

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was trying to remove a small blob of glue from the inside corner of a chair stretcher where it was glued to the leg. I was holding the chair leg with my left hand which was behind the joint. The blob was a little tougher than I thought and I pushed so hard the wood split, the chisel slipped and it went into the side of my left index finger. The cut took six stitches to close.

**Advice**

Moral of the story, never push a chisel towards your other hand.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was cleaning out a through-mortise with a chisel when it slipped and gouged a finger of my other hand. Took three stitches, but the doctor said the edge was really sharp!

**Advice**

Watch what you do with your free hand. Not all the danger is with power tools.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was using a bench chisel to trim a joint, and had just taken it out of the vise, when I noticed a little spot I had missed. Rather than put the piece back in the vise, (and even tho I knew better) I held it with one hand, and pushed the chisel with the other. Stabbed myself in the wrist, and severed an artery. Over \$12,000 in medical bills!

**Advice**

Whenever you use a chisel, ALWAYS make sure that the workpiece is secured by vise, clamp or whatever, and keep two hands on the chisel at all times. Never be in a hurry or take a shortcut on safety.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was cleaning up a lap joint and I was using a Chisel that wasn't sharp enough. Since the wood was tearing I decided to try from the other side; I also put my left hand behind the piece, pushed and stabbed my hand at about the base of my thumb. I have a 1/2" scar there and it still itches when I touch it, two years after the accident. The hand surgeon said the only reason I didn't chop a tendon was because the glove I was wearing absorbed a good part of the impact.

**Advice**

1. Always use sharp hand tools, particularly chisels. 2. Never put your hand in the path of the tool.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I just needed to shave a little bit off the end of a 1 x 1 x 2 to make it square. With the board still held in my left hand, I picked up a chisel with my right, and started to pare gently. Nothing unusual or really dangerous, except that I needed a little more pressure to get the last bit of end grain off. I pushed, the wood cut suddenly, the chisel went past the end of the board and into my left hand, slicing it open rather nicely.

**Advice**

Instead of finishing my work, I got instead some pain, many wasted hours in an emergency room, 6 stitches in the palm of my hand and many fewer dollars in my pocket. Sharp chisels are great to work with, but I consider them the most dangerous tool in my shop. Why not the tablesaw? I've never hurt myself on a tablesaw: it commands respect and gets it. A measly chisel however rarely commands my respect, and so I have cut my left hand repeatedly. In fact, most of the blood I've ever drawn in 10 years in a woodshop has been with chisels (mostly nicks and scratches). The six stitches was the worst accident of the lot; and with luck, I'll just put the friggin' board down on the bench with my left hand behind my back before I pare aggressively again.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

It's my habit to run a newly honed edge through a bit of hardwood end-grain to knock off any remainders of the wire edge. One Saturday morning this past summer, instead of moving several feet down the bench to use the scrap piece kept for this purpose and holding it down against the edge of the bench, I picked up a smidgeon of 1/4" walnut in my left hand and ran the chisel edge bottom to top through the end-grain lengthwise. On the the 3rd or 4th stroke, the bottom corner of the wood broke and I pushed a corner of the chisel into the tip of my left index finger, under the fingernail, and out the side of the fingertip. The wound took only five stitches to close. But the real damage was to the meat behind the skin. The two lidocaine injections into the base of my finger were tolerable; but I still cringe mentally at the memory of the ones with the 30-gauge needle woven in and out of the fingertip. I still can't pop a soda can ring with the tip of the damaged finger and when I press it against anything, it feels as though it had once been badly burnt . Accordingly, I now think very carefully about every procedure I perform in my shop and have purchased a Biesemeyer blade guard for my tablesaw. Why take unnecessary risks?

**Advice**

I was a victim of my own bad judgment and the thoughtlessness of routine. I think if I had bothered to use my imagination, I might have avoided this accident.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Wood split while chopping out a mortise slot and went into my thumb

**Advice**

1) make sure stock is secured when chiseling, even cross-grain. 2) never think you hands are "far enough" away: this stock was new and split a good six inches anyway.

