The Steel Square: A Practical Treatise

Fred T. Hodgson
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Fred T. Hodgson : The Steel Square: A Practical Treatise before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Steel Square: A Practical Treatise:

The steel square. As we know it, is of comparatively modern growth. The predecessor of the present square was a clumsy iron tool, with a blade about 1 inches wide, and a tongue about 1 inch wide. I say about because the squares were not by any means exact in their dimensions, or in their truthfulness and were not made use of by mechanics doing fine work, but were chiefly confined to blacksmith shops and similar places. Their marking and figuring were irregular and often incorrect and unreliable. These squares were mostly made in England, though I have seen a few that were manufactured in Belgium or France. The first squares manufactured from steel and made with a 2-inch blade and 1-inch tongue, so far as I have been able to discover, were made early in the nineteenth century near New Haven, Conn. These, however, were very crude affairs and not well figured; Coming down to our own day, however, we are now well supplied with steel squares of fine quality and perfect and accurate make. Indeed, there are squares and squares some of them being paragons of simplicity, while others are as wonderfully and fearfully made as the human structure, yet all of them possess some quality or qualities that justify their manufacture and insure a profitable return to the makers thereof. Before entering into the more serious part of the subject under consideration I purpose giving a description of a number of squares that are now in the market, along with the manufacturers directions for their use, and further, I also intend to illustrate and describe some of the charts, diagrams, keys and rules that have lately been

devised, for the purpose of assisting the student in understanding the application of the square for the solving of roof and other problems.