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(54) **DEMOLITION TOOL**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention provides a demolition tool that can be used in many ways for the demolition of construction materials or other materials. The demolition tool includes a handle having a head at one end. The head has a longitudinal central plane that bisects the head, a strike contact face, and toothed, stepped grasping jaws that accommodate multiple sizes of lumber or other material. The head may also include a blunt blade edge below the strike contact face for striking and demolishing material. The demolition tool includes a bent end pry bar at a second end of the handle. The bent end pry bar being offset 90 degrees from the longitudinal central plane of the tool head enabling full range of motion without interfering with other tool functions. The demolition tool may comprise a single piece of material and may be softer than tools used to strike it, but harder than materials which it is used to strike.

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **7/146**; 81/20; 7/138; 7/166

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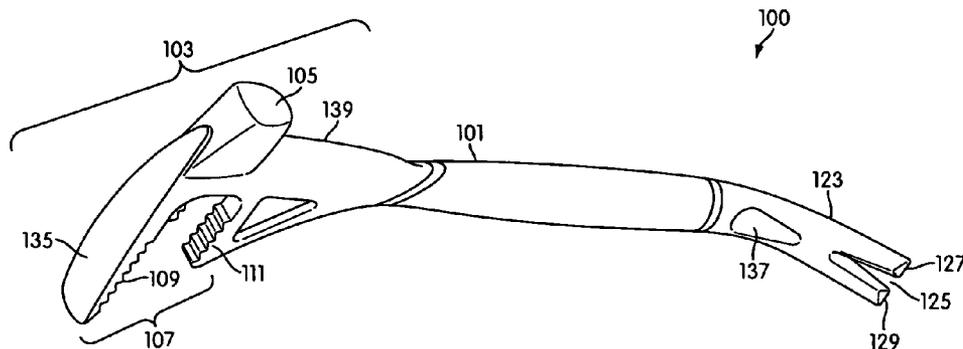
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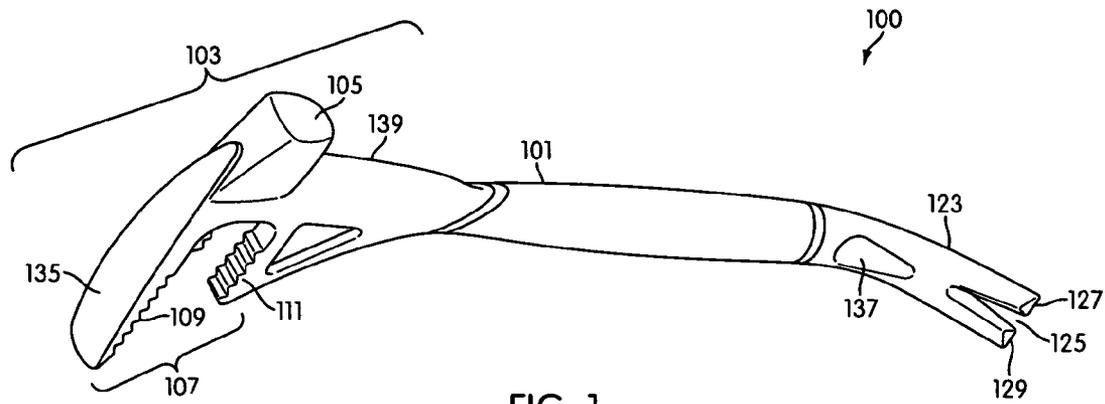
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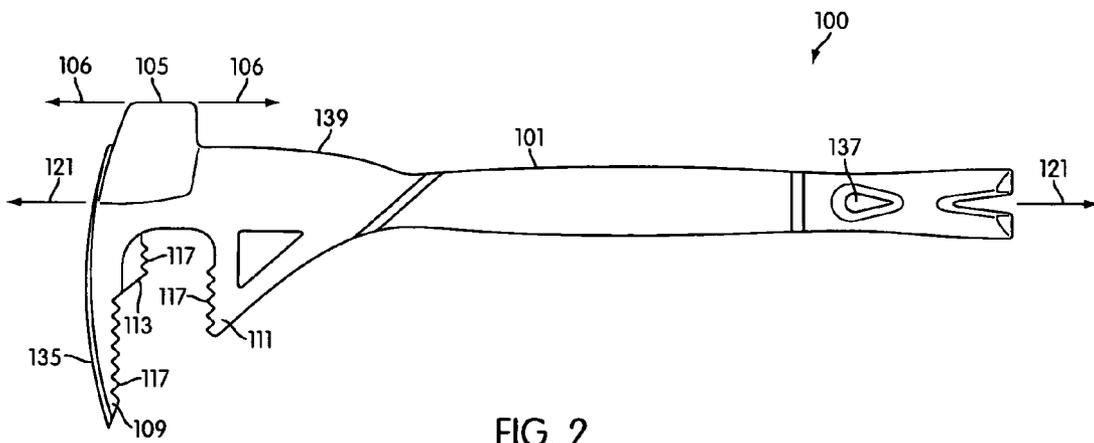
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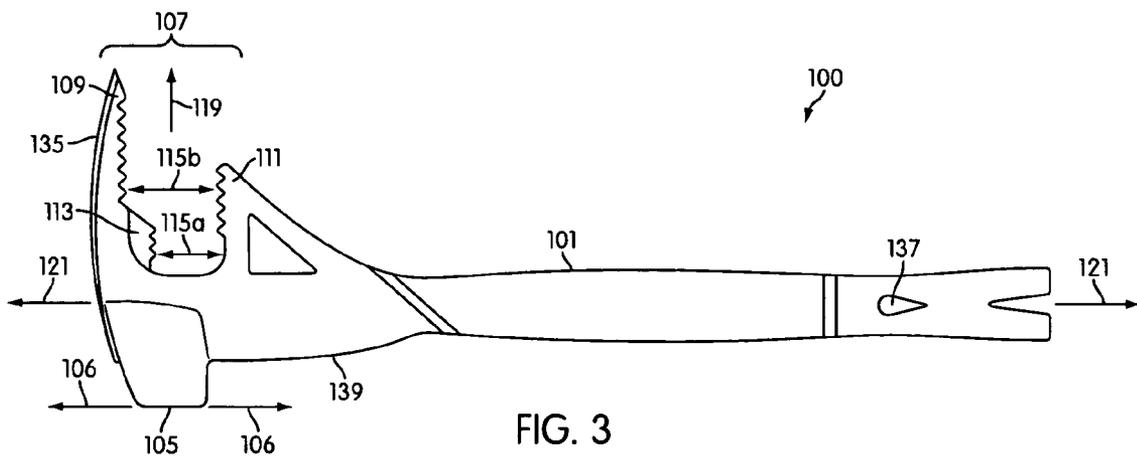
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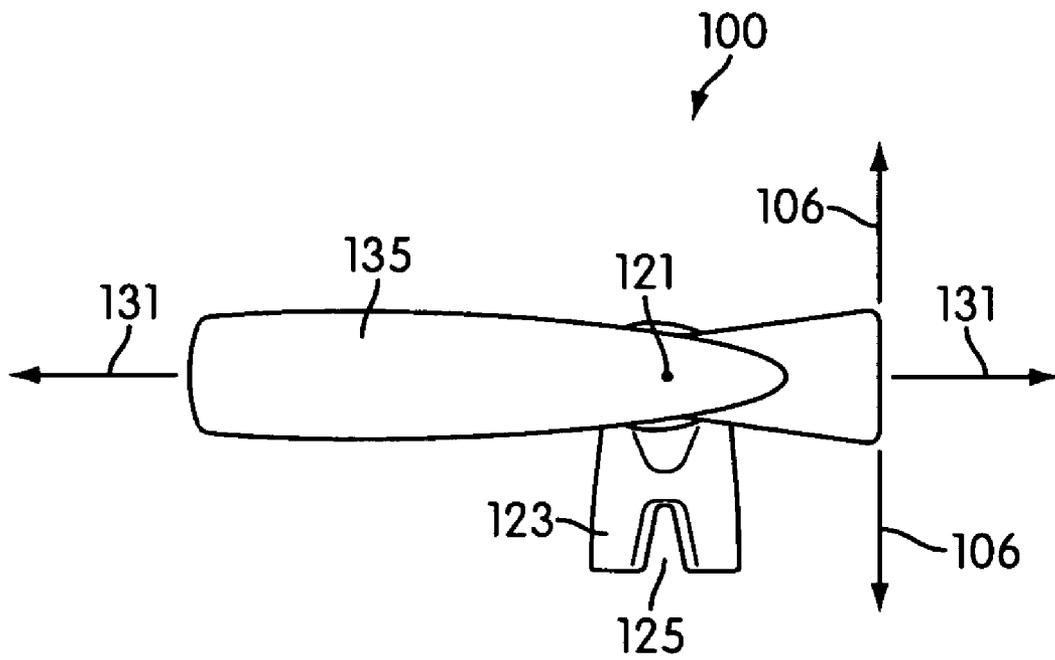