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Beginner

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

In using the a very sharp chisel to pare off some wood, I was changing my position and the chisel began to fall to the ground. I instinctively tried to catch it with the other hand and it put a good slice in my finger.

**Advice**

Slow down. Take your time.



**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

whilst paring some cherry i didnt secure the workpiece and the chisel slipped into my hand, cut was not to severe but clean and deep. four sutures.

**Advice**

just consider where the tools will go if they slip.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Close Call

**Description**

Have used chisels many years & have scars to prove it. I finally learned the proper way.

**Advice**

ALWAYS use a mallet with your chisel. It requires you to fasten your work securely and removes both hands from the line of fire.

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Beginner

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was cleaning up the top edge of a dado when I hit a small knot. I had the chisel in my left hand and placed my right hand at the end of the piece for a tad more leverage. The knot let go and the chisel wound up in my right thumb, severing a tendon and nerve in the process. The end result was an evening at the hospital, two surgeries, physical therapy, and a thumb that doesn't work as well as it once did.

**Advice**

1) Don't put your hand in the path of the tool. 2) Keep both hands on the handle side of the chisel.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was cleaning out some mortises, after having drilled out most of the waste. I was in a bit of a hurry and had a few other things on my mind. I had to adjust the piece for the last few strokes and, rather than putting it back in the vice, I thought I could just hold it and clean up a little bit with one hand. I knew this was a stupid thing to do, I kept telling myself this was a stupid thing to do and then I went ahead and did it anyway. Of course, the chisel slipped and I wound up with a 3/8" hole in my left hand between the thumb and the index finger. Fortunately, it wasn't very deep and it closed up fine after applying some pressure under running water for a minute or two. SWMBO insisted that we go to the emergency room (I probably would have gone anyway but that sealed the deal). The doctor put in two stitches and commented that at least the chisel looks like it was sharp. The little hospital armband will go up on the wall over my bench as a reminder! against stupidity. Fortunately, I still have all 10 and there will be no permanent damage. It's only been 24 hours but the pain is gone and I'll get the stitches out in a week.

**Advice**

Always, always, always listen to yourself when you're telling yourself that you're about to do something stupid. Also, always think about where your tool (hand tool, electrical, whatever) will go if it slips. I always do that with electrical tools but sometimes take hand tools for granted.

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was trying to recess the strike plate on my new front door and was pushing upwards with a dull (duh!) chisel when it slipped. It flew back and hit my forehead leaving a 1" long gash. At the time I was NOT wearing safety glasses and it narrowly missed my eye!

**Advice**

1. Know your limitations...don't try to work too hard when you are overly tired. I had been working for about 18 hours that day. 2. Keep your tools in good working order. I now remember my father telling me once that there is nothing more dangerous than a dull blade. 3. ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION!!!

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was making a step in the moulding around the bottom of a column on a piece of furniture. I went in one side with a Exacto knife and made a cut to the correct depth. Coming at it from the other direction I was planning to use my chisel to just pop the piece out. It was only about 1/4" x 1/4" x 1" piece that I was trying to shape. Anyway, I was holding the piece with my hand behind the wood. Seemingly correctly, but I should have use a vise. Well, the grain split all the way through the wood rather than just to the Exacto cut. The chisel went all the way through the piece and into the wrist of the hand that was holding the piece. The chisel cut an artery, a tendon, muscles, and a major nerve trunk into my thumb.

**Advice**

Always use a vise or clamp when possible. Never put your hands in front of the knife, even if it is behind the work seemingly safe.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Seeking a shortcut I held a workpiece in my left hand FOR ONE CUT. The chisel slipped, cut the knuckle on my left forfinger- 4 stitches.

**Advice**

Use your brain, I didn't. Always use appropriate workholding devices. Think about where a tool would go if you slip and avoid that area.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was chiseling off a small tenon. I held the piece in my hand and thought about how much it would hurt if I slipped and stabbed myself. It didn't take long before that was what happened. The chisel went into my hand near the base of my thumb and exited about 1" farther away. Fortunately, it was only a 1/4" chisel. I went to the hospital and received 4 stitches; two for the entry and two for the exit. The thumb works OK, but there was some nerve damage and a small portion lacks feeling.

