

## General Project 31—Miniature Vintage Woodworking Tools/John Maki



*John has created a large selection of miniature tools. Here they are displayed in front of a full-size vintage plane for size reference.*

A few weeks ago John Maki and his wife came by to tour both Sherline and the [Craftsmanship Museum](#). He left us a CD containing photos of some of his work. You can also see and learn more about his work at his own site at [minitool.blogspot.com](http://minitool.blogspot.com).

John usually starts with a full-size vintage tool purchased on eBay or at a show that he uses as a model. From that he does detailed CAD drawings of each piece. The fit and function of each piece can also be observed so it can be duplicated in miniature. Some of the parts are then milled using CNC, and some are made manually using hand tools plus a manual Sherline lathe and mill. Because John's main concern is the collection of miniature tools, the full-size tool is often re-sold on eBay or elsewhere once it has served its purpose, but he has saved a few of his favorites so that they can be displayed with the miniature for comparison.



*A selection of miniature planes on a handsome display box.*

John uses an assortment of fine hardwoods, ivory, steel and brass in his miniature creations. They are complete down to the miniature engraved numbers and maker's marks or logos. He has done all sorts of tools including planes, saws, measuring tools and engraving tools. While many collectors spend their time searching for pieces that others have made, John prefers to create his own slice of tool history in miniature by making each piece in his collection himself.

His shop tools consist of a band saw, small table saw, planer and Sherline machine tools—A 4400-DRO lathe, a 540-DRO mill and a 2000-CNC mill running on Flashcut CNC software and using BobCad for developing the drawings and g-code. Note below the well lit work area and pleasant working environment.

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*John's shop. The computer to run the CNC mill is just out of the photo to the left on a small desk with the keyboard and monitor. The Craftsman tool chest below the work surface offers both support and storage for tooling. When working on miniatures, it doesn't take a big shop to contain all the tools you need.*



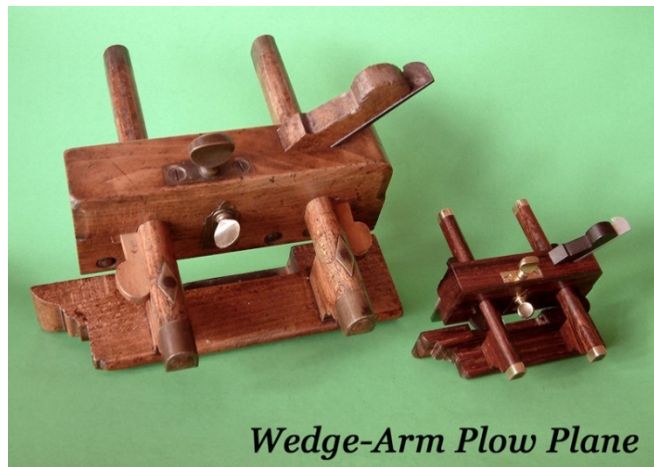
**French Coachmaker's Plow Plane**

*A French coachmaker's plow plane in full size and miniature*



**Norris Style Smoother**

*A Norris style smoother*

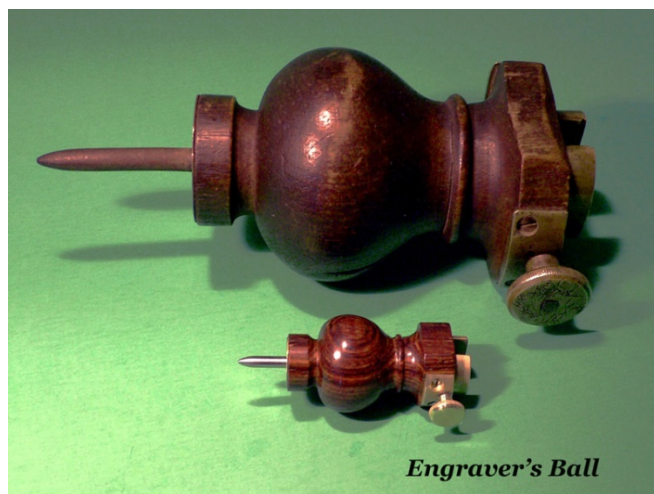


**Wedge-Arm Plow Plane**

*A Wedge-arm plow plane in full size and miniature*



*A set of brass and ivory plumb bobs*



**Engraver's Ball**

*A full-size and miniature Engraver's ball*



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*A Spiers miter plane with dovetailed sole plate.*



*A miniature Henry Disston and Sons rip saw, the original of which came from Philadelphia, PA*



*A plow plane with brass thumbscrews and other brass details*



*A French Drill with beveled gears and hand crank. A plate at the end of the handle allowed the user to lean his chest on the drill to apply extra pressure to make the cut go quicker.*



*An Ultimum brace made in ebony and brass.*



*An Erlandsen ivory spool bow drill in full size and miniature.*

To see more of John Maki's tools, visit his web site at [minitool.blogspot.com](http://minitool.blogspot.com)