

A little neat oil applied once in a while and rubbed with a soft rag is the best way to treat a polished square.

Since nickel-plating came in use, many squares are so treated, and this has many advantages, as under ordinary circumstances there will be no rusting and the square will always be bright and "tidy" looking. Under a bright sun it is often difficult to read the figures or find the lines required, and, if the tool is exposed to the sun's rays for a short time, it will become so hot as to preclude handling. A careful workman, however, will not allow his square—or any of his tools, for that matter—to be exposed to the sun for any length of time, as a two-foot blade often expands as much as one-eighth of an inch in length, when made hot—a condition the good workman cannot allow.

Squares electroplated with copper, in my opinion, are much better than either polished steel or nickel-plated ones. The copper color is not so severe on the eyes, and the shadows cast by the cuttings in the figures and markings bring up the figures almost in relief, so that they are readily seen. Age gives a copper-plated square a fine antique color which is restful to the eye and a protection to the square.