FIG. 4A

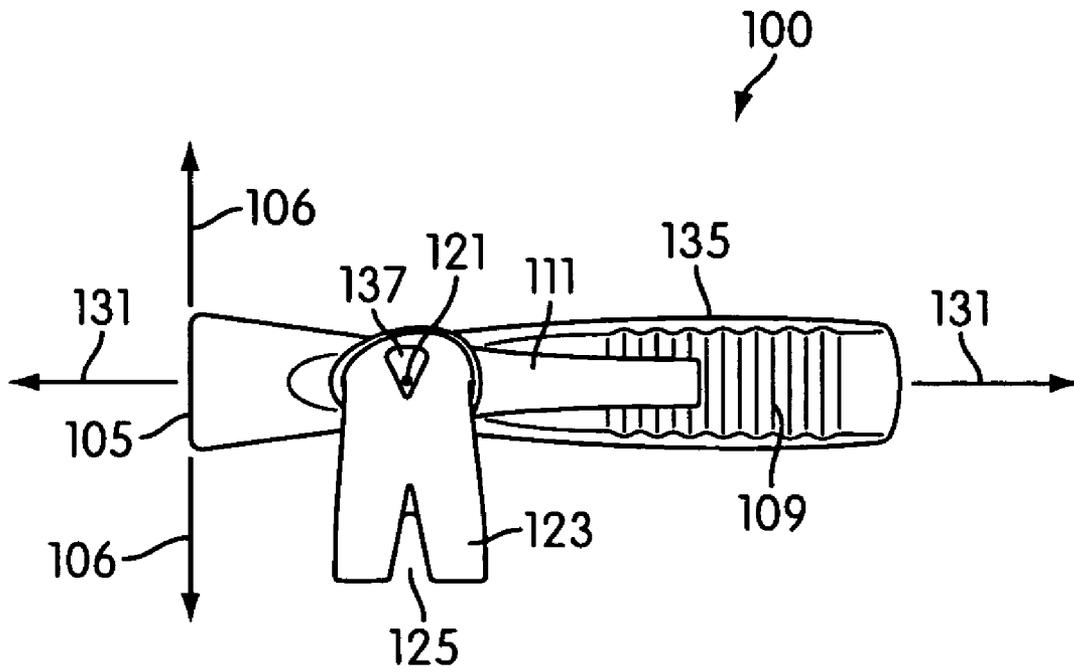


FIG. 4B

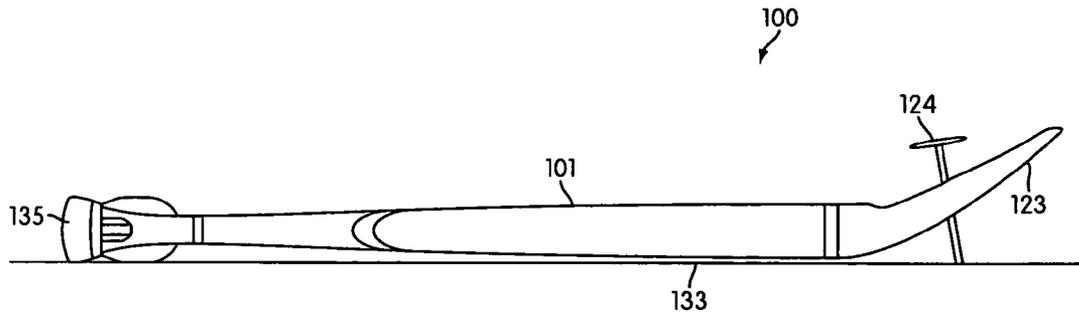


FIG. 5

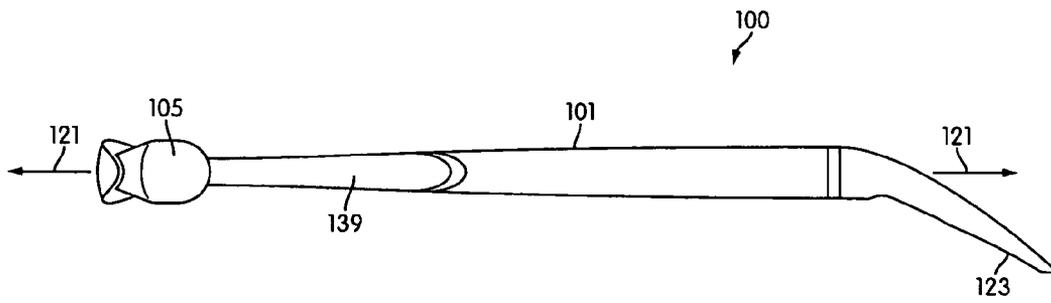


FIG. 6

DEMOLITION TOOL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a multi-functional demolition tool and methods for the manufacture thereof.

