

Synopsis

This collection features more than 250 unique tools built with beautiful materials, lavished with artistic decoration, and crafted with remarkable precision. Privately owned, many of these tools have never been photographed or shown in publications before. Included are measuring instruments, handplanes, saws and other cutting tools, striking and drilling tools, Asian treasures, miniatures, ingenious foot-powered machines from the 19th century, and improbable combination tools. Each photo is accompanied by detailed notes that provide historical and technical background. This handsome volume will appeal to collectors, those who use tools, and anyone who appreciates finely crafted utilitarian objects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is not a very practical book, no not at all. If you have a real appreciation for old tools it is well worth owning. Okay it is tool porn. That's right - unadulterated, unforgivable, unjustifiable tool porn. It is a shame that innocent tools are exploited like this, but you will love it.

This is a really nice book for those interested in fine tools. I was hoping to find information on how they were made. If you are a toolmaker, this book really does not include any drawings, sizes or build methods. If you are just looking for a nice historical record of works of art in tools - this is the book to get. Great pictures of Paul Hamler's miniature tools for those interested in his work too.

This is a spectacular collection of color photographs. The author has obviously sought out tools of great beauty and the editors have assembled them with care. Anyone interested in handtools and their history will be delighted. Those who are unable to understand the words in the book's title will perhaps be disappointed as the book is about art in an unexpected form.

When you get to a certain age, sex is no longer the dominant motivator. Some tend to notice the trouble, pain, grief and financial cost of chasing women, so we feel a need to chase something else expensive and dangerous. For some of us, that affliction is tools. On the journey to your brand of madness, you might need some photographic stimulation to help your imagination. Even though you can proudly place it on a coffee table, my wife still looks at me funny when I take this into the shop and lock the door. This is some of the best tool porn I've seen.

Imagine a gazillion lovely old tools in bonerific condition, to use the standard Galoot rating for hand tools that are so perfectly preserved, so lovingly captured on shiny paper, that just touching them in two dimensions pulls you back into the past a century or two. Mr. Nagetc. has written and photographed the ultimate book of tool porn. My editor is a bird of the same feather, and the cheap (but thoughtful) bastard was kind enough to send me the reviewer's peek at the book, which so inflamed me with tool-lust that I ran out and bought a copy -- and quit smoking just so I could afford it. (Nicotine is a mild preference, compared to tool addiction.) This book goes in my coffin organizer. Don't even think about asking to borrow it. Do what I did: Buy two.

This is a beautifully photographed book of fine tools. Apart from the fact that all such picture books these days have a pungent chemical odor, one could hardly fault the photographic excellence of this book. Nagyszalanczy is an experienced woodworker, but it was dismaying to me that the text is full of factual errors. Most noticeably in the Japanese tool section, where it is clear that basic principles are a mystery. I don't know how it got by the editors at Taunton Press.

This is a fine art book. The tools are beautiful. you don't have to be a tool nut to appreciate the items in this book. Almost anyone will enjoy them. The book is a high-quality art book. The photography is spectacular in composition, color rendition and overall reproduction. The tools are very carefully displayed and the lighting is meticulous. You'll note that this book has high reviews and they are well deserved.

A great coffee table book for the tool collector, or anyone who loves antiques. The tools shown are lovingly photographed and nicely described - it reminds me of how I photograph my own collection, which you can see on Instagram @markhrobinson

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