

The Shenandoah Mallet



Shenandoah Tool Works

Introducing the Shenandoah Mallet



The Shenandoah Mallet is available in with variety of comfortable, highly-figured handles in 1 lb. and 1 1/2 lb. models.

Shenandoah Tool Works proudly announces the Shenandoah Mallet, a mallet for carvers who seek the highest quality in their tools.

Shenandoah mallets are made of the finest steel and are offered in two weights, 1 lb. and 1½ lb. The comfortable handles are hand-turned from a variety of highly-figured hardwoods, such as cocobolo, crotch walnut or curly (tiger) maple. The unusual color and figure of these woods results in tools of unmatched beauty. Their design is tailored to support out-

standing carving, whether you are removing large amounts of background material or working the delicate details that make your work special.

Taken together, the beauty and performance of the Shenandoah Mallet makes these tools a special joy to use and to own.

Why the Shenandoah Mallet?

- HANDLES CRAFTED FROM HARDWOODS OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY
- UNIQUE FIGURE AND COLOR IN EACH HANDLE
- TWO CONVENIENT WEIGHTS
- HANDLES COMFORTABLY FIT TWO CARVING POSITIONS

Why Not Experience the Best?

We invite you to experience the pleasure and control of holding a premium carving tool in your hands. The Shenandoah Mallet is comfortably configured to fit a variety of hand sizes. Designed to be held in two positions—“choked up” for

carving delicate details and held near the end for chopping out larger sections of wood or stone—the mallets are as versatile as they are beautiful. The hardwood handles, hand-crafted from exotic and domestic woods of exceptional beauty, bring

delight to the carver who appreciates style as well as functionality in his or her tools. See for yourself the beauty and power attainable from a fine tool by visiting the [Products](#) page. Shenandoah Mallets are crafted from individually

-selected stock, so each is unique and available as an individual creation. Because our stock changes regularly, check back often to view current offerings. Or, if you have a special need, [contact us](#).

The Shenandoah Mallet

About the Hardwoods in our Handles



A Shenandoah Mallet with a curly (tiger) maple handle

“You will find no better mallet for balance, comfort, versatility, beauty and value.”

Jeff Fleisher, Co-Founder, Shenandoah Tool Works



Carving a Newport shell with a Shenandoah Mallet

Our handles are hand-turned from a variety of beautiful domestic and exotic hardwoods. Because our mallets are made individually and often to order, we keep only select mallets in stock at any time and assemble them upon order.

We maintain the following hardwoods in stock:

- Ash, highly figured
- Bloodwood
- Bocote
- Canarywood
- Cebil
- Cherry, curly
- Cocobolo
- Leopardwood
- Makore, figured
- Maple, bird’s eye and curly combined
- Maple, curly
- Marblewood
- Myrtle, figured
- Orange agate
- Padauk
- Redheart
- Rosewood, Honduras
- Rosewood, Yucatan
- Walnut, crotch
- Wenge
- Zapote
- Zebrawood

We can turn a handle for you quickly from any of these in-stock woods. If you have a special request for a wood not in current inventory, we will order it for you if it is available from one of our suppliers. Note that, depending on the cost of rare woods, an extra charge may apply.

We will also gladly make a mallet for you using wood from your own stock, perhaps a piece of heritage lumber with special meaning or a beautiful example from your own inventory.

Why Buy a Premium Mallet?

Why should you consider buying a mallet with a handle crafted from premium quality hardwoods? The answer lies in the concentrated weight of the mallet head and in the quality of the handle—its shape, its feel in your hand and its visual appeal.

Let’s face it—as woodworkers we form intimate connections with the tools of our craft.

After years of work, they become lifelong friends. We come to prize our fine tools and lavish attention on their care, even as we make regular use of them.

Other, cheaper mallets are available from other suppliers. But none can compare with the exceptional beauty or provide the same pleasure to the user. Sometimes, spending a little more

will bring such a measure of added delight that the extra cost is worth it. We believe that is true of the Shenandoah Mallet.

Shenandoah Mallets are designed for day-in and day-out work and with reasonable care should last a lifetime. Isn’t it time you treated yourself to the best?