2. Description of Related Art

There are many hand tools that are traditionally used for demolition of construction or building materials. A "crow bar," for instance, typically has a straight pry bar end attached to a long lever arm and a hooked pry bar end at its opposite terminus. Some tools have pry bar ends that are forked for use in removing nails or other fasteners and otherwise wedging into building materials. Additional demolition tools include various sledge hammers, grasping equipment, and other tools.

However, some of these demolition tools present certain drawbacks or limited capabilities. For example, typical board grasping equipment is unsuitable for successfully demolishing lumber or grasping materials or boards of different thicknesses. In addition, certain tools with pry bar ends do not enable full range of motion due to other implements located at opposite ends of the tool bottoming out on a work surface. Furthermore, the configuration of these pry bar ends often interferes with the comfortable use of the implements located at the other ends of the tool.

Other demolition tools are made from material that is not intended to be struck by a striking tool to enable it to be used in a chisel-like manner. Finally, some tools that are used for demolition, but designed for other purposes, are made from multiple parts as opposed to being integrally formed. This adds to the cost and complexity of the structure, and potentially reduces the strength thereof.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present disclosure relates to a demolition tool for demolishing construction material, building material, or other material. In one embodiment, the demolition tool comprises a handle with a head at a first end of the handle, the head having a longitudinal central plane. In one embodiment, the head includes a strike contact face. The strike contact face includes a flat surface that can be struck by a hammer or other striking tool or that can be used to strike building or other material for demolition purposes or for other purposes. In one embodiment, the plane or surface of the strike contact face is parallel with the main axis of the handle and perpendicular to the longitudinal central plane of the head.

In one embodiment, the head also includes grasping jaws. In one embodiment, the grasping jaws may be utilized to grasp, manipulate, and/or otherwise demolish building materials such as, for example, lumber or other building materials. The grasping jaws include one or more steps on one or both of an upper jaw or a lower jaw. The grasping jaws having one or more steps may form multiple gaps. The multiple gaps may accommodate materials or boards having different thicknesses. In some embodiments, the grasping jaws include one or more teeth on their interior grasping surfaces. In one embodiment, the opening formed by the grasping jaws is perpendicular to the main axis of the handle. In one embodiment, the grasping jaws extend generally along the longitudinal central plane of the head.

In some embodiments, the demolition tool includes a chisel blade on the opposite side of the head from the strike contact face. In one embodiment, the chisel blade is formed as part of the upper jaw of the grasping jaws. The chisel blade may be

used to penetrate building materials such as wood (or other materials) for the purposes of demolition or for other purposes.

In one embodiment, the demolition tool includes a bent end pry bar at a second end of the handle. Bent end pry bar may enable the removal of fasteners such as, for example, nails, brads, staples, or other fasteners, or may enable general prying apart of materials. In one embodiment, the bent end pry bar is bent in a direction that is 90 degrees offset from the central longitudinal plane of the head. This offset enables the use of the bent end pry bar without interference from the head or any implements thereon (e.g., the grasping jaws, the strike contact surface, or other implements). Additionally, the 90 degree offset moves the bent end pry bar out of the plane of use of implements on the head.

In one embodiment, the demolition tool includes a blunt blade edge located on the head, below the strike contact face. The blunt blade edge may include a tapered wedge that may be utilized to break apart or otherwise demolish construction materials such as for example, wood, softer metals, or other materials by striking blows upon the material.

The demolition tool, including the handle, the head, the bent end pry bar, and/or other portions of the demolition tool, may comprise a single integrally molded metal material, as opposed to multiple parts jointed or fastened together. In one embodiment, the demolition tool is manufactured to weigh between 3.5 to 4.5 lbs., and in one embodiment, approximately 4 lbs. This weight provides a tool with enough mass and inertia to aid in demolition of construction materials or other materials. In one embodiment, the demolition tool may be hardened to Rockwell C 38-44. Thus, the demolition tool is softer than conventional tools that can be used to strike it, but harder than the materials it is used to strike (e.g., wood, aluminum, or other materials).

