

# TOOL CRAFT

4



- ✓ Knives
- ✓ Saws
- ✓ Axes
- ✓ Other Tools

## - Notes -

*A knife is a tool in our hands. We are a "tool" in God's hands to do His work and will. God's Word is like a knife - it is sharp and cuts into the soul.*

*Without proper care, tools become dull and useless. So also with our Christian life. Give it proper care with worship, prayer and Bible study, so that we may be sharp and useful.*

## Knives

### Pocket Knife

Today's modern knife can trace its beginnings back to early man's crude hand held sharp-edged tools. In order for a knife to be useful it must be taken care of and treated with respect. A knife can be used either as a tool or a weapon. The difference is in who's hand is controlling the knife. Each person must decide how they will handle the knife in their hand. Who are you allowing to control your hand?

To clean a knife, use oil and a clean rag. The oil should also be used to lubricate the hinged portion of the blade. Never stick a knife in the ground, because doing so will dull the knife.



To open a knife hold it in one hand and with the thumb and forefinger of the other hand pull out the blade. To close a knife, hold the back edge of the open blade and close carefully.

Sharpen a knife by pressing the blade firmly on a sharpening stone. While holding the knife at a slight angle to the stone, move the knife in a circular motion. Keep pressure to the back of the blade. Turn the blade over and repeat the process in the opposite direction. Test the blades sharpness on a twig from time to time.



## - Notes -

Hold a knife by grasping it firmly around the handle. Always cut away from you. Do not place your thumb on the blade.



When passing a knife, it is best to pass the knife closed. Have the person acknowledge receiving the knife by saying "thank you" before you release the knife.



When using a knife to cut a stick in two parts, make the cut at an angle. To cut a thick stick in two parts, make a "V" on top and then underneath.



To trim a branch, grasp the thick end and cut toward twigs. Remember, a good, sharp knife cuts evenly and smoothly.



## - Notes -

*"For the word of God is living and sharper than any two-edge sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints, and marrow; it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart."  
(Hebrew 4:12)*

*There may be times (emergencies, storms, backwoods areas, etc.) where electric power is not available. Therefore we would need to know how to use knives, axes and saws to cut wood to provide warmth, cook meals, and build shelters.*

## Sheath Knife

The sheath knife is not a necessary camp tool, but it is useful for heavier work such as cutting small branches or skinning and cutting up game and fish. It should always be carried in a sheath for safety. Sharpen it as you would a pocket knife blade.



## Saws

Campers are encouraged to use a bow saw instead of an axe. Saws are safer and can usually be used to secure as much wood as you need. In fact, you can usually find enough dead wood on the ground or on dead trees to cut or break for your campfire. The type of saw that you use will depend on the need during your camping trip. When saws are not in use, cover the blade with a sheath. Saw sheaths can be purchased or made out of a split piece of PVC pipe. Replace saw blades when they become rusty or dull.

## Camp Saws

- The trim saw is a smaller bow saw. It will do what is needed in cutting most wood used in a camp setting.
- The folding saw is similar to the trim saw in size but folds down for ease of handling and packing. The handle and back are usually made of aluminum and the back serves as the blade sheath. This makes the folding saw an ideal tool for backpacking.
- The bow saw is larger than the trim or folding saw. It will cut larger diameter logs easier. It is best suited for base camp work.



Trim saw



Folding saw



Bow saw

## Sawbuck

Using the bow saw and a sawbuck is one of the easiest methods of cutting logs. The sawbuck holds the limb or log steady while it is cut. It is one of the best ways for younger boys to cut wood safely. Large amounts of wood can be cut in a short time.



## Axes

An axe is generally used for cutting and splitting large logs needed around a base camp. In today's camping culture, large campfires are seldom used away from the base camp. Therefore, an axe usually is not needed except at the base camp. Those who handle and operate the axe must be trained in the safe use and care of the axe. It is recommended that safety glasses or goggles be worn.

### Types of Axes

Hand axe or hatchet



Long handle, single-bit axe



Long handle double-bit axe (For safety, this type should never be used on a campout.)



*"Does an ax exalt itself above the one who chops with it? Does a saw magnify itself above the one who saws with it? As if a staff could wave those who lift it! As if a rod could lift what isn't wood!" (Isaiah 10:15)*

*We should strive to remain as tools in God's hands and acknowledge Him in all that we do.*

## - Notes -

*A tool in the right hand  
will do good. Our lives in  
God's hand will also do  
good and honor Him.*

### Axe Safety

It is a good idea to carry the axe in its sheath. To carry the axe without its sheath, hold the handle close to the head with the blade tilted away from you.



