

If the square is allowed to oxidize, and is then polished on the surface, we get a fine copper finish on the tool with dark oxidized figures and markings.

Best of all is the blued or what may be termed the "gun metal" square. These squares are oxidized or blued by some process unknown to me, and the figures and lines are filled in with some kind of white enamel, that brings them out in great shape. A very handsome blued and enameled crenelated square was sent me for examination by The Peck, Stow and Wilcox Company, of Southington, Conn., which lies before me as I write; and it seems to me that this method of bluing, and white-enameling the figures, is one of the greatest improvements made on the square for many years. To keep the copper, nickel-plated or blued squares in nice order, they should be rubbed over once in a while with good machine oil applied with a soft rag. By this simple process a square may be kept new in appearance for a long period of years.

These few hints on the qualities of squares and their care will, doubtless, prove of value to my readers.