**Advice**

Treat hand tools with the same respect you treat power tools. I would never had done anything that dumb with my router or table saw. This was the most serious woodworking injury I have had, but I have had numerous other minor cuts and abrasions requiring bandages. All of these were the result of using hand tools; mainly chisels and hand saws. I have never had an injury with a power tool.



**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

While trying to hold a piece of wood with my left hand and trim out some wood the chisel slipped and went into my left index finger. Bad cut and cut the nerve to the tip of my finger. Required 4 stitches and a talking to from my wife.

**Advice**

Only use a chisel when the end is not pointing at any body part in the event of slips or sudden movement.

**Tool Type** Chisel Mortiser

**Experience** Beginner

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was talking on my cell phone while setting up my new hollow chisel morticer. I had just inserted the chisel bit, new and very sharp, and promptly dragged my finger across the blade. Five stitches to close the cut the chisel opened. Because of the shape of the chisel end it removed the skin and flesh in a 1/16" groove. This was the same finger that I ran through my tablesaw lengthwise and almost cut off with a meat saw while cutting a deer. My friend hasn't called since.

**Advice**

Do not work with dangerous tools (including your car) while on the phone or while distracted.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Chisel slipped out of my hand and I reached for it with my left hand so that it wouldn't hit the concrete floor and possibly hit on the edge of the blade. The chisel was a 1" wide chisel and one corner of the blade buried itself in the upper palm of my hand just below my middle finger. Luckily, it didn't cut any nerve, just bled like crazy and hurt for awhile.

**Advice**

Never attempt to catch a falling chisel. If it hits the floor square on the blade edge, you can always sharpen the blade. There's not much you can do if it buries the blade somewhere in your hand and you are left with a severed nerve.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was morticing several doors for hinges and other hardware. On the last mortice (go figure), I needed to cut into some end grain on the top of the door. As I was cleaning out the bottom of the mortice, I was adding a little extra pressure to the blade with my left hand while I pushed with my right hand. The chisel jumped and cut the side of my left index finger, about 5/8" long, right next to the fingernail. Hoping that it wasn't as serious as I pictured, I quickly wrapped it in a rag and applied pressure for 60 seconds. I figured if it stopped bleeding by then, I'd be fine. When I took the rag off, the blood was still gushing, so I had to go to the emergency room for 3 stitches. The worst part is that I was just finishing up so that I could clean up and go to a wedding reception. Needless to say, we arrived two hours late, and had to recount the story several times that night.

**Advice**

Always keep your free hand clear of the chisel, and anticipate where the direction that the chisel will go if it slips. Be careful morticing end grain. Do not rush your work.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was rounding off a square tenon to fit in a rounded mortise. The rail with tenon was in the vise and I was pushing with my left hand while guiding the tip with my right. I pushed the chisel into the meat of the base my thumb (thenar eminence). This was the first activity of the day. Results - 8 stiches and an allergic reaction to the Lanacaine resulting in 2 more ER visits and missing 4 days of work (and boy was I poor at the time).

**Advice**

It's possible I was overly excited to get going for the day. I hadn't properly gotten myself into woodworking mode. When you walk into the shop, anytime you walk into the shop, make sure to change gears and think 100% about your actions - it's no walk in the park.

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was using a 34 inch wood chisel to clean up a notch cut in ebony that I should have used the vise, So I like an idiot decided to hold the peice and chisel away. Well 5 strokes into it with a freshly honed chisel it slipped and plunged effortlessly into my left forefinger above the second knuckle,about a 14 of an inch deep. I immediately applied pressure and wrapped the finger.I was lucky it did not go deeper.

