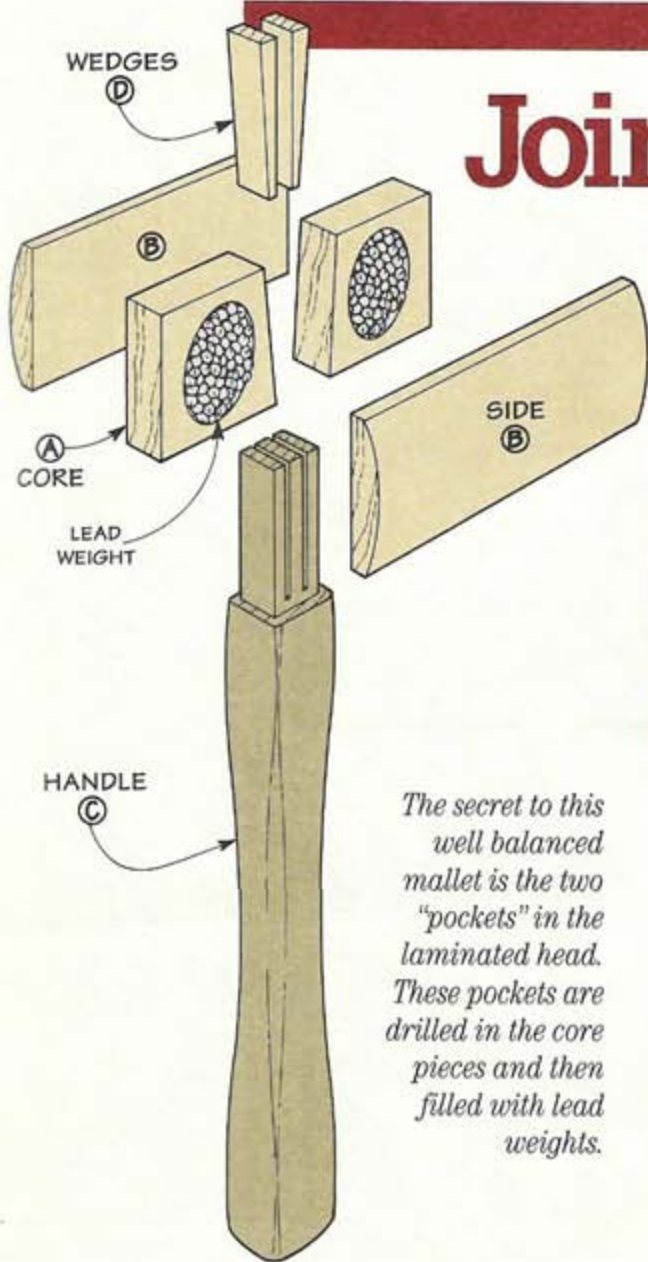
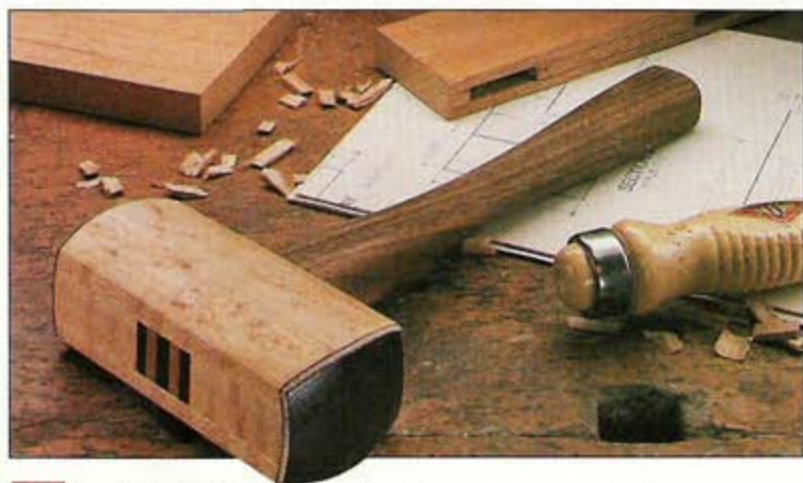


# Joiner's Mallet



*The secret to this well balanced mallet is the two "pockets" in the laminated head. These pockets are drilled in the core pieces and then filled with lead weights.*



**T**here's something very satisfying about using a tool that you've crafted yourself. And this Joiner's Mallet is no exception. Every time I pick it up I enjoy its heft and balance, especially the way the handle fits my hand. That's something you just can't get from a store-bought tool.

The heft of this mallet comes from two round "pockets" in the head filled with lead sinkers, see drawing at left. To prevent the mallet head from marring the surface of a workpiece, I glued leather pieces onto both ends. (For sources of weights and leather; see page 31.)

## CONSTRUCTION

The first step is to make the head of the mallet. The head consists of two core pieces (A) and two sides (B), see drawing at left. The core pieces are drilled to make the "pockets" and shaped to form the tapered mortise for the handle.

**CORE BLANK.** To make the core pieces (A), start by cutting a 2 1/4"-wide core blank from 3/4"-thick stock, see Fig. 1. (I used hard maple.) I cut the blank extra long so I could safely drill the pockets and cut the short core pieces to length.

