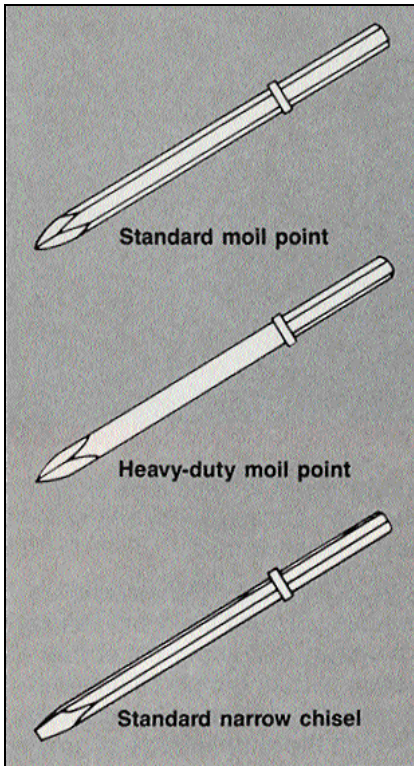


Choosing the right jackhammer tool for the job

Breakers

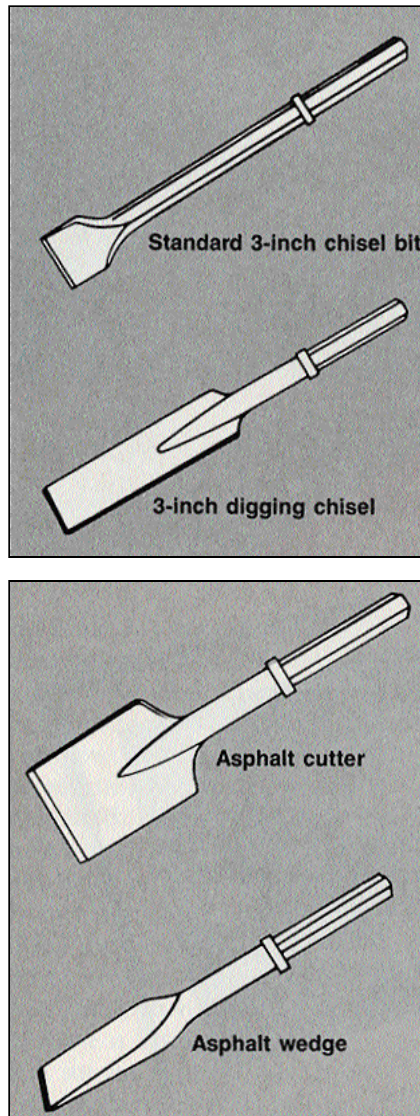


Different tools let you break, cut, dig, or tamp with the same pneumatic breaker. But you can make the work easier and faster by choosing the right tool.

Quite often, the material you're working on tells you which tool to use. Use the wrong breaker tool and the concrete won't give it back. Or you'll spend time punching holes in the concrete without doing much breaking. Rather than basing tool choice on trial and error, learn which tool was made for each type of job.

The standard moil point is a widely used all-purpose tool for concrete breaking. Some workers, though, prefer a blade point and use

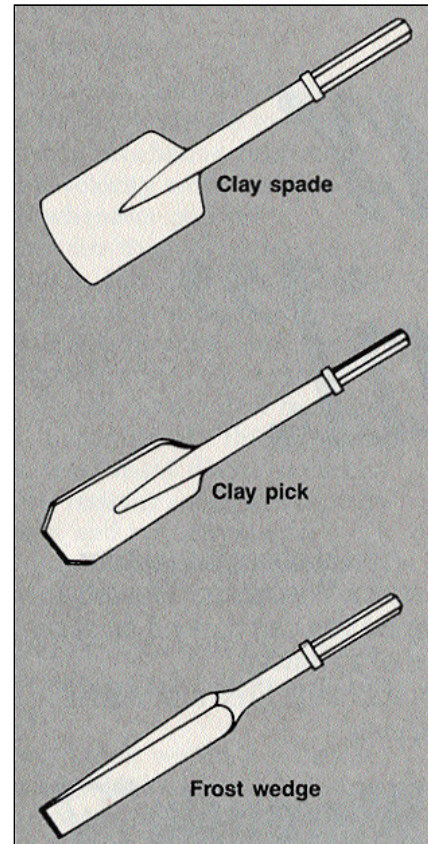
Cutters



a standard narrow chisel. Both tools are made in a heavy-duty version.

When workers pry too much with the point and tools start breaking prematurely, you might try using the heavy-duty tool. It has a round rather than hexagonal cross-section so there's more metal to resist stress. Or you could use a standard tool

