

# Mallet Takes (and Gives) a Good Beating

For more than a decade, I've meant to make a good wooden mallet that fits my hand and my style of work. I can now cross that off my "to-do" list thanks to a new mallet from a Pennsylvania company that does a great job of hitting both chisels and all my hot-button issues.

For starters, it looks like a traditional mallet you'd find in a catalog, but this one has been soaked for many weeks in linseed oil. The soaking adds significant weight, without having to increase the size of the mallet's head.

The mallet is 13" long overall with a 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" head. So it's a nice small size – you're not going to smack yourself in the head and you can get into fairly tight places.

The mallet I tried is listed as approximately 22 oz., but mine weighs 19 oz., according to our postal scale. That weight offers plenty of punch for mortising hardwoods or chopping out the waste between dovetails. Lighter-weight mallets make my forearm sore and require more effort than necessary. Smaller and larger sizes of mallets are available from the manufacturer.

Other touches to the tool are strictly traditional. All the correct edges are chamfered (I like chamfers), and there's a nice leather wrist strap. This strap is great for hanging the mallet over the bench or keeping it on your wrist should your palm become separated from the handle during a wild swing.

I like this mallet.

And so does Senior Editor Glen D. Huey, who chopped out about 100 dovetails for the cabinet base on his workbench with it. The mallet packs a ton of punch for its size and is a good fit in your hand. The mallet comes in four sizes between 18 oz. (\$22.95) up to 32 oz. (\$29.95). The 22 oz. model we tested is \$24.95.

Some woodworkers might scoff at pur-



## Carpenter's Mallet

**Di Legno** ■ 877-208-4298 or  
[DLWS.com](http://DLWS.com)

**Street price** ■ \$24.95

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chasing a tool they could make themselves. However, making a mallet that looks correct is harder than making a mallet that works well. This one handles both tasks. **PW** — CS