



THE RE-PURPOSED PLANE

This item is a wooden hand plane. It is a homemade, repurposed item. The body of this plane is approximately 10 inches long. A center hole has been cut into the block to accommodate a cutter blade. Two pegs, one at each end of the top of the plane, serve as the handles. Both pegs appear to have been worked to make them fit into the plane. On the top of the plane, to the rear of the cutting blade is an oval hole that has been filled with wood. It helps to hold the rear handle in place and may be part of an earlier handle.

The cutting blade appears to have been hammered along the top. Hammering it into place with sufficient force to bend the metal, as is the case here, would surely have split the wooden block used for the base. Most likely, this cutting blade was repurposed as part of an axe. On the right hand side of the plane are two nail holes and the “ghost marks” of what looks like a small piece of wood. As with the manufactured plane, this side rail addition probably served as a guide to set the plane off from a wall or other vertical surface.

A list of the repurposed items used to make this plane would be as follows:

1. 10” block of 2” x 2” wood (most probably cottonwood).
2. 2 wooden pegs
 - a. The front peg might be a re-used chair spindle
 - b. The rear peg appears to be a tree branch cut and worked to the proper size.
3. Cutting blade: heavy hammering marks indicate prior use in some other tool, most probably as part of an axe (sharp, beveled cutting edges are required on both tools)