

HANDHELMET®

FIELD LIBRARY · BOOK FOUR

Everyday Tools That Keep Your Hands Safe

A practical guide to simple workshop tools that help keep hands further away from everyday hazards.

*Your hands have looked after you
every day of your working life.*

This book is about returning the favour.

HANDHELMET®

Everyday Tools That Keep Your Hands Safe

A practical guide to simple workshop tools that help keep hands further away from everyday hazards

HandHelmet®

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First Edition

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Because your hands are not tools.

ABOUT THE HANDHELMET FIELD LIBRARY

The HandHelmet Field Library is a collection of practical books based on everyday workshop observations.

They are written for the people who build, repair, maintain and operate industry.

Not for safety departments. Not for compliance programmes. For the people doing the work.

Each book explores familiar moments at work and asks simple questions about how those jobs might be done differently.

No regulations. No enforcement. Just observations from workshops, maintenance bays, fabrication yards and industrial sites — and the questions those observations eventually ask.

Book Four in the series.



Can You Just Hold This?



Just Push It A Little



Don't Let It Swing



Close Enough To Touch



Don't Touch The Steel



Can You Just Hold That?



The Last Layer

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

Every chapter follows the same rhythm.

A familiar workshop moment.

A different way of looking at it.

A simple tool.

One thought to carry back to work.

You don't need to read it from beginning to end.

Open any chapter. Read the moment. Think about whether you've seen it.

Then ask the question the chapter is asking.

That's all this book asks of you.

FOREWORD

The first HandHelmet book asked a simple question.

Why do hands keep going back?

The second looked at the moments just before they do.

The third asked what stops them.

This book asks something different.

Once you've recognised those moments... is there another way to do the job?

Not a safer procedure. Not another rule on the wall.

Just a simple tool that means the hand doesn't have to go there at all.

What follows is one ordinary maintenance job.

Seven moments.

Seven better ways.

*Your hands have looked after you
every day of your working life.*

HANDHELMET®



CHAPTER ONE

Can You Just Hold This?

The oldest request in any workshop. One person holds the tool. The other swings the hammer. Most of the time nothing goes wrong. That is why nobody questions it.

"Can you just hold this?"

Just while I knock the pin out.

Just while I get the bolt started.

Just while I give it one more hit.

Just for a second.

Nobody means any harm by it.

The person asking is trying to get the job done.

The person helping wants to be useful.

So one hand comes forward.

Fingers wrap around the punch.

The other person lifts the hammer.

Most of the time...

Everything goes exactly as planned.

The hammer lands where it should.

The punch moves.

The pin shifts.

Job done.

That is why nobody worries about it.

Because it usually works.

The problem is not the times it works.

The problem is the one time it doesn't.

A hammer that lands slightly left.

A punch that slips at the moment of contact.

A hand that moves just as the swing begins.

One distraction.

That is all the difference between a job completed
and a finger broken.

The Chisel Is Different

A chisel cuts at an angle.

It bites into the material and wants to move.

The hand holding it is not just keeping it steady.

It is fighting the tendency of the tool to walk.

Anyone who has spent time on a chisel knows
the feeling at the end of the job.

The numbness.

The tingling.

The grip that doesn't feel quite right
for a few minutes afterwards.

The Slogging Spanner

Large valves.

Rusted fasteners.

Heavy hex nuts that haven't moved in years.

One person holds the spanner on the fastener.

Another delivers the strike.

The same scene.

The same hand in the same place.

Most maintenance teams have a story about it.

The Drift Pin Nobody Talks About

Two components need aligning before the bolts go in.

The holes are close but not quite matching.

Someone picks up a drift pin.

One hand holds the pin in the hole.

The other swings the hammer.

The force required is real.

The consequence of a missed strike is real.

And the hand holding the pin is as close
to the strike zone as it's possible to be.

A Question Someone Finally Asked

Following a serious finger injury in the refining industry, one engineer asked a question that should have been asked much earlier.

Why are people still holding struck tools with their fingers?

That question led to the development of the first finger-saving holding tools.

Sometimes progress begins with one uncomfortable question asked at the right moment.

Two Answers To One Problem

Can the hand come away from the tool completely?

For most punch, drift and chisel work — yes.

FingerSafe™ holds the tool. The hand stays back.

Must the hand stay close to the tool?

The Chisel Grip puts something between the hand

and what the chisel carries back through the steel.

Between them, they cover almost every struck-tool

Keep the hammer. Move the hand.

TOMORROW...

Notice how many struck-tool jobs happen today where a hand is holding the tool being struck.

Watch where the fingers are at the moment of impact.

Ask whether there is another way.

IN THE TOOLBOX

FingerSafe™

A simple holder for punches, drifts, chisels and similar striking tools. The operator controls from further back. The fingers stay away from the strike zone. The job gets done exactly as before.

HandHelmet® Chisel Grip

Fits over the chisel and puts protection between the hand and what the chisel carries back. For jobs where the hand still has to be close — but doesn't have to take everything the chisel takes.

Tools are replaceable.

Hands are not.



The hammer is silent.

The pin is out.

The component has to move.



