

Dating Stanley Planes

One of the attractions of Stanley Planes is of course the fact that they can be reasonably dated. Catalogues were freely available and excellent reprints are available.

Roger Smith's book Patented Transitional and Metallic Planes in America 1827 - 1927 has extensive dating summaries on both wooden-bottomed and iron plane types. The study of iron types is based on the No.4 size only but appears to be an excellent guide to many other Stanley sizes and types.

At our recent meeting, Frank Ham had brought a range of planes from pre-lateral to quite recent ones and discussed some of the main feature changes including adjusting nuts, lever cap springs, frogs, lateral adjustments, casting marks, patent dates and plane markings. Handles and Cutter markings are also obviously other variable features. A summary of the main dating features is noted below:-

- 1867 - 69 solid brass nut R.H. thread
 banjo shaped spring
 lever cap solid
 no lateral adjustment
- 1869 - 72 spring now rectangular
- 1872 - 73 adjustment nut recessed
 lever cap recessed back
- 1874 - 84 flat head cap screws to hold frog
- 1885 - 88 number cast on toe in front of knob
 lateral lever with 2 patent dates
- 1888 - 92 lateral adjustment with circular disc
- 1893 - 99 adjustment nut L.H. thread
 1" spacing of number marking
- 1899 - 02 only 1 date on lateral lever 7-24-88
 B casting mark on most planes
- 1902 - 07 Bailey's name on toe
 new style frog
 no patent date on lateral lever
 patent dates 02 on bed behind frog
- 1907 - 09 frog adjustment screw

- 1910 - 18 Apr 19-10 cast behind frog
- 1919 - 24 high front knob
lever cap - longer cam handle
- 1925 - 28 STANLEY cast on lever cap
- 1929 - 30 MADE IN USA on toe
raised ring front knob
- 1931 - 32 MADE IN USA on bed behind frog
- 1933 - 41 kidney shaped hole in lever cap
- 1942 - 45 handles & knobs hardwood
adjustment nuts steel or rubber
- 1946 - 47 large brass nut - diagonal knurling
- 1948 - 61 STANLEY on lateral lever read vertically
knurling on nut parallel
- 1962 - 67 STANLEY name eliminated lateral lever



LEONARD BAILEY
1823-1891

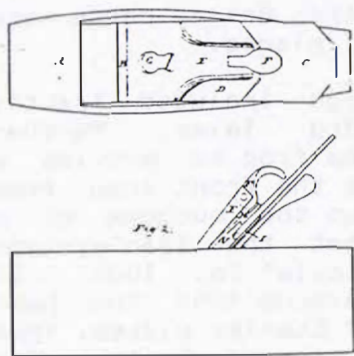
(Roger K. Smith, Patented Transitional and Metallic Planes in America 1827 - 1927, North Village Pub. Co., 1981 p.43)

Leonard Bailey: Plane Pioneer

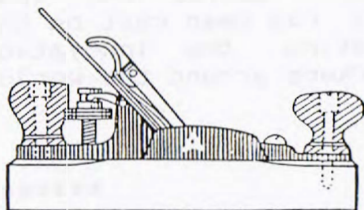
No discussion of Stanley Planes would be complete without mention of Leonard Bailey. Bailey was the father of the modern plane, and many of his ideas remaining with us to this day have been extensively copied around the world. His innovations transformed the carpenter's plane from a clumsy inaccurate tool into a precise, accurate and long - wearing one.

Early in the 19th Century the first metal-soled plane seems to have been made, but problems with a means of adjusting the degree of cut remained. The usual way, of course, was to tap the iron down and many cutting irons in wooden planes are curled over from long use. Bailey's first patent was taken out on 22nd June 1858 and was for a friction plate device for vertical adjustment of the cutter on a wooden plane. Whilst the adjustment was unsuccessful, what was remarkable was the cammed lever cap which, inexplicably was not featured in the patent specifications.

(Goodman: The History of Woodworking Tools 1964 p. 97)



101. Leonard Bailey's First Patent, 1858
Stanley Tools, New Britain, Conn.



102. Bailey Bench Plane, 1867
Stanley Tools

In August 1858 Bailey did, however, take out a patent specially relating to the lever cap, but according to Goodman in The History of Woodworking Tools this was a much cruder and less effective arrangement. The combination of a lever cap held to a wooden plane by a screw was also unsuccessful. In August 1867 Bailey patented a wooden-bottomed plane with the new familiar shallow casting attached to the top. This had a metal base for the lever cap and solved the earlier problem. It was this patent which introduced the adjusting nut and lever fork arrangement slotting into the cap iron. This was a remarkable invention and is of course accepted as a standard plane feature world-wide. Interestingly it was also at this time that Bailey again introduced an important feature without specific mention. This was the thin parallel cutter which was a real change from the standard heavy tapered cutters. Shortly after this, Bailey moved the adjusting nut to its now familiar position. The two knobs were also included in this patent and of course gave way to the handle knob arrangement on the metal planes then introduced, although on the wooden-bottomed planes the rear knob was removed due to crowding with the adjusting nut in its changed position. Bailey did, however, also provide a handled smoothing and 13" Jenny plane.

It is especially important to note that Bailey parts were standardised in the wooden and metal planes.

Later developments of Bailey's design included Traut's patent for a lateral adjusting lever, further modifications to the design of the frog to provide a firmer seat, and a rung to prevent the front knob from splitting. Goodman aptly sums up the outcome of a century of success by remarking that the Stanley-type plane was 'the Ford of woodworking tools' (p. 100). It is indeed appropriate that from around 1902 the name 'Bailey' has been cast on the toe of Stanley planes, thus celebrating the innovations of Leonard Bailey for woodworkers around the world.