These and other objects, features, and advantages of the invention will be apparent through the detailed description of the preferred embodiments and the drawings attached hereto. It is also to be understood that both the foregoing summary and the following detailed description are exemplary and not restrictive of the scope of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a demolition tool according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 illustrates a side view of a demolition tool according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates a side view of a demolition tool according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4A illustrates an end view of a demolition tool according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4B illustrates an end view of a demolition tool according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 illustrates a side view of a demolition tool according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 6 illustrates a side view of a demolition tool according to an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides a demolition tool for demolishing construction material, building material, or other material. FIG. 1 illustrates a demolition tool **100** according to an embodiment of the invention. In one embodiment, demolition tool **100** comprises a handle **101** with a head **103** at a first end of handle **101**. In one embodiment, head **103** has a longitudinal central plane (plane **131** of FIGS. 4A and 4B) that

bisects head **103**. In one embodiment, head **103** includes a strike contact face **105**. Strike contact face **105** includes a generally flat surface that can be struck by a hammer or other striking tool or that can be used to strike building or other material for demolition purposes or for other purposes. In one embodiment, the plane **106** or surface of strike contact face **105** is parallel with the main axis **121** of handle **101**, as illustrated in FIG. 2.

In one embodiment, head **103** includes grasping jaws **107**. In one embodiment, grasping jaws **107** comprise an upper jaw **109** and a lower jaw **111**. In some embodiments, grasping jaws **107** may be utilized to grasp, manipulate, and/or otherwise demolish building materials such as, for example, lumber or other building materials. Grasping jaws **107** include one or more steps on one or both of upper jaw **109** or lower jaw **111**. FIG. 2 illustrates a side view of demolition tool **100** wherein upper jaw **109** includes a single step **113**. As shown, step **113** has teeth **117**. Grasping jaws **107** having one or more steps may form multiple gaps of different length within grasping jaws **107**. For example, FIG. 3 illustrates a side view of demolition tool **100** according to an embodiment of the invention, wherein grasping jaws **107** include multiple gaps **115a** and **115b**. The multiple gaps within grasping jaws **107** may accommodate materials having different thicknesses. For instance, in one embodiment, gap **115a** between step **113** and lower jaw **111** is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide (or perhaps a bit narrower) so that it may accommodate lumber or other material that is $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick, while gap **115b** between upper jaw **109** and lower jaw **111**, is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide (or perhaps a bit narrower) so that it may accommodate lumber or other material that is $\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. Other gaps having other sizes may exist.

In one embodiment, the surface on upper jaw **109** carrying or defining teeth **117** is generally parallel to the surface on lower jaw **109** carrying or defining teeth **117**. Similarly, the teeth **117** on step **113** extend along a line that is generally parallel to the teeth **117** on lower jaw **111**. Otherwise stated, the points of the teeth **117** on the lower jaw **111** are parallel to the points (or lines extending through the points) on the upper jaw **109** and step **113**. In another embodiment, some of the steps included within grasping jaws **107** do not have teeth **117**. In one embodiment, the opening formed by grasping jaws **107** is perpendicular to the main axis of handle **101**. FIG. 3 illustrates opening **119**, which is perpendicular to the main axis **121** of handle **101**. In one embodiment, the opening formed by grasping jaws **107** extends generally along the longitudinal central plane (i.e., plane **131**) of head **103**.

Demolition tool **100** includes a chisel blade **135**, on the opposite side of head **103** from strike contact face **105**, as illustrated in FIGS. 1-4b. In one embodiment, chisel blade **135** is formed upon upper jaw **109** of grasping jaws **107**. Chisel blade **135** may be used to penetrate building materials such as wood (or other materials) for the purposes of demolition or for other purposes. In one embodiment, chisel blade **135** may be positioned on a workpiece to be penetrated, and the strike contact face **105** may be struck by a hammer or other striking tool, such that chisel blade **135** is driven into the workpiece.

In one embodiment, demolition tool **100** includes a bent end pry bar **123** at a second end of handle **101**. In some embodiments, bent end pry bar **123** includes a forked end having a V-shaped gap **125** in between tapered ends **127** and **129**. The bent end pry bar **123** may enable the removal of fasteners such as, for example, nails, brads, staples, or other fasteners from a workpiece or may enable general prying apart of materials. FIG. 5 illustrates a side view of demolition

tool **100** according to an embodiment of the invention, wherein pry bar **123** is being used to remove a fastener **124** from a work surface **133**.

