

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

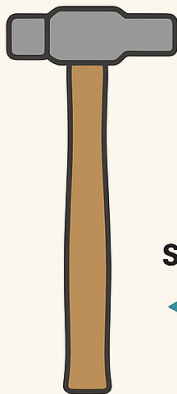
- **Purpose:** Used when you need force without damaging tools or delicate surfaces.
- **Common Uses:**
 - **Tool Striking:** Perfect for striking steel tools such as:
 - Metal stamps
 - Chasing tools
 - Center punches
 - **Assembly Work:** Tapping mandrels, dapping punches, bezel setting tools without 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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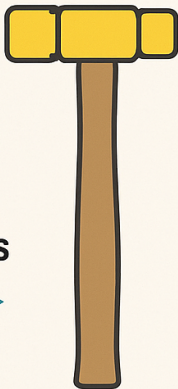


✔ STEEL
HAMMER

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

⚠ No for shaping
metal directly

Working on
steel surfaces



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