Pass the axe by grasping the handle at the head. Pass it with the blade away from you and the one to whom you are passing the axe. Have the person acknowledge receiving the axe by saying "thank you" before you release the axe. When the axe is not in use, leave it in the sheath or chopping block. Never leave the axe head lying exposed.

### Sharpening an Axe

When sharpening an axe, hold it against a log or large piece of wood. File evenly along the blade. Turn the axe to expose the opposite side and repeat filing.



*"Iron sharpens iron, and  
one man sharpens  
another." (Proverbs 27:17)*



## - Notes -

### Using an Axe

When using the axe, always be sure you have plenty of room to swing the axe. Check overhead and to the sides by measuring with your axe. Hold the axe by the head and slowly swing the handle to be sure there is safe clearance on all sides. It is safer to kneel when using an axe.

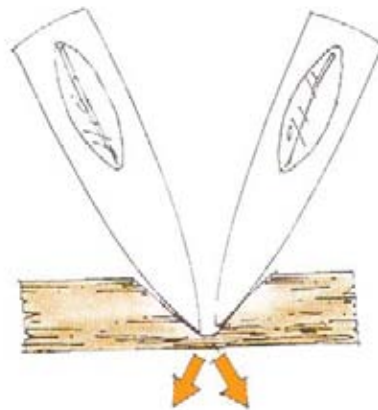


*"If the axe is dull, and one does not sharpen its edge, then one must exert more strength; however, the advantage of wisdom is that it brings success."*  
(Ecclesiastes 10:10)



Cut small branches by slanting the axe and make a "V" cut in the wood. If the wood is not cut in two on the first stroke, repeat with a cut at the opposite angle. Never strike wood with a straight cut.

**Correct**



**Incorrect**



## - Notes -

Many times trees are downed during natural disasters. Disaster relief teams provide assistance to home owners by helping them gain access to their homes by removing downed trees with the use of chainsaws. The adults that operate the chainsaws should receive safety training and wear the appropriate safety gear. Young men can assist the teams as walk-on volunteers and help by dragging limbs to the curb. Check with your state office concerning disaster relief training opportunities and volunteering to assist after a disaster.

### To Limb A Tree

To limb a tree that is down, stand on one side of the trunk and cut limbs on the other side. Swing the axe at the base of the limb with both hands.



### Splitting Wood

When splitting small logs, place the log on the chopping block.



Bring the axe down firmly on the log.

If it doesn't split the first time, raise the axe and log and bring both down firmly on the chopping block.



*"...the one who splits trees may be endangered by them." (Ecclesiastes 10:9b)*



When splitting larger pieces, place the log, standing on end, on the chopping block. Step back to allow room to swing the axe comfortably. Stand with feet apart. Recheck for overhead clearance.

*- Notes -*



Bring the axe back to your body, grasping under the handle near the head with right hand. Raise the axe with the right hand over your shoulder.



Lower the axe sharply with right hand slipping down on the handle stopping just above the left hand. Guide the axe as it falls. Let the weight of the axe head do the work. Do not force it.

## - Notes -

*Just as different tools are used for different jobs, we are given different Christian talents for different tasks. How can you use the talents God has given you to tell others about Jesus?*

The safest way of splitting a log is by using a wedge and a large hammer or sledge. Never use the back end of an axe as a hammer.

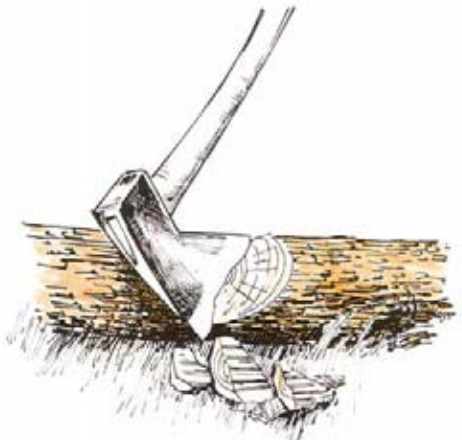
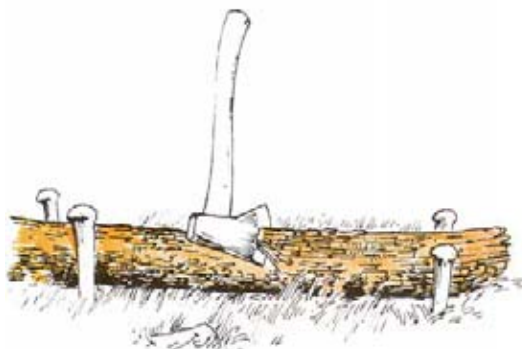


### Cutting up Logs

Unless the log is very heavy, peg it in four places. Stand with feet apart. Measure a distance for a comfortable, easy swing.