In one embodiment, bent end pry bar **123** is bent in a direction that is 90 degrees offset from plane **131** that bisects the head **103**. FIGS. 4A and 4B illustrate end views of demolition tool **100** according to an embodiment of the invention, wherein bent end pry bar **123** is offset 90 degrees from plane **131** of head **103**. This offset enables the use of bent end pry bar **123** without interference from head **103** or any implements thereon (e.g., grasping jaws **107**, strike contact surface **105**, or other implements). For example, bent end pry bar may be used to pry material or remove a fastener on a flat work surface (such as work surface **133** in FIG. 5) without head **103** causing demolition tool **101** to prematurely bottom out on work surface **133**. A user may utilize the full range of motion bent end pry bar **123** to pry until head **103** bottoms out on work surface **133**. Additionally, the 90 degree offset moves bent end pry bar **123** out of the plane of use of implements on head **103**.

In one embodiment, demolition tool **100** includes an opening **137**. Opening **137** may include a hole extending completely through the width of demolition tool **100**. FIGS. 1-3 and 4B illustrate demolition tool **100** having opening **137** according to an embodiment of the invention. In some embodiments opening **137** is located on handle **101**, on bent end pry bar **123**, between bent end pry bar **123** and handle **101**, or in another location on demolition tool **100**. In some embodiments, opening **137** is a tear-dropped-shaped opening and enables the removal of nails, brads, or other fasteners from building materials or other materials. Opening **137** may be beveled on one or both sides (FIG. 2 illustrates a beveled side of opening **137**).

In one embodiment, demolition tool **100** includes a blunt blade edge **139**. FIGS. 1-3 illustrate an embodiment of demolition tool **100** wherein blunt blade edge **139** is located on head **103**, below strike contact face **105**. FIG. 6 illustrates a side view of demolition tool **100** according to an embodiment of the invention, wherein blunt blade edge **139** is parallel to the main axis **121** of handle **101**. In one embodiment, blunt blade edge **139** may exist on the same plane as the longitudinal central plane (i.e., plane **131**) of head **103**. Blunt blade edge **139** may include a tapered wedge that may be utilized to break apart or otherwise demolish construction materials such as for example, wood, metals, or other materials by striking blows upon the material. In some embodiments, blunt blade edge **139** is blunt enough such that it does not cut material in the same fashion as a knife, axe, or other sharp bladed tool. In other embodiments, blunt blade edge **139** has a sharp edge such as, for example, an edge similar to an axe or hatchet blade.

In one embodiment, demolition tool **100**, including handle **101**, head **103**, bent end pry bar **123**, and/or other portions of demolition tool **100**, comprise a single integrally forged or molded metal material, as opposed to being formed from multiple parts jointed or fastened together.

In one embodiment, demolition tool **100** includes a grip material such as, for example, rubber, plastic, or other material on handle **101** or other portions of demolition tool **101**. The gripping material may be placed over or secured to demolition tool **100** to aid in its use as a hand tool by providing a slip resistant and comfortable grip for a user's hands. In one embodiment, demolition tool **100** is manufactured to weigh approximately 3.5-4.5 lbs. and may weigh approximately 4 lbs.

As mentioned above, demolition tool **100** may be utilized in the demolition of construction or building materials. For

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example, demolition tool **100** may be utilized to break apart or otherwise demolish a workpiece when chisel blade **135** is placed on the workpiece and strike contact face **105** is struck by a hammer or other tool, thus, driving chisel blade **135** into the workpiece. Typically, striking tools, such as hammer heads are hardened to minimum hardness of Rockwell C 45. As such, tools or fasteners that are meant to be struck are hardened to a maximum hardness that is less than Rockwell C 45. As stated above, strike contact face **105** of the demolition tool may be struck by a hammer or striking tool to enable demolition tool **100** to be used as a chisel. As such, in one embodiment, strike contact face **105** or the entirety of demolition tool **100** may be hardened to Rockwell C 38-44. Thus, demolition tool **100** will be softer than tools used to strike it, but harder than the materials it will be used to demolish (e.g., wood, aluminum, or other materials).