The Shenandoah Mallet

About the Mallets

Shenandoah Mallets are made from steel and in 1 lb. and 1½ lb. weights. The lighter mallet is used for delicate carving, such as fine details in wood. The heavier mallet will be most useful for taking larger chips in wood or for stone carving.

Because of the unusual figure and color of these woods, they are created and sold individu-

ally, not mass-produced. A wide range of woods—both domestic and exotic—are available by request. You may also choose to have a handle made from your own wood.

The handles are durably finished and buffed to a high sheen. They will wear well over years of loving use.

Shenandoah Mallet handles are designed to be held in two positions for carving—"choked up" with the hand at the edge of the steel head for delicate carving or near the end for chopping out large sections, such as when reducing a background.

Carvers will find no better mallet for balance, comfort, versatility, beauty and value.



Shenandoah Mallets are available in two convenient weights

How to Order

Shenandoah Mallets can be ordered from our web site at www.shenandoahmallets.com/br2. We accept credit cards via PayPal. Payment by check or money order is also accepted.

Shipping and Taxes

We ship via the U.S. Postal Service with Priority Mail for both domestic and international shipments. Check our web site for rates. We charge 5% sales tax for purchases shipped to Virginia addresses. Our goal is to fill each order within 1-2 days after receipt of payment. However, because each mallet is individually handcrafted, orders may sometimes take a little longer to fill.

Let the Mallet Do the Work

My father was a carpenter and when I was 13, with my assistance, he built our house. One day, I had the job of fastening underlayment to the roof by driving nails along a chalk line into the plywood base. I began by tapping on the nails again and again until they were driven in flush.

Seeing what I was doing, my father came over and stopped me. "Let the hammer do the work," he said. And with that he proceeded to show me how to set the nail with one short stroke and then drive it home with a single blow, allowing the weight of the hammer head to do the heavy work.

It's the same with carving. Whether you are tapping gently to carve subtle details or chopping more vigorously to remove bulk material, the Shenandoah mallet lets you control your strokes so you can let the mallet do the work.

Jeff Fleisher, Co-Founder, The Shenandoah Tool Works

"It's a real thrill to watch a beautiful handle emerge from a block of solid wood. We love making these mallets as much as you'll love using them."

Norm Reid, Co-Founder, Shenandoah Tool Works



A Shenandoah Mallet with a redheart handle.

When only the best will do

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About Shenandoah Tool Works



Meems Bottom Covered Bridge, over the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, near our New Market, VA, workshop

Shenandoah Tool Works is the collaboration of two Virginia woodworkers and carvers—Jeff Fleisher and Norm Reid—who saw the need for a high quality carving mallet at an affordable price.

Our premier steel mallet heads are fabricated in a Vermont family-owned foundry. The handles are hand-turned from exceptional hardwoods to our exacting specifications in our in New Market, Virginia, workshop.

Contact us!

www.shenandoahtoolworks.com/br2

E-mail: info@shenandoahtoolworks.com

Some History About Carver's Mallets

“The tools of one's trade, perhaps more than any other set of objects, help to define who we are as individuals.”

Mihalyi
Csikszentimihalyi,
sociologist

Most carving is done by pushing the gouge with your hand, but sometimes when carving a very hard wood or using a gouge with a wide cutting edge or extra control is needed, the tool needs to be driven by tapping the end of the handle with a mallet. Mallets have square or cylindrical shaped heads with handles.

Why a metal head mallet?

Historically, virtually all mallets were made of a hard, oily wood called *lignum vitae*. Popular for its heavy weight and durability, in the old days bearings on ships were often made of it. When it became scarce, beech and

other hardwoods were introduced for mallet making. But because these woods were much lighter, a much larger mallet was required to have the same impact as the *lignum vitae*.

Metal head mallets provide increased weight in a much smaller head size. The smaller head allows the carver to hold the head in the palm of the hand for light taps or lower on the handle when bolder strokes are necessary.

Why are carver's mallets round?

Square-headed mallets are traditionally used by cabinet-

makers and carpenters and not recommended for carving. The square face is designed to strike chisels held vertically where the face is perpendicular to the tool and transfers force straight down like a hammer.

Carving gouges, on the other hand, are held at lower angles to the work, and it is difficult to position a flat surface squarely on the tool. The rounded face of a woodcarving mallet can be held at any angle and still make solid contact.