Forged Steel Arch-shaped Punch, Leatherworking Tool, 20th Century



90 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Length : 10 cm

Width : 9 cm

Height : 13,5 cm

Description

Antique forged steel punch, a tool primarily used by leather craftsmen (shoemakers, saddlers, and leatherworkers). The upper part forms an arch that allows scraps of material (leather, felt, rubber, or cork) to be easily removed after each cut without jamming the tool. The striking head at the top is designed to receive blows from a mallet in order to drive the cutting edge into the material.The number "3" stamped on the arch indicates that this tool was part of a graduated series (typically ranging from No. 1 to No. 6 or 8) corresponding to different strap widths or shoe sizes.This "mushroom"-shaped cut is primarily used to shape assembly or fastening pieces for buttoning in the leatherworking trades.In leather goods and saddlery, it is used to cut fastening tabs for harnesses, straps, or saddlebags. The wide

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part accommodates the assembly seam, while the narrow part is wrapped around or slipped into a buckle. This piece is then called a "chapelet" or "fastening tab."In leather goods and case-making, it is used to create closure tabs for trunks, hard cases, or briefcases. The rounded shape provides a good grip for pulling the tab. This piece is then called the "button tab" or "clasp tab."In shoemaking, it is sometimes used to cut out small reinforcement panels on the back of shoes (outer heel counters or boot pull tabs). This piece is then called the "pull tab" or "boot pull tab."When this cutout is used decoratively or as reinforcement under a fastening ring (for example, on a schoolbag), artisans often refer to it, by visual analogy, as a "coat of arms" or "crest."