

## STANLEY'S RAREST PRODUCTION PLANE

By Bob Garay

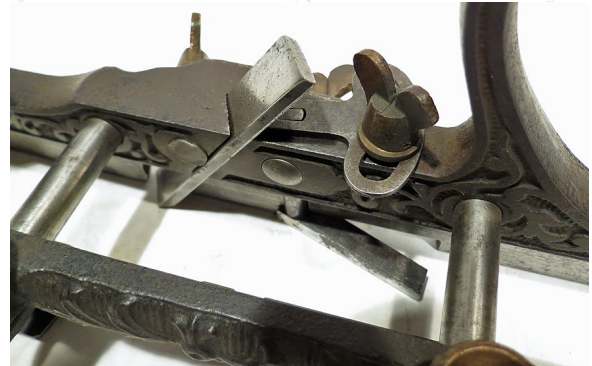
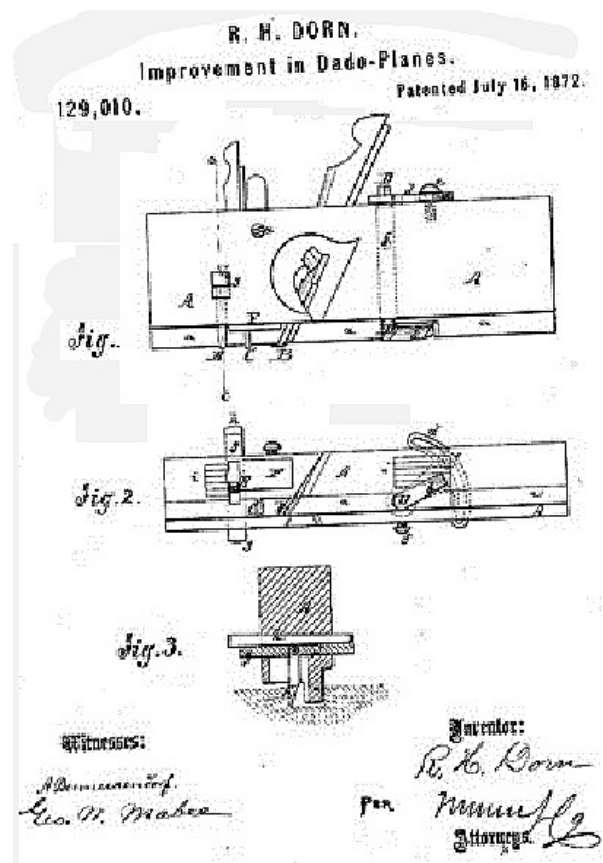
Rufus H. Dorn Adjustable Dado Plane - Patent July 16, 1872. Manufactured by Stanley Rule & Level Co. only in late 1872.



By the time Stanley found success with the Bailey patent bench planes other makers were exploring the metallic plow plane and combination plane. Stanley was looking to get into the combination plane market. Their expertise in making the metallic bench plane gave them confidence that this would be financially productive. By the early 1870's they were producing combination plow planes, In 1871 they produced the Charles Miller Patent # 41, 42, 43, & 44 adjustable Plow Planes.

In 1872 they purchased Rufus Dorn's patent for a combination dado plane and manufactured them in cast iron in the fall of 1872. This early example has the swing-out cutter, which is perfect and completely original. The swing-out cutter can be locked in position at the top of the plane body. The swing out cutter and locking arm can be seen in the patent drawing of the wood plane as Dorn planned it. After Stanley produced this plane they added a support for the swing out arm—not on this earlier version. The support only marginally improved the workability of the plane. By March 1873, the Dorn's Patent plane was replaced by a modification of the design patented by Justus A. Traut and it became the Stanley #46.

A very short production of 1/2 year makes this plane one of the rarest Stanley production planes.



Above - Dorn patent plane showing swing out cutter with wingnut on top to lock in angle.  
Below - Right side of plane showing wingnut locking stem that comes up thru the body for the swing out cutter

