

Wood Craft Skills Training Resource: Making a mallet

You will need:



- Log, preferably one end with knots followed by straight grained wood.



- Bow saw
- Permanent marker
- Axe
- Other mallet or thick piece of wood
- Knife



- Saw horse or other alternative

Find your regional green wood centre for further training on how to make this.



- Chopping block

We strongly advise you have read the section on the **safe use and storage of tools** prior to following these instructions.

Method:

1. Use a bow saw to saw the wood to the desired length, keeping the knots to one end (*note: with clients, ensure the hand not using the saw has a glove on*).
2. Use a permanent marker to mark the wood at both ends to guide you as to the size and thickness of the handle.
3. Measure the depth that the blade should go to and use the bow saw to cut to the point of intended thickness.
4. Turn the wood 90 degrees and repeat step 3. Do this a further three times. This will result in four equal depth cuts around the log.
5. Place the log on the chopping block with the knotted side down and handle side up. Hold the axe parallel to the front of your body and place on the log at the edge of the drawn circle. Use another mallet or thick piece of wood to hit onto the top of the axe. The log should split up until the cut made earlier. For safety keep the bulk of the wood between yourself and the axe.
6. Turn the log 90 degrees and repeat point 5. Do this a further three times

7. Use the axe to trim the corners of the handle off (see **safety tip** below).
8. Use the knife to whittle off smaller pieces.
9. Use your mallet to hammer onto froes or gauges.



Safety tip

When using the axe to chip into the wood, ensure you have the wood between you and the axe. Your hand should be shielded by the wood and do not chip close to your fingers.