**Advice**

1) use carving gloves if you cant use your vise 2) Use your vise 3) Dont place your hands in the path of your carving tools

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was at high school, carving a jukebox out of wood. I was happily hammering the chisel through the wood, when some friend of mine called out to me. I looked up, but instead of saying "what?", I said "Ohhhhh Shit!!!". As soon as I looked up (I was still hammering at the chisel, stupid I know) I hammered the chisel straight through my left index finger. I lifted my hand, but my finger was still on the bench. There was no blood or pain for about 30 seconds, then it all came at once. I walked quietly to my teacher and said "I think I need a bandage sir". When he looked at my hand he drove me straight to the ER with my finger. Strangly they sewed it back on without knocking me out. It hurt for a few days afterwards and now, 10 years later, It works perfectly.

**Advice**

FFS Don't allow an inexperienced, unsupervised, 14 year old use a chisel.....especially when he has distractions!

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Beginner

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

i was chiseling a mortice out and i was being extra careless .....i didnt secure the wood properly ....i was holding it down with my left hand and i pulled the chisel out but i didnt pull it out straight up and it slipped and cut right through my left hand right opposite my palm and i ended up getting 5 stitches!!YOU GOTTA SECURE THE STOCK GUYS!!!

**Advice**

Take your time and make sure you SECURE THE STOCK and PLAN YOUR CUT!!!



**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Glued up edging on a plywood shelf I just made, and the last piece was a little short. To get it off without damaging the plywood or the other edgings, I used a razor-sharp 3/4" Marples chisel, thinking that the sharp edge would fit between the edging and the plywood. It did. I was holding the shelf in such a way that I thought my hand was protected and not in the chisel's path. And I even remember asking my self, "is this safe?" and the answer was yes, (or so I thought.) I must have shifted during the process, and the chisel hit the wet glue, freed the edging, and the chisel put a 2" long gash in my wrist. I grabbed it immediately with my other hand to stop any bleeding, and called the wife. She came down, I told her to get the paper towels, and in the split second it took to apply the towels, I saw parts inside my body that I never intended to see. She decided to call 9-1-1. She called and told them that her husband slit his wrist. The dispatcher said, "On purpose?" Anyway, two cop cars and an ambulance showed up 4 minutes later. End result was emergency surgery at 1am. Severed the median nerve, nicked 3 tendons. In a clam-digger cast for 2 weeks, then therapy twice a week for 4-1/2 months. It's very painful when nerves regenerate. Still have numbness in most of my left hand. Poor circulation, since the nerve regulates that too. Pretty much like a bad case of carpal tunnel syndrome. Mobility and strength are pretty good. Thank GOD I had a good surgeon on call that night, and a good physical therapist. By the way, I was not distracted, rushing, or working in a cluttered environment. I was not fatigued.

**Advice**

1. Always clamp your work. 2. Even if it feels safe, try to think of what can go wrong. 3. The only thing that should be in front of a chisel is the securely held workpiece. 4. Keep your chisels razor sharp. They are safer that way, requiring less force to make a cut. (And they cut skin rather cleanly!!\_

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Advanced

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

8:01 Monday morning started scraping off excess glue off some chairs glued up Friday afternoon. Left hand holding chisel, right hand stabilizing chair behind work area. Chisel slips and contacts right index finger - 8 stitches and 2 years later no feeling in about 60% of finger.

**Advice**

Use clamp to stabilize work or at a minimum keep fingers out of path of any tool.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Lots of repeated push then pull motions dulled the attention (and the chisel too maybe) as I squared up the flying-mortise over an old break in a chair leg. Chairs are the worst, cause it's so hard to get a clamp in close to the area your working, and those legs and rails are just the right size for your hand to wrap around them, I just find myself holding on ever closer to where the chisel is cutting. You can guess the rest.

**Advice**

Take the extra time to get clamps in close to where you're working, and then let them dull your chisel, rather than your fingers. Take a minute in the store soon and find some small butterfly bandaids for pulling wounds together. Normal bandaids just don't do this well, nor do they absorb much blood before leaking, so get some sterile gauze wrap too. Sharp tools are safer tools because you don't have to force them as much. However, sharp tools slice tissue cleanly and it takes longer to clot. So buy a second roll of gauze. By the way, its very hard to open a bandaid package with only one hand, it's even harder if you have to use that hand to hold a wound closed. It's great to have another person nearby for this, but start thinking about self-applied first aid now.

