

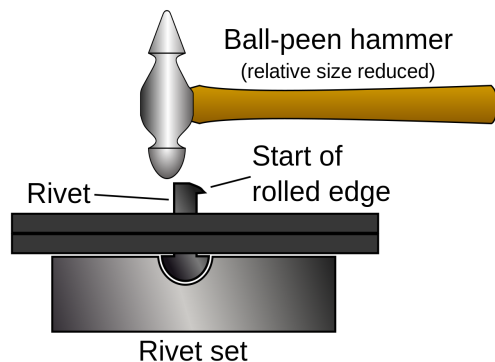
## Hammer evolution

By Dylan

A hammer is an ancient tool whose secret has been passed down through generations. Historically, hammers were used for sharpening tools. Today it is normally used in construction to drive nails into timber, plywood or any other type of wood.

### **So what is a hammer exactly?**

A hammer is a tool that generally has a metal head. It is shaped like a banana, with the front no larger than a 50 cent piece. The back of the head is in the shape of a crowbar. This is so that if you hit a nail wrong, and it goes in the wrong way, you can pull it out. The handle is generally made of wood shaped like the handle of your hairbrush, just longer. But let me tell you, hammers were not always this sophisticated piece of metal on a stick.



## ***Prehistoric***

When cavemen existed, they would use large flat slabs of stone as hammers to sharpen lumps of obsidian for tools. Then cavemen discovered that if they used strips of leather or sinew, they could tie the rocks to sticks. This was the beginning of a revolution for hammer-kind.

## **3000 b.c - 1000b.c**

At the beginning of the bronze age, blacksmiths used bricks of bronze for the hammerhead. They melted the bricks (in kilns) onto strong sticks. They were shaped like a brick on a stick. This was the third (official) version of the hammer. Hammer throwing was invented at this time as well. We know this because of a picture showing King Henry the VIII throwing a blacksmith's sledgehammer (hopefully not at the blacksmith).

## **1700/1800**

In this time, hammers were made out of copper and brass. This is when the traditional hammer shape came into play. This shape is more streamlined so it provides you with a nice swing. It was not as pretty and useful as today's ones. This was the fourth (official) version of the hammer.

## **1900s**

100 years later, hammers were a lot more efficient in looks and weight. They were still wooden but the heads were

made out of better materials such as hard steel. This was the fifth (official) version of the hammer.

## **2000s**

Now we have modern hammers such as nail guns, staple guns and just guns. Our nail guns are made of plastic and metal, staple guns are made of metal, and guns, well... you know.

Who knows where, when and why our new hammer will come into play. Will it hover? Will robots deliver it to your door? Will we have doors? Only one way to find out.

## **Glossary**

Ancient-Very old

Banana-Yellow tropical herb (not fruit)

Blacksmith-Maker of tools, metal and such

Cavemen- Prehistoric people

Crowbar - Tool used for opening crates

Glossary-This bit you're reading

Hammer-throwing-A sport in which you throw a hammer

Handle-The bit you hold

Leather-Cured animal skin

Materials-What you use to make it

Melted-Heated until it turns to liquid

Obsidian-A type of rock created when lava cools rapidly

Picture-Image

Plywood-Multiple sheets of wood glued together

Sinew-Animal tendon fashioned into a string

Sledgehammer-Extremely heavy hammer

Sophisticated-Complex