

MORE THAN A HAMMER

I have about 20 hammers, ranging from a 9 ounce finish hammer to a 16 pound sledge. The two I use most are my Stiletto 10 oz. finish hammer and my Stiletto 14 oz. framing hammer.



I removed about one ounce of material when I sharpened the claws.

I emailed the owners of [Stiletto](http://www.stiletto.com) and told them I had pointed the claws on my hammers to a $\frac{1}{8}$ " chisel point so I could stab lumber and lift it up. They were not impressed, but they are really nice people and will give you quality service.

These hammers are made out of titanium, an alloy that is 40% lighter than carbon steel with chromium added. They won't rust and are very durable.

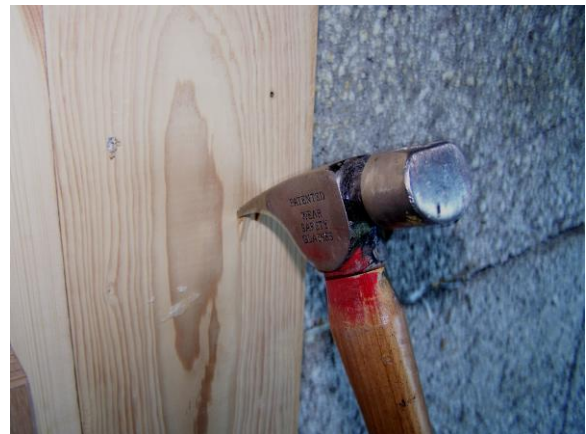
Available: at www.stiletto.com

I stabbed this 8x8x18' cedar beam and lifted one end to get some stickers under it so we could move it. I go to a stack of studs and stab the sixth one down and lift all six up and carry

them off to the frame site. I get down on my knees and site the studs to make sure they are not over $\frac{1}{8}$ " crowned, bowed or twisted.



If I am in a bind, I stab my hammer into a frame member to hold it.



I have easy access to it to use again and it frees my hand to do other things.



If I need to drill a pilot for a screw and I need the screw accessible, I lay it on the magnet of the hammer nail holder. This is a lot easier than searching for a screw in your bag.

I have a steel handle Estwing 22 oz. framing hammer that has $\frac{1}{8}$ " claws and we use it to stab big beams to lift them up and get a board (sticker) under the beam so we can put a strap or chain on the beam to lift it.

I am very careful about what I lift with my Stiletto hammers as they have wooden handles; I also only pull small nails with them. Another reason is that they cost about \$100 each, but well worth the money for someone that makes their living with a hammer.

I have had many carpenters, especially the young ones; say

that they cannot see how you could drive a nail with such a lightweight hammer.

Some will listen to me and I show them how to swing a hammer and drive a nail, some are amazed at how I can drive a 12 sinker, but most, at the age of 25 or 30 know far more about the carpentry business than a 62 year old vintage carpenter.

You need to take one of your straight clawed hammers and point the claws and more than likely you will end up pointing all of your hammers as I have.

I point them with a 24 grit grinding pad and disc, and when I get it like a want it I dip it in 10 weight oil so as to keep the temper.

<http://carpenterbooks.com>

Bob Johnston, carpenter