

# Kit & Tools

A collection of press releases and tests showing the latest tools and products on the market

All prices are correct at time of going to press but are subject to change without notice. Products from US & overseas to UK are subject to shipping & taxes

## D-Way Tools

ON TEST

Andy Coates and Mark Baker put a selection of D-Way Tools through their paces



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY COATES

### Comments from Andy Coates

I received a parcel of D-Way tools to test with some excitement. The package of contained unhandled tools and included a 1/2in detail spindle gouge, 1/8in bead tool, 1/8in STD parting tool, and 5/8in (1/2in UK size) bowl gouge, and found they fitted very well in a variety of interchangeable handles I had, so was able to start using them immediately. I have used the imperial/inch measurements because being made in the USA they use the inch measurements and that is what they are bought in.

The D-Way tools are all made from heat treated M42 HSS and are sold pre-sharpened and ready for work. The items received were sharp and ready for use. When I buy a new tool I generally put my own grind on before work, but none of these tools seemed far away from the grind I would put on, so I left them as supplied. The 5/8in bowl gouge was supplied perfectly sharp and, on wet and dry wood it performed without issue, capable of fast roughing cuts removing

a prodigious amount of wood very cleanly and quickly, and then more refined finishing and shaping cuts using the nicely swept wing of the tool. The flute is a U-shaped parabolic curve, which I prefer on the whole, and as such is a perfect all-rounder, equally good for hogging out and cutting cleanly at the bottom of bowls. Edge holding seems on a par with the very best of the other brands of tool I have, and honing between re-grinding worked very well. It is a lovely tool to use.

The detail spindle gouge performed equally well, the relieved heel proving a sensible and useful modification. Both the bowl and spindle gouges have polished flutes which help to produce the extremely sharp cutting edges, and this is reflected in the quality of the cuts both tools are capable of.

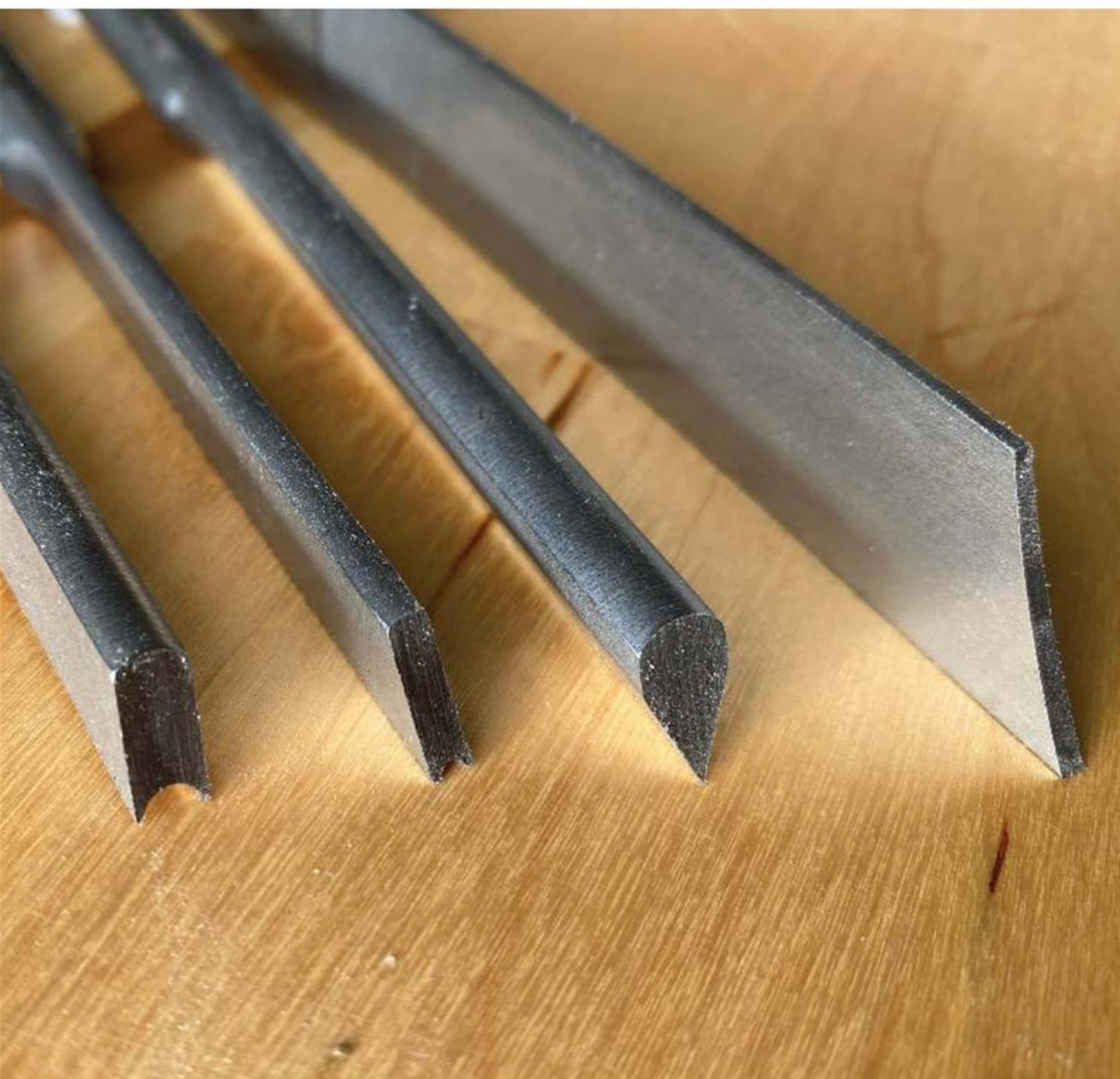
I wasn't expecting too much from the parting tool; it's a parting tool after all, but it was a surprisingly nice tool to use. It's a pretty standard-pattern parting tool, but does seem to have a very sharp cutting edge, and cuts incredibly well

