SCREWDRIVERS FOR SLOTTED STYLE SCREWS

Now that we have learned a little bit of how to use a screwdriver, let's consider the various kinds of screwdrivers that are available and the right and wrong way to use – and abuse – these screwdrivers.

The so-called standard or conventional screwdriver is used for screws with slotted heads. These screwdrivers are usually classified according to tip width and blade length. Generally, the longer the length, the wider the tip – but not always as some rather long screwdrivers may have a narrow tip. Cabinet style screwdrivers, which have long shanks and narrow tips, are useful for driving screws into recessed and counter-bored openings in fine furniture and, obviously, cabinets. On the other hand there are short, stubby screwdrivers with rather wide tips for driving screws in confined quarters.

**FIG. 8.** Don't use a screwdriver whose tip extends beyond the length of the slot in the screw. Too wide a tip will chew up the wood as the screw is being driven home.

**WRONG**

The great assortment of screwdrivers available today means that you can buy a screwdriver in practically any length and in any tip size desired.

Most screwdriver tips are tapered. The tip thickness determines the size of the screw that the screwdriver will drive without damaging the screw slot. The taper permits the screwdriver to drive more than one size of screw.

**FIG. 9.** Careful Cal knows enough to drill pilot and clearance holes when driving screws that are near the edge of a board. A little wax on the threads will ease the job.

**RIGHT**

Heavy duty screwdrivers are available with square shanks so that a wrench can be used on the shank for extra turning power. Never use pliers on a screwdriver shank when the going gets tough. You will only wind up by chewing up the shank. What to do in such a case? Use the largest possible screwdriver that
will fit the slot of the screw. As a rule, the bigger the screwdriver, the larger the diameter of the handle, and the larger the diameter of the handle, the greater the torque, or turning power. If absolutely necessary, use a wrench on the shank to apply the extra power (torque) needed. But, use a wrench only on a screwdriver with a square shank especially designed for that purpose.

**FIG. 10.** Harry, you will always split the wood if you drive a screw too close to the end of the work without first drilling a pilot and clearance hole.