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was cleaning out a mortise with a hand chisel. It was late and I was tired (mistake #1). I was holding the piece of oak (1.5 " square and 3 feet long) with one hand against a table (mistake #2). I remember losing concentration for a couple of seconds (mistake #3). The chisel went into my thumb and made a clean chop about 1/8 into the skin. There was lot's of blood but no stitches. It still hurts a week later but I'm OK.

**Advice**

1. Don't continue working when you are tired and it's already getting late. 2. Use clamps - not your hands to hold a work piece. 3. Concentrate when you work - don't loose focus.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Shaving down a tenon with a 1/2 inch chisel i was holding the piece with my left hand while chiseling with my right. Well I applied too much force and hit my left which required 4 stitches and just about every profanity. Went out that weekend to buy a 5 inch bench vise.

**Advice**

1. Use a clamp or vise. 2. If you are cutting towards your hand you WILL get cut

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Well we had to chisel out wood for our dovetail joints for the coffee table my woodwork class was making. I didnt know what to do and the teacher was busy so i just went ahead chisel in one hand and my hand on the wood my hand slipped and the chisel cut staight through the webbing of my hand(the skin between the thumb and index finger). Blood went everywhere i had to go to the hospital and get 8 stiches put in my webbing.It hurt so much and i nearly fainted from all the pain and blood.

**Advice**

Make sure you know what your doing and if your a beginner make sure you have a professional explain how to use the chisel.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I was cleaning up a complex bevel on mahogany boat transom. I had a nice 2" chisel that was razor sharp. The transom was clamped to a bench and somehow I ended up cutting with the chisel pointed at my face. (yeek!) These were small trimming cuts in great wood with a sharp tool, so I did not have horse the chisel around. But, as you have guessed by now, the chisel slipped. It hit me in the columella, that is the part of the nose that divides it into two nostrils. I cursed myself for stupidity and bled like a stuck pig. Fortunately the wound was minor and healed within a few days.

**Advice**

None of us are really all that stupid, but we do some stupid things once in a while. I hardly need to tell anyone not to work with a sharp chisel pointed at your face. I am describing this accident because it was so incredibly foolish, probably a great deal more so than any others I have read here, it was caused by the common thread of many of these reports - inattention and departure from common sense precautions. Stay safe - may all be well and happy.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Got a deep cut in my finger using the chisel which I had just sharpened. Was holding the piece in one hand and the chisel in the other.

**Advice**

Fasten the piece down or put it down on the bench and push-bang against something that is fastened down. Always have both hands and all fingers behind the chisel.



**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

I was chiseling out a mortise with my right hand and holding the piece of wood with my left (like an idiot). When the thin edge of the wood splintered out, the chisel nicked the pad on my index finger before heading on to chop my middle finger about half-way off.

The innocent looking little 1/2" chisel broke my knuckle, cutting a piece of the bone off and severed the tendon on the top of my finger that straightens it out. I grabbed a towel and had my wife drive me to the hospital (while giving me THAT LOOK). The cut required emergency surgery that night to close the wound, and the next day I had to go to a specialist to have the tendon sewed back together, get 13 stitches and got to wear a splint on it for four weeks. It has been four months and I still cannot bend it or straighten it all the way out. My doctor says that I may never be able to :)

**Advice**

Please think about what you are doing at ALL times, don't think that just because it doesn't have a blade going at 3000rpm that it isn't dangerous.

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Advanced

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Not paying attention to where my left hand was in relation to the chisel.

**Advice**

Don't get so comfortable with your tools that you stop ACTIVELY thinking about safety and... ALWAYS cut AWAY from body parts!!!!

