

LINK HANDLES - ABOUT

We offer the industry's widest selection of replacement handles that help you extend the life of your trusted tools. With over 6,000 handle patterns available, we can provide an exact match that fits the tool with an ergonomically-superior turned design.



FACTS TO KNOW WHEN SELECTING A REPLACEMENT HANDLE

Tool handles can be made from a variety of hardwoods as well as fiberglass and steel. Each material has certain advantages and disadvantages for replacement handles.

American hickory and ash

The best replacement handles are made from American hickory and American ash because of their strength, elasticity, and ability to absorb shock. Hardwood handles do not conduct electricity.

Shock-absorbing American hickory

American hickory is dense, heavy, and a natural shock absorber making it ideal for striking and cutting tool handles.

The long fibers and unique cell structure of American hickory allow it to flex repeatedly and return to its original shape. It absorbs and dissipates shock before it reaches the user's hands.

The best hickory is grown in the Tennessee region of the USA

The best American hickory logs come from Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and South Carolina. This region has the ideal combination of soil minerals, rainfall, and sunshine to produce trees that grow slowly and uniformly for exceptional strength.

Wood from slower growing trees is denser and thus stronger than the lighter wood that comes from faster growing trees.

All Link hickory comes from the Tennessee region of the USA. Some hickory grows in the northeastern United States, but it is generally of lower quality than the hickory grown in the Tennessee region.

American ash handles for agricultural tools

Many agricultural tool handles such as shovels, rakes, and hoes are made from American ash. It has a uniform grain structure that provides both the strength and the elasticity needed for the bending stresses these tools must endure.

Other hardwoods

When ash or hickory is not used, other hardwoods suitable for the application are selected.

While ash gives the finest strength to weight ratio, handles of other hardwoods are appropriately selected for many types of tools.

Fiberglass handles

Fiberglass handles are strong, lightweight, and do not conduct electricity. Fiberglass, however, is not flexible and *does not absorb shock*. Fiberglass handles cost more than hardwood handles.

Link offers fiberglass replacement handles.

Steel handles

Steel handles are extremely strong, but they are *heavy and expensive*. They are *not flexible* and *do not absorb shock*. Steel handles conduct electricity.



Vintage logo from the Sequatchie Handle Works

ABOUT - LINK HANDLES

Choose our shock-absorbing hickory handles for striking or cutting tools. The unique fibers of American hickory provide outstanding durability and shock absorption for less wear-and-tear on the user's hands. It's no wonder why drumsticks are made of hickory!

LINK HANDLES®

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES!

Turned handles are ergonomically superior to shaped handles

There are two ways to produce handles: shaping and turning.

Shaped handles are made from flat boards that are smoothed and rounded on the top and bottom. Shaping is a faster and less costly way to make handles.

Turned handles are made on a lathe from wood blanks that are about 25% larger than the flat boards. The result is a handle that has better grips and contours.

Anyone who holds a shaped handle and then a turned handle will immediately feel the higher quality of the turned handle. Link handles uses the turned handle method.

Shaped

Turned

Only Link Handles offer superior ergonomic design

Link handles are designed with the best combination of length and contours so the user can best hold the handle and use the tool.

Our handle shape always works with the user. The handle becomes an extension of the body to provide better comfort, control, and safety.



The best replacement handles are turned rather than shaped. Turning results in ergonomically-superior handles that provide better comfort, control, and safety.

WE TAKE THESE STEPS IN MAKING EVERY TURNED AXE HANDLE:



1. Start with an axe wood square or blank.



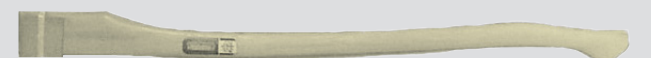
2. Half turned axe handle.



3. Full rough turned axe handle.



4. Axe handle after sanding.



5. Finished axe handle with label and wedge.

LINK HANDLES - QUALITY LEVELS

Link Handles have set the industry benchmark for when it comes to what customers care about most: consistent quality, outstanding ergonomics and exact fit matches to over 6,000 tools.



ALL HANDLES ARE CAREFULLY GRADED & SORTED

LINK's experienced timber buyers grade log quality. They are looking for logs that are heavy and defect-free.

When the logs are sawed into squares (or blanks), the squares are graded. After the squares are turned into handles, they are graded again.

PRIMARY LOG QUALITY FACTORS

Some of the factors used to determine quality include:

STRAIGHTNESS OF GRAIN

MOISTURE CONTENT

DENSITY

FREEDOM FROM DEFECTS

WOOD COLOR NOT A QUALITY FACTOR

Color of the wood is not a factor in determining the quality of hickory handles. The best hickory handles may be all white, red-and-white, or all red.

LINK AMERICAN HICKORY QUALITY LEVELS

01 Best quality American hickory with sanded finish and yellow non slip grip. Meets or exceeds all government "A" specifications. Ideal for the most demanding industrial and commercial applications.

02 Best quality American hickory with a wax finish. Meets or exceeds all government "A" specifications. Ideal for the most demanding industrial and commercial applications.

04 Better quality American hickory with a wax finish. Ideal for frequent heavy-duty use by farmers, ranchers, contractors and other professionals with demanding construction and other professional applications.

19 Better quality American hickory with a clear lacquer finish. Fire finish provides a highly pleasing appearance. Ideal for frequent heavy-duty use by farmers, ranchers, contractors and other professionals with demanding construction and other professional applications.

08 Good quality American hickory with wax finish. These handles provide exceptional value and economy for homeowner and other occasional use applications.

09 Promotional quality American hickory with wax finish. These handles provide good value and economy for homeowner and other occasional use applications.

LINK AMERICAN ASH QUALITY LEVELS

18 Best quality American ash with a clear lacquer finish. Ideal for the most demanding industrial and commercial applications.

21 Better quality American ash with a clear finish. Ideal for frequent heavy-duty use by farmers, ranchers, contractors and other professionals with demanding construction and other professional applications.

SUMMARY OF LINK FINISHES AND QUALITY LEVELS

Quality Level #	Quality Level	Finish Type	Special Features	Govt. Specs	Suggested User
AMERICAN HICKORY					
01	Best	Sanded	Non-slip grip	A	Industrial, commercial
02	Best	Wax		A	Industrial, commercial
04	Better	Wax			Contractor, professional
19	Better	Clear lacquer	Fire finish		Contractor, homeowner
08	Good	Wax			Homeowner
09	Promo	Wax			Homeowner
AMERICAN ASH					
18	Best	Clear lacquer			Industrial, commercial
21	Better	Clear lacquer			Contractor, homeowner

