

Care and Use

Working Angle

Critical to tool life is using the tool at the correct working angle of 90° to the working surface. Failure to do this will result in high contact pressure between the tool and the bushings and the likelihood of galling between the surfaces. In turn this can lead to premature failure of the tool plus damage and rapid wear to the bushings. Worn bushings can allow the tool to be angled over to a position where the striking face is hit at an angle by the piston.

Lubrication

Lubrication of the tool/bushing with the correct quality high temperature/high pressure grease at regular intervals is essential. Such greases are best able to cope with the extreme contact pressures generated by an incorrect working angle, leverage and excessive bending etc.

USE OF CHEAP SUBSTITUTES (OR NO GREASE AT ALL) IS A MISTAKE AND WILL RESULT IN PREMATURE TOOL FAILURE.

Blank Firing

Continuing to use the hammer when the tool is not or only partially in contact with the work surface will result in the tool being fired down on the retainer pin. This will cause heavy wear and damage to the upper retainer flat radius area and the retaining pin itself.

Tools should be examined regularly, eg. every 40 hours for damage in this area which should then be ground out.

At the same time as the tool is examined the time should be taken to check the tool bushings for wear and damage, looking to replace or repair as necessary.

Overheating

Avoid continuous working in one position. Do not strike in one spot for more than 10-15 seconds before changing the tool to another position. Failure to do this can lead to excessive heat build-up at the working end with 'mushrooming' as a consequence.

Leverage/Bending

Using the tool as a lever to help break the ground is a common tool breaker. Avoid leverage and excessive bending at all times.

Loose Running

Keep the boom and hammer feed sufficient to ensure that the tool is held against the hammer shoulder stop at all times when working.

Tool Reconditioning

Under most normal conditions the tool will not need reconditioning. However tools that have lost their shape on the working end can cause high stresses throughout the tool and hammer. Reconditioning by milling or turning is recommended. Welding or flame cutting is not recommended as the heat generated could cause structural changes within the material which in turn can lead to premature failure or rapid wear.