Slant the first cut. Guide the head in the proper place. Let the weight of axe to the work.

Make another cut to form a "V" shape. Make the "V" larger by cutting from side to side on the "V". Turn the log over and repeat on the other side until the log is cut in two.





## Other Tools

Other tools that may be useful in a camping setting:

- Limb lopper or pruning shears
- Rake
- Shovel
- Mallet or hammer
- Safety goggles and work gloves



## Tool Rack

A camp tool rack can be constructed by lashing two poles or limbs close together between two trees. After using tools, always return them to the camp tool rack.



*The tool rack is what all the tools are hung upon when in camp so they won't get stepped on, broken, lost or rusted. We should take care of and use the tools (talents) God has given us for His Glory.*

## Making a Canteen

You can make a handy canteen for a hike. You will need:

- A soft plastic water bottle
- A crew sock
- A strap, rope or cord for a handle (at least two feet long)



To make the canteen:

- Place the bottle into the sock.
- Tie the ends of the strap together using the fisherman's knot.
- Attach the strap to the bottle using a cow hitch or clove hitch.
- Now you have a canteen you can carry with you for a hike.





## Using a Hammer

All hammers have two parts. A handle to hold the tool and the metal head to hit nails (or tent stakes). Some hammers have a metal head that is forked on one side to pull nails out of wood. This hammer is called a “claw hammer.”



Follow the steps below when using a hammer:

- For safety, wear eye protection.
- Hold the hammer by the handle.
- Hold the nail at the top (close to the head) with the point against the wood.
- Start the nail into the wood by tapping it lightly with the metal head of the hammer.
- When the nail can stand up without you holding it, remove your hand from the nail.
- Hold the hammer as far away from the metal head as you can. Strike the nail using the flat metal head. If you miss, try again. Hit the nail with the center of the metal head or you will bend the nail.

## Can Openers

The can opener is a useful tool in Campcraft. There are many types of can openers and most operate in the same way. Be careful when opening cans because can openers often leave sharp edges.

The **turn-key can opener** is used by hooking the small gear under the rim of the can. Squeeze the handle to punch the small metal blade into the top of the can. Then turn the key clockwise to cut around the can. Lift the handles open when finished.



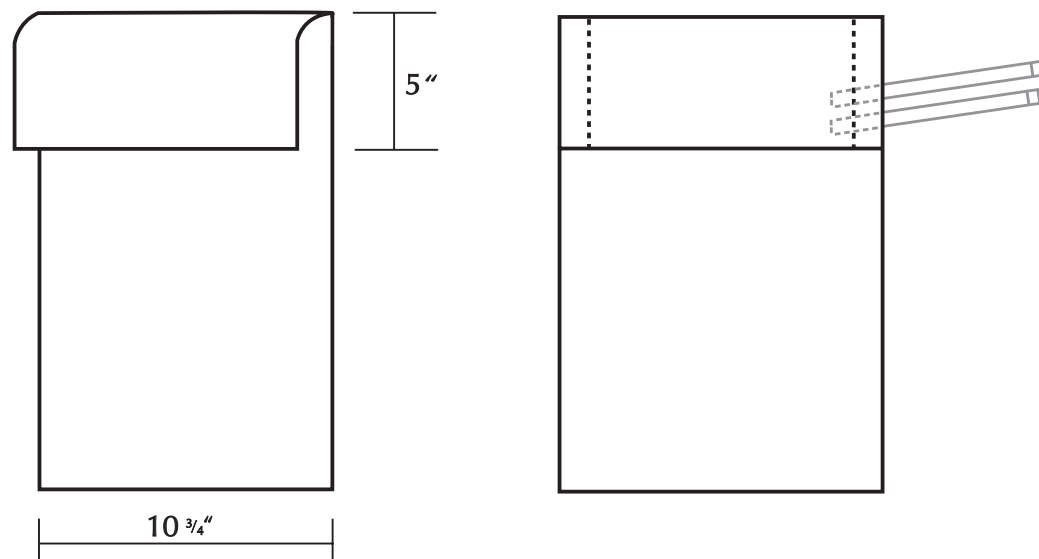
The **GI can opener** (known as a P-38) is a little different to use. Open the “wings” of the GI can opener as shown. Punch the small metal blade into the top of the can along the rim by hooking the rim of the can into the slot and pushing forward on the opener. Then slowly move the handle up and down while turning the can slightly. This action will move the blade around the top of the can.

