



THE PLANE

This is a wooden, hand plane, a tool used for smoothing wood surfaces. The components of all hand planes are generally the same: an adjustable cutting edge such as a sharpened metal plate is attached to a solid body which has a grip handle that allows the user to slide the plane firmly, but easily along a board's surface. The bottom of the plane is called *the sole*. The cutter, which extends below the sole, provides a constant angle and depth for cutting. When the plane is moved over a wood surface, the cutter slices off the uneven "high spots," resulting in a smooth, even surface. The handle of the plane allows for a firm, steady pressure to be applied so that a consistent flat surface or straighter edge can be obtained.

This plane is a manufactured item. It shows great wear as the stain on the edges and bottom have been nicked and worn. On the left side, the stain is worn and there is a small nail present. On the right side, two small holes have been drilled and three nails are present. The nails appear to be holding a broken piece of the plane to the main body. Further, small nail holes along the side would indicate a prior attachment of some kind (possibly a side rail as a guide). The finish is uneven. This may have been an attempt to restore the plane to its original finish after the attachment was removed.

The cutter is held in place with a wooden wedge and does show some sign of hammering along the top edge. The cutter blade does not extend beyond the sole here, but shows wear through its uneven cutting edge and small missing section. The handle on the top of the plane is the same kind of handle as used in a saw (pistol grip handle).