To achieve a hardness of Rockwell C 38-44, certain manufacturing techniques are used. In one embodiment, demolition tool **100** is integrally formed (e.g., forged or molded) of steel and a two step heat treating process is utilized. First, demolition tool is hardened by heating the steel to between 810° C. to 870° C., and in one embodiment, between 830° C. to 850° C., and in one embodiment, approximately 840° C. At 840° C., the heat treatment temperature is maintained between 60-80 minutes, and in one embodiment, 70 minutes. After heat treatment, the tool is quenched in oil to rapidly cool to tool. At this point the steel is both hard and brittle. The second step of the process is to temper the steel, which reduces the hardness but adds toughness to the steel. Tempering is performed by heating the steel a second time to between 380° C. and 420° C., and in one embodiment, between 390° C. and 410° C., and in one embodiment, 400° C. The steel is then soaked at that temperature for between 140 and 160 minutes, and in one embodiment, 150 minutes.

In one embodiment, it is contemplated that FIGS. 1-6 are drawn to scale (i.e., not to actual size, but in proportion).

While the invention has been described with reference to the certain illustrated embodiments, the words that have been used herein are words of description, rather than words of limitation. Changes may be made, within the purview of the associated claims, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention in its aspects. Although the invention has been described herein with reference to particular structures, acts, and materials, the invention is not to be limited to the particulars disclosed, but rather can be embodied in a wide variety of forms, some of which may be quite different from those of the disclosed embodiments, and extends to all equivalent structures, acts, and materials, such as are within the scope of the associated claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-use demolition tool, comprising:

a handle having first and second ends;

a head located at the first end of the handle, the head having a longitudinal central plane;

fixed board grasping jaws, wherein the grasping jaws have one or more steps so that the jaws form multiple gaps, each gap having a different width, at least one of the widths corresponding to a specific lumber dimension, wherein each step includes one or more teeth, wherein said grasping jaws extend generally along said longitudinal central plane; and

a bent end pry bar located at the second end of the handle, wherein the bent end pry bar is bent in a direction that is offset 90 degrees from the longitudinal central plane of the head, and wherein the bent end pry bar comprises a

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forked region and a curved portion, the forked region being joined to the second end of the handle by the curved portion.

2. The demolition tool of claim **1**, wherein the head further comprises a strike contact face, wherein a surface of the strike contact face is parallel to a main axis of the handle and perpendicular to the longitudinal central plane of the head.

3. The demolition tool of claim **2**, further comprising a blunt blade comprising a tapered wedge located on the head below the strike contact face, wherein a leading edge of the blunt blade is parallel with the longitudinal central plane of the head.

4. The demolition tool of claim **2** wherein the strike contact face has a hardness of between Rockwell C 38 and Rockwell C 44.

5. The demolition tool of claim **2**, wherein the fixed board grasping jaws have at least an upper jaw and a lower jaw, the upper jaw upper comprising a chisel blade.

6. The demolition tool of claim **5**, wherein the strike contact face and the chisel blade are positioned on opposing sides of the head such that a blow struck on the strike contact face drives the chisel blade into one or more pieces of material.

7. The demolition tool of claim **1**, wherein the demolition tool is integrally formed from a single piece of material.

8. The demolition tool of claim **7**, wherein the demolition tool has a hardness of between Rockwell C 38 and Rockwell C 44.

9. The demolition tool of claim **1**, wherein the fixed board grasping jaws extend in a direction perpendicular to a main axis of the handle.

10. The demolition tool of claim **1**, wherein the bent end pry bar comprises a forked end.

11. The demolition tool of claim **1**, further comprising a teardrop shaped opening positioned between the bent end pry bar and the second end of the handle.

12. The demolition tool of claim **1**, wherein the demolition tool weighs between 3.5 and 4.5 lbs.

13. The demolition tool of claim **1**, wherein one of the gaps has a width approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide.

14. The demolition tool of claim **1**, wherein one of the gaps has a width approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide.

15. A multi-use demolition tool, comprising:

a handle having first and second ends;

a head located at the first end of the handle and having a longitudinal central plane;

a steel strike contact face, the steel having a hardness of between Rockwell C 38 and Rockwell C 44, wherein a surface of the strike contact face is generally perpendicular to the longitudinal central plane of the head, the strike contact face adapted to receive blows from tools having a hardness greater than the hardness of the strike contact face; and

fixed board grasping jaws having at least an upper jaw and a lower jaw, the upper jaw comprising a unitary chisel blade, extending in a direction generally opposite the direction in which the strike contact face faces.

16. The demolition tool of claim **15**, wherein the surface of the strike contact face is parallel to a main axis of the handle.

17. The demolition tool of claim **15**, wherein the fixed board grasping jaws have one or more steps so that the jaws form multiple gaps, each gap having a different width, wherein each step includes one or more teeth.

18. The demolition tool of claim **15**, wherein the grasping jaws extend generally along the longitudinal central plane.

