straight hickory handle.

Carpenters were thrilled. Titanium won't rust and is nearly as strong as steel at about half the weight. The reduced weight lightens tool bags and reduces recoil without significantly sacrificing nail-driving performance.

Stiletto's latest Titan 14-ouncer resembles the original but sports a curved or straight aluminum handle that's supposed to be stronger and two ounces lighter than the hickory. A rubber grip prevents slippage out of hands even when wet. The hammer costs about \$125, though, which is a whopping \$60 more than wood-handled Titans.

Stiletto also just introduced a new Titan smooth-face, curved-claw 10-ounce titanium finish hammer that comes with a curved or straight hickory handle and eliminates the magnetic nail starter. Retail price is \$55.

I recently tried both new hammers. The 14-ouncer's soft rubber grip permits a relaxed hold that should reduce user fatigue. And due to the natural porosity of titanium, the finish hammer's smooth face seems to grab nail heads better than smooth steel faces do to help prevent glancing blows that can damage your work. The hammer's flat top, however,

reduces the nail-pulling efficiency of the curved claws.

Made in the USA.



Stiletto
"Titan"
14-ounce
titanium
hammer
with curved
aluminum
handle (left)
and 10-ounce
titanium finish
hammer with
curved hickory
handle (right)