## Tool Storage Roll

You can make a tool storage roll to help organize your tools.

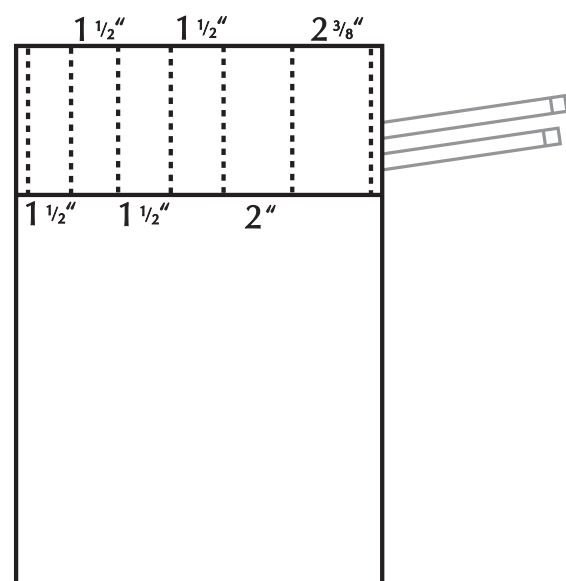
You will need:

- A piece of cloth 19 inches long and 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide. (You may use an old towel instead.)
- A small strip of cloth 14 inches long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide.
- Thread and sewing needle. (Or get an adult to help you sew it on a sewing machine.)



To make the tool storage roll:

- Fold one end of the cloth to form a 5 inch pouch.
- Fold the small strip of cloth in half. Insert it in the seam of the pouch.  
Sew the edges of the pouch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the edge.
- Next sew in the dividers. See drawing.
- Place tools in pouch and fold flap over. Roll them up and tie it all together with the strip of cloth.

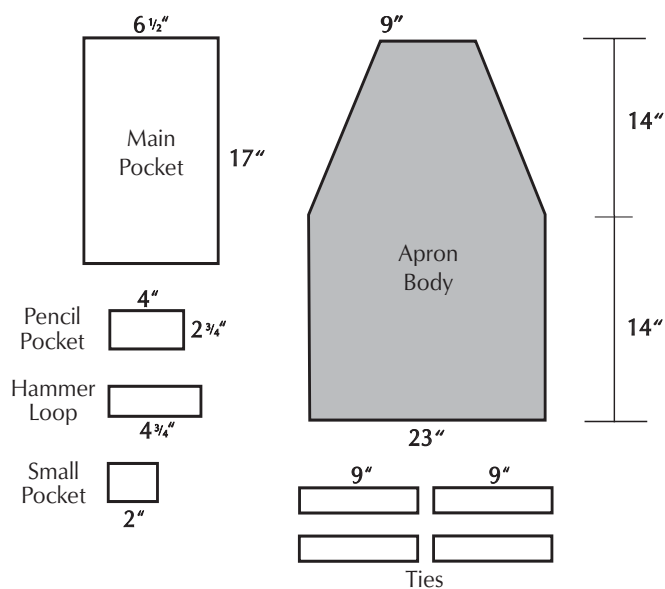


## Tool Apron

You can make a tool apron to use in working on projects.

You will need:

- 1 yard of denim.
- 1 yard of flat lacing material.
- Thread and sewing needle. (Or get an adult to help you sew it on a sewing machine.)



To make the tool apron:

- Cut each piece of the apron as shown.
- Fold the edges of the apron body 1/2 inch from the edge and sew.
- Fasten the ties to the apron body and stitch. Sew the hammer loop to the apron body. Attach the pencil pocket as shown. Position, pin, and sew the main pocket.
- Put the apron on. Adjust the lacing at the back of your neck. Tie it. Tie the waist loop in place, and you are ready to work.