19. The demolition tool of claim **15**, wherein the grasping jaws extend in a direction perpendicular to a main axis of the handle.

20. The demolition tool of claim 15, wherein the strike contact face and the chisel blade are positioned on opposing sides of the head such that a blow struck on the strike contact face drives the chisel blade into one or more pieces of material.

21. The demolition tool of claim 15, further comprising a bent end pry bar located at the second end of the handle, wherein the bent end pry bar is bent in a direction that is offset approximately 90 degrees from the longitudinal central plane of the head.

22. The demolition tool of claim 21, wherein the bent end pry bar comprises a forked end.

23. The demolition tool of claim 21, further comprising a teardrop shaped opening positioned between the bent end pry bar and the second end of the handle.

24. The demolition tool of claim 15, further comprising a blunt blade comprising a tapered wedge located on the head below the strike contact face, wherein a leading edge of the blunt blade is parallel with the longitudinal central plane of the head.

25. A multi-use demolition tool, comprising:

a handle having first and second ends;

a head located at the first end of the handle, the head having a longitudinal central plane; and

fixed board grasping jaws, wherein the grasping jaws have one or more steps so that the jaws form multiple gaps, each gap having a different width, wherein the width of each gap is substantially constant along the length of the gap, at least one of the widths corresponding to a specific lumber dimension, wherein each step includes one or more teeth, wherein said grasping jaws extend generally along said longitudinal central plane.

26. The demolition tool of claim 25, further comprising a bent end pry bar located at the second end of the handle, wherein the bent end pry bar is bent in a direction that is offset approximately 90 degrees from the longitudinal central plane of the head.

27. The demolition tool of claim 26, wherein the bent end pry bar comprises a forked end.

28. The demolition tool of claim 26, further comprising a teardrop shaped opening positioned between the bent end pry bar and the second end of the handle.

29. The demolition tool of claim 25, further comprising a strike contact face on the head, wherein a surface of the strike contact face is parallel to a main axis of the handle and perpendicular to the longitudinal central plane of the head.

30. The demolition tool of claim 29, further comprising a blunt blade comprising a tapered wedge located on the head below the strike contact face, wherein a leading edge of the blunt blade is parallel with the longitudinal central plane of the head.

31. The demolition tool of claim 29, wherein the fixed board grasping jaws have at least an upper jaw and a lower jaw, the upper jaw upper comprising a unitary chisel blade.

32. The demolition tool of claim 31, wherein the strike contact face and the chisel blade are positioned on opposing sides of the head such that a blow struck on the strike contact face drives the chisel blade into one or more pieces of material.

33. The demolition tool of claim 25, wherein the fixed board grasping jaws extend in a direction perpendicular to a main axis of the handle.

34. The demolition tool of claim 25, wherein the demolition tool weighs between 3.5 and 4.5 lbs.

35. A multi-use demolition tool, comprising:

a handle having first and second ends;

a head located at the first end of the handle, the head having a longitudinal central plane;

a strike contact face, wherein a surface of the strike contact face is generally perpendicular to the longitudinal central plane of the head; and

a blunt blade comprising a tapered wedge located on the head entirely below the strike contact face, such that the strike contact face does not longitudinally overlap with the tapered wedge, wherein a leading edge of the blunt blade is parallel with the longitudinal central plane of the head.

36. A multi-use demolition tool, comprising:

a handle having first and second ends;

a head located at the first end of the handle, the head including a strike contact face and having a longitudinal central plane;

fixed board grasping jaws having at least an upper jaw and a lower jaw, the upper jaw upper including a unitary chisel blade, wherein the strike contact face and the chisel blade are positioned on opposing sides of the head such that a blow struck on the strike contact face drives the chisel blade into one or more pieces of material, and wherein the grasping jaws have one or more steps so that the jaws form multiple gaps, each gap having a different width, at least one of the widths corresponding to a specific lumber dimension, each step including one or more teeth, wherein said grasping jaws extend generally along said longitudinal central plane;

a blunt blade comprising a tapered wedge located on the head below the strike contact face, wherein a leading edge of the blunt blade is parallel with the longitudinal central plane of the head;

a bent end pry bar located at the second end of the handle, wherein the bent end pry bar comprises a forked end and is bent in a direction that is offset 90 degrees from the longitudinal central plane of the head; and

a teardrop shaped opening positioned between the bent end pry bar and the second end of the handle,

wherein at least the head has a hardness of between Rockwell C 38 and Rockwell C 44.

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