on both parting cuts and rolling small beads. What was apparent was just how rigid this tool is. The tool steel is very hard; again it is M42 HSS (Cobalt) and has a 1/2in tang, which all helps to produce a remarkably strong tool, with no discernable flex. Without question a tool I will immediately buy for my own use.

The last tool, a 1/8in beading/bead-forming tool, is the only tool I wouldn't have previously considered buying for my own use, however, using it was a dream. Its only function is to cut small 1/8in beads, other sizes are available and without question it does just that, and does it incredibly well. Obviously results will vary depending upon wood species and presentation of the tool, which can take some practice, but it does cut very clean, repeatable beads; so if you are fond of using beads as a decorative feature this tool will make short work of them.

None of the tools proved a problem for re-grinding, even the bowl gouge grind was repeatable using a Wolverine jig, although it would not bother me to have to grind it to my usual pattern, and





3/16in and 1/16in bead-forming tools, diamond tool – aka tear-drop tool and a thin 1/16in tapered parting tool

same was true for the spindle gouge. The parting tool is no different to grind than any other standard tool and the bead-forming tool was best sharpened with a diamond honing card. So there is no reason why the grind styles and sharpness cannot be maintained for the life of the tool.

#### Conclusion

What stands out with this range of tools is the design of the tools; they have clearly been designed by turners for turners, and as a result they perform beautifully.

The tool steel is very high quality and the finish on the tools is flawless.

### Second opinion from Mark Baker

The tools I tried were a 3/16in and 1/16in bead-forming tools, diamond tool – aka tear-drop tool and a thin 1/16in tapered parting tool.

The 1/16in parting tool is 210mm long and machined from 3/4in high by 1/4in wide bar. The 1/2in wide tang is machined, as is the main shaft of the parting tool

to create the 4in long tapered section of the tapered, from bottom to top, to create the main profile of the cutting section and is tapered to minimise binding during the cut. In use it is exceptionally rigid, holds a very sharp cutting edge and cuts like a dream. The beauty of the cutting edge being only 1/16in wide is it removes minimal timber and it can also be used to create delicate, thin recessed shoulders and recesses.

The beading/bead forming tools are machined from 3/8in diameter round bar and are, in my opinion, easy to use. Due to the grind on the end, they can be used horizontally to the work for delicate cuts, or the handle can be held low so the tool is pointed more upright into the oncoming work for a more aggressive, but not too aggressive cut. The machined flutes are precise and even. And regarding sharpening, honing is the best way to go with these tools, but if you damage one of the wings of the flute by dropping the tool on the floor, they can be ground on a bench grinder with ease. I found these tools easy to use, but as Andy says in his comments, the quality of the bead is dependent on the timber used. Dense, close-grained timbers are best especially if you very fine delicate beads.

The diamond tool threw me a bit. Looking at the D-way website, there is a video which shows it in use to cut beads and such like. It is more versatile than that. It can be used to roll beads, but it can also be used to cut V-grooves, shear cut curved surfaces as well, so is a handy clean up tool for some shapes.

All of the tools performed well and with ease. The cutting edges lasted a long while and there was nothing to find fault with regarding these tools. Well made and totally fit for purpose.

**Prices from: \$40**

**Contact: D-Way Tools**

**Web: <https://d-waytools.com>**

### HAMPSHIRE SHEEN

Starting at the end of January Hampshire Sheen is introducing food contact and toy safe compliance on its High Gloss and Microcrystalline Wax products. They now comply with food contact and toy safe regulations in the UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

**Price: At the time of going to press to be confirmed**

**Contact: Hampshire sheen**

**Web: [www.hampshiresheen.com](http://www.hampshiresheen.com)**