Spaded and frost wedges



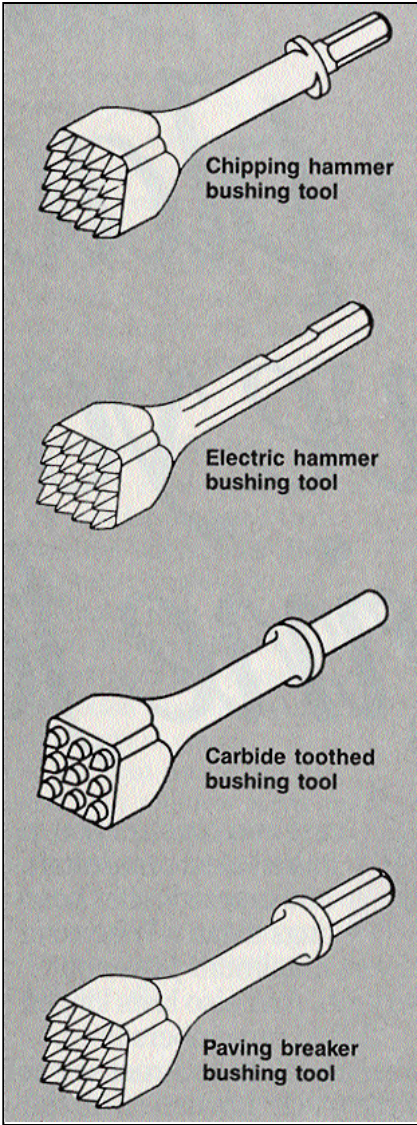
with a $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch shank instead of the more common $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch shank.

For soft or friable materials, the wedge-shaped arrowhead point works well. It rapidly breaks weaker materials.

The brick wedge was originally developed to remove paving bricks from city streets. Now contractors mostly use it to break up curbs on city streets.

The standard 3-inch chisel bit cuts asphalt and line cuts or scores normal-strength concrete. It also breaks up weak concrete or other materials that are too soft for efficient moil point work. With soft ma-

Bushing tools



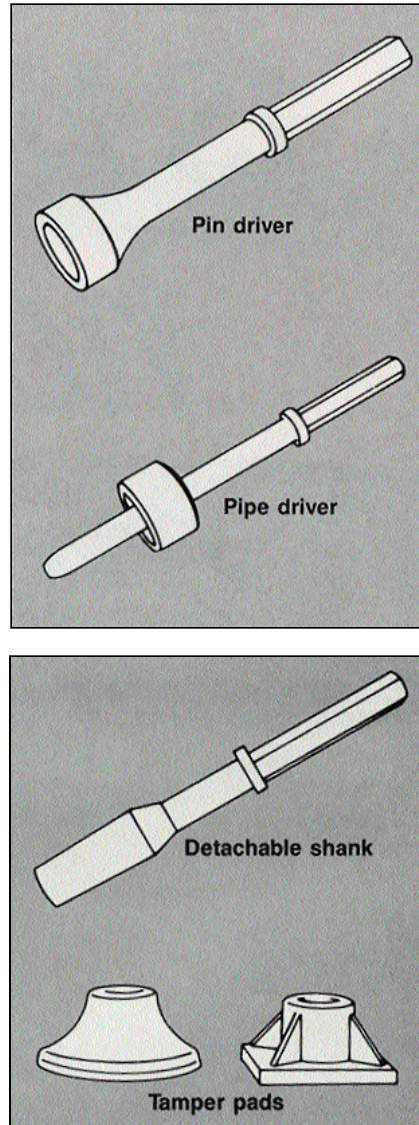
materials, a moil point simply punches a hole; a chisel bit does more breaking.

For deeper penetration with a cutter, use the 3-inch digging chisel. It cuts through thick asphalt pavement or frozen earth.

To remove deteriorated asphalt quickly, try an asphalt cutter with a 5-inch-wide blade. But don't use this tool to break or cut concrete. The thin blade is too easily damaged. An asphalt wedge, however, can be used for concrete or asphalt. The wedge leaves a wider cut that doesn't close up as much after the cut is made.

Spades for clay cutting and removal come in blade widths of 4 ½ inches and 5 ½ inches. These light-

Drivers and tampers



weight tools are a good choice for the utility contractor who wants to reduce operator fatigue and increase the cubic yards of excavation per day. The blade section is thin and curved for faster cutting and easier earth removal. An 8-inch-wide heavier blade is available for large hammers used for trenching, trimming, and general excavation.

The inclined shape of the frost wedge breaks frozen ground rapidly. It's a favorite tool of utility company and city workers who have to make utility cuts during winter months.


Bushing tools are used to remove high spots in a floor or roughen the surface before adding a topping or coating. Engineers sometimes spec-

ify a bushing tool for roughening concrete surfaces at construction joints. The tool also is used for texturing architectural concrete surfaces.

Bushing tools have a serrated face with rows of pyramidal points made of hardened steel. Typically there are 9 or 16 points. The paving breaker tool has a 2-inch-square face and the smaller chipping hammer and electric hammer tools have 1 ¾-inch-square faces. Bushing tools for electric and chipping hammers also are made with tungsten carbide teeth. The tungsten carbide lasts longer than hardened steel under severe wear conditions.

You can save time and effort by using tools that drive stakes and pipes into the ground. Pin drivers, furnished in diameters ranging from ¾ inch through 2½ inches, are used to drive form pins, curbing pins, and different sized steel and wood stakes. A pipe driver, designed to accommodate more than one size pipe, uses a center stem to guide the pipe and the cup does the driving.

To use a paving breaker as a tamper, first insert a detachable shank into the breaker. After attaching a square or round tamper pad to the shank you can tamp backfill or repack loose materials in tight corners or narrow trenches.

Manufacturers design tools for safety and durability. It's up to you to choose the best tool for the job. 

Editor's note

Information for this article is adapted from a pamphlet titled "What tools do I use?" For a copy, write to Brunner & Lay, Inc., P.O. Box 1329, Franklin Park, Illinois 60131. Ask for pamphlet TA988.

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