BAILEY'S PATENT PLANES.

No tools have ever been accorded more general praise than "Bailey's Patent Planes" have received from skilled Wood-workers throughout this country, and in foreign countries. The sale of them has already exceeded 20,000 Planes, and is rapidly increasing. The strictest care is pledged for the continued excellence of these Planes over all others. Every Dealer should introduce them to the notice of all good Mechanics: the Tools will commend themselves when brought into actual service.

Each Plane is fitted in working order, when sent into Market.

Iron Planes.

Wood Planes.



No.						
1.	Smooth Plane	51-2 Inches in Length,	11 In. Cutter,	\$ 4.00		
2.	"	"	"	4.50		
3.	"	"	"	5.00		
4.	"	"	"	5.50		



No.						
21.	Smooth Plane,	7 Inches in Length,	11 In. Cutter,	\$ 3.50		
22.	"	"	"	3.75		
23.	"	"	"	3.90		
24.	"	"	"	4.10		
25.	Block,	9 1-2	11	2.75		



5.	Jack Plane,	41 Inches in Length,	2 In. Cutter,	6.00
6.	Fore	18	"	7.00
7.	Jointer	22	"	8.00
8.	"	24	"	9.00



25.	Jack Plane,	15 Inches in Length,	2 In. Cutter,	3.25
26.	"	15	"	3.50
27.	Fore	18	"	4.00
28.	"	20	"	4.00
29.	Jointer	22	"	4.25
30.	"	24	"	4.50
31.	"	26	"	4.75
32.	"	28	"	5.00
33.	"	30	"	5.25



9.	Block Plane,	10 Inches in Length,	2 In. Cutter,	8.00
9 1-2.	Excelsior Block Plane,	6 In. in Length,	11 In. Cutter,	2.00
10.	Carriage Makers' Rabbit Plane,	14 Inches in Length,	24 In. Cutter,	6.50
11.	Belt Makers' Plane,	24 In. Cutter,		4.00



35.	Handle Smooth,	9 Inches in Length,	2 In. Cutter,	3.50
36.	"	10	"	4.00
37.	Jenny	13	"	4.00

Extra Plane-woods, of every style, can be supplied cheaply.

Bailey's Patent Adjustable Circular Plane.



13.	14 In. Cutter,	5.00
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This Plane has a Flexible Steel Face, and by means of the Thumb-Screws at each end of the Stock, can be easily adapted to plane circular work, either concave or convex.

Bailey's Patent Adjustable Veneer Scraper.



12.	3 In. Cutter,	5.00
CAST STEEL, HAND, VENEER SCRAPER, 3 x 5 In.	per doz.	4.00

[illegible]

L. BAILEY'S PATENT ADJUSTABLE VICTOR PLANE.

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ADJUSTABLE CIRCULAR PLANE.

No. 1, *Circle Plane*, with Adjustment, Adjustable Steel Face, 1/4 inch cutters, Nickel Blade, &c.

IMPROVED
ADJUSTABLE CIRCULAR PLANE.

The above are the most perfect *Circle Planes* ever made. The *Improved Adjustable Plane*, for working *Concave* or *Convex* surfaces, is made of the best materials, and is so constructed that its work is perfect. The blade is made of the best steel, and is so tempered that it will not rust. The handle is made of the best wood, and is so constructed that it will not warp. The whole is so constructed that it will not get out of order.

L. Bailey's Victor Plane Irons.

The "Victor" Irons are made of the best English Steel, and are so constructed that they will not get out of order.

These *Plane Irons* are made of the best English Steel, and are so constructed that they will not get out of order. They are made of the best steel, and are so tempered that they will not rust. The handle is made of the best wood, and is so constructed that it will not warp. The whole is so constructed that it will not get out of order.

The *Victor* Irons are made of the best English Steel, and are so constructed that they will not get out of order. They are made of the best steel, and are so tempered that they will not rust. The handle is made of the best wood, and is so constructed that it will not warp. The whole is so constructed that it will not get out of order.

COMBINED

Smooth, Rabbit & Filletster Plane. The Tool represented below consists of an *Iron*, *Smooth Plane*, same as our No. 1 *Plane*, and is so constructed that it can be used as a *Rabbit Plane* or a *Filletster*.

This view of the tool shows the *Iron* in its combined position, and is so constructed that it can be used as a *Rabbit Plane* or a *Filletster*. The tool is made of the best steel, and is so tempered that it will not rust. The handle is made of the best wood, and is so constructed that it will not warp. The whole is so constructed that it will not get out of order.

This view of the tool shows the *Iron* in its combined position, and is so constructed that it can be used as a *Rabbit Plane* or a *Filletster*. The tool is made of the best steel, and is so tempered that it will not rust. The handle is made of the best wood, and is so constructed that it will not warp. The whole is so constructed that it will not get out of order.

The *Combined Smooth, Rabbit & Filletster Plane*, is so constructed that it can be used as a *Rabbit Plane* or a *Filletster*. The tool is made of the best steel, and is so tempered that it will not rust. The handle is made of the best wood, and is so constructed that it will not warp. The whole is so constructed that it will not get out of order.

L. BAILEY'S
Patent Combination Plane.

The main feature of this tool is, that it has a *Feather* or *Comb* at the end of the blade, which is so constructed that it can be used as a *Rabbit Plane* or a *Filletster*. The tool is made of the best steel, and is so tempered that it will not rust. The handle is made of the best wood, and is so constructed that it will not warp. The whole is so constructed that it will not get out of order.