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Just finished sharpening my first chisel. It was late night and I wanted to try it quickly and get to bed. I grabbed a chunk of oak in my left hand, making shavings and slivers with my right hand. Then the chisel slipped when I took too big of a chunk of oak. The chisel grazed across the top of my left arm, about 1/3 of the way up from my wrist to my elbow. A nice gash about 1.5" long, decent amount of blood. Fortunately, I missed all tendons. It was as deep as I could get without causing serious damage. It may have needed stitches, but I used peroxide and tightly bandaged it. I ended up getting a tetanus shot.

**Advice**

Don't work tired!!! This was a stupid accident. I had a wood vise just a foot away that would have prevented this. If you feel in a hurry, set the tools down and walk away. I have worked in industrial and medical electronics for 25 years and consider myself to be a cautious worker. I am embarrassed by this foolish accident. I have also learned from it too!

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

I got a brand new chisel and was taking it out of the package because I wanted to see how sharp it was. Protective cover on the blade was extremely tight. I'm right handed so held tool in left hand to get a good grip on the cover with my right. Applied a lot of force and cover finally came off. As it released, my left arm snapped to the left and then rebounded with the tool still firmly gripped. The blade left a one inch long slice, an eighth inch deep, through the meaty flesh at the base of my right palm. Good blood flow staunches by pressure, cold, and elevating above the heart. Edges of wound had a hard time healing because it turns out that the chisel was REALLY sharp. Any deeper or longer would have required stitches. An inch further south would have sliced wrist tendons and-or veins.

**Advice**

Sharp metal demands respect. I should have stopped pulling when I discovered that I was exerting more force than I could safely control. Grip the cap in a vise and pull with both hands and feet firmly planted, with gloves and goggles. Just because you're strong enough to do it doesn't mean it's a good idea.

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Just like everyone else, I was holding a piece of wood with my left and chiseling with my right when the chisel slipped and cut into my left index finger. I got eight stitches and I'm still recovering. I'm supposed to go see a specialist because I might have knicked a tendon. My wife, however, didn't give me THAT LOOK, so it wasn't as bad as it could have been.

**Advice**

Keep the sharp end of tools pointed away from you! The good news is, if you play your cards right, this can be a good reason to get better tools, like a tennoning jig or drill press!

**Tool Type** Chisel

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Paring just a small piece of wood with a chisel on the right side of a board, as I held it with my left hand on the left side of the board. Of course the small piece of wood gave way and the chisel ended up imbedded in my left hand requiring a trip to the ER, 6 stitches, and a delay of 1 week getting my project finished.

**Advice**

Listen to your gut. If you think you shouldn't be doing it, DON'T!

**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Beginner

**Injury Severity**

Hurt but OK

**Description**

Using a new paring chisel for the first time, having carefully lapped the back flat, sharpened and honed the bezel.

The tool was a treat to use, nothing like the cheap polished bench chisels I had used straight out of the packet.

Left index finger got sore (was using it properly, using it on the shaft of the 9" blade to guide the cut.) Looking down, finger was smeared with blood and had multiple cuts like bad paper cuts.

This wasn't finger threatening, but a distraction for a couple of weeks afterwards.

**Advice**

When preparing new tools, make sure ONLY cutting edges are sharp.

Soften sharp edges and remove burrs from all edges as part of the commissioning process.

I now knock back all but the last 1/4" of chisel sides with fine wet and dry after flattening them.

Other tools to watch are files and rasps - some have sharp corners at the heel/shoulder, which should the tool bind in use could give a nasty gash.

**Tool Type** Chisel Mortiser

**Experience** Intermediate

**Injury Severity** Hurt but OK

**Description**

The only time I have shed blood in my workshop is with the Chisel Mortiser. When inserting the drill bit the Mortiser punctured my finger. Ouch! It is the small things that get you every time.

**Advice**

Hold the mortiser at its side.



**Tool Type**

Chisel

**Experience**

Intermediate

**Injury Severity**

Needed Medical Attention

**Description**

Slipped with a chisel while cleaning up a rabbet on a door for a jewelry box. Sliced index finger on left hand requiring 3 stitches to close.

**Advice**

Clamp down small pieces and know where your fingers are so that they are not in the path of the chisel if you would slip!