

# Metalsmithing Hammer Use Guide: Steel vs. Brass

## ? Steel Hammer — When to Use

- **Purpose:** Used when you need precision force or when working directly with metal that can withstand a harder impact.
- **Common Uses:**
  - **Forming & Texturing:** Ideal for shaping metal (e.g., doming, raising, forging).
  - **Texturing Tools:** Used with metal stamps or texturing tools on steel blocks.
  - **Flattening:** Excellent for flattening wire or sheet metal.
  - **Planishing:** Used to smooth metal after forming (with a polished face).
- **Surface Compatibility:**
  - Always used on a steel block or anvil.
  - Suitable for non-ferrous metals (copper, brass, silver, gold) but can leave marks if the face isn't polished.
- **Caution:**
  - Avoid using on delicate or finished pieces — can cause unwanted marks or dents.
  - Never strike steel tools (like chasing tools or stamps) with a steel hammer — risk of chipping tools.

## ? Brass Hammer — When to Use

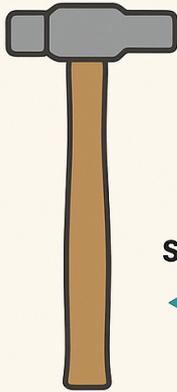
- **Purpose:** Used when you need force without damaging tools or delicate surfaces.
- **Common Uses:**
  - **Tool Striking:** Perfect for striking steel tools such as:
    - Metal stamps
    - Chasing tools
    - Center punches
  - **Assembly Work:** Tapping mandrels, dapping punches, bezel setting tools without damaging them.
  - **Adjustments:** Useful when adjusting or bending pieces gently without leaving heavy marks.
- **Surface Compatibility:**
  - Can be used on steel surfaces (blocks, mandrels) without damaging them.
  - Softer than steel so it reduces rebound and reduces risk of chipping tools.
- **Caution:**
  - Not suitable for shaping metal directly — brass is softer and will mushroom or deform over time.

- Not for texturing or planishing metal sheets.

## ? Quick Rule of Thumb

Situation	Use Steel Hammer	Use Brass Hammer
Shaping/Flattening Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texturing Directly on Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

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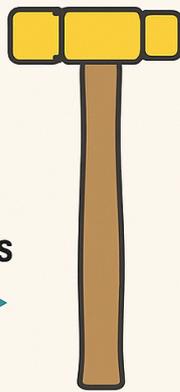


#### ✓ STEEL HAMMER

##### WHEN TO USE

- Forming & texturing
- Texturing tools
- Flattening
- Planishing

⚠ **Avoid striking steel tools (e.g., stamps, chasing tools)**



#### ✓ BRASS HAMMER

##### WHEN TO USE

- Tool striking
- Assembly work
- Adjustments

⚠ **Not for shaping metal directly**

Working on  
steel surfaces



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Revision #1

Created 18 July 2025 05:02:19 by Erica Futur1st

Updated 18 July 2025 05:04:31 by Erica Futur1st