CHAPTER TWO

Just Push It A Little

When something is almost in place, people naturally want to help it get there. That instinct is not carelessness. It is the most human thing in any workshop. It just sometimes lacks a tool to act on it safely.

The component is almost where it needs to be.

Almost.

The crane operator has done everything right.

The lift was controlled.

The load has travelled the length of the bay.

Now it hangs in exactly the right position.

Except for those last few inches.

When something is almost in place,
people naturally want to help it get there.

The alert feeling has faded.

The job feels nearly done.

And the hand comes forward
almost before anyone has decided to send it.

An open palm.

A gentle push.

Just to seat it.

Just to finish.

Watch any crane crew long enough.

The Shop Floor

A pump casing being lowered onto its baseplate.

Almost aligned.

A gearbox being lowered onto its mounting dowels.

Close enough that a hand on the side
feels like the obvious way to coax it home.

A motor that needs to move a fraction
before the fixing bolts will start.

These moments happen on every shop floor.
The load does not have to be suspended.
It only has to be almost in position.

The Roller Table

Material on rollers has a habit of drifting.
Arriving at the next station out of square.

So the hand reaches in.
Applies a little pressure.
Corrects the drift.

But material on rollers is heavier
than it looks from the side

Why The Rule Never Worked

Every workplace has a rule about hands
near moving loads and moving equipment.

And the rule gets broken every day.

Not because workers are reckless.

Because the task still needs doing.

When something is almost in place,
people will always want to help it get there.

The rule tries to change behaviour.

The tool changes the task.

A push-pull tool gives the instinct
somewhere better to act from.

The load still goes where it needs to go.

The hand stays at the other end of the tool.

Outside the swing path.

Away from the closing gap.

There is a moment in every workplace

Guide the load. Don't grab it.

TOMORROW...

Watch the next lift, the next roller table run, the next installation job.

Notice the moment when something is almost in position and a hand moves toward it.

Ask what a push-pull tool would have changed.

IN THE TOOLBOX

Push Pull Stick

A simple extension tool that puts distance between the hand and whatever is being guided. For crane loads, shop floor installations, roller tables, conveyors, and any task where something is almost in position and a hand naturally wants to help it get there. The job still gets done. The hand stays at the other end.

The rule tries to change behaviour.

The tool changes the task.



The load is in position.

The crane has slacked off.

Now the load has to stay exactly where it landed.

Someone has to hold it.



CHAPTER THREE

Don't Let It Swing

We are built to stop things moving with our hands. That instinct has worked every day of our lives. Around suspended loads, it becomes the problem rather than the solution.

Have you ever seen something start to fall?

Before you even think about it...

Your hand reaches out.

Not a decision.

A reflex.

The glass on the edge of the table.

The tool sliding off the workbench.

The box tipping on the shelf.

That is not carelessness.

That is human nature.

The same instinct follows us to work.

Around loads that weigh a tonne.

The load doesn't know your hand is there.

That is the difference.

The glass responds when you catch it.

The load doesn't.

It keeps moving with everything it has behind it.

The weight.

The Doorway

The load fits through the opening.

Just.

Then the load drifts slightly.

Toward the door frame on the left.

A hand reaches out to keep it clear.

The hand went in to stop contact.

It became the point of contact instead.

Long Loads Have A Habit Of Turning

Slowly.

Steadily.

But the first time a load starts turning during a lift,
the reaction is always the same.

A hand reaches out to stop the rotation.

Slow doesn't mean light.

Slow just means the hand has a moment to reach.

That moment is not an invitation.

Does The Hand Actually Stop It?

What A Tagline Actually Does

A tagline is not a brake.

It is not a stopper.

It is not a way of pulling a load back.

It is a way of influencing where the load goes
before it gets there.

Attached before the lift begins.

Held by an operator standing well clear.

Not gripping.

Not pulling against the load.

Simply maintaining enough contact with the load's
movement that small corrections are possible.

The load threads through the doorway.

The load clears the structure.

The load lands where it needs to land.

And the hands never came close.

*A tagline is a way of controlling movement without standing close enough to
become part of it.*

The instinct to stop something moving is not wrong.

Guide it from somewhere it can't reach you.

TOMORROW...

Watch the next lift and notice the moment a hand moves toward the load.

Ask what was moving and whether the hand actually stopped it.

Consider where a tagline operator would have stood to do the same job from further back.

IN THE TOOLBOX

Load Control Taglines

A line attached to the load before the lift begins, held by an operator standing clear. Not a brake. Not a stopper. A way of guiding movement from somewhere the load can't reach you.

*The load doesn't know
your hand is there.*

*The lift is over. The hook comes off.
The tagline falls beside the load. Just out of reach.*



CHAPTER FOUR

Close Enough To Touch

The job is done. The load has landed. That is when the hand moves in — not during the dangerous part, but after it. To retrieve. To align. To steady. To finish the tidying up.

The tagline is lying beside the load.

The lift is over.

The job isn't.

The load has landed. Everyone has stepped back.

Except the tagline is still attached.

And it is just far enough from where you're standing
that reaching it means stepping closer to the load
than you were a moment ago.

So you step in.

Just to grab the line.

Just to pull it clear.

Just for a second.

This is how most people end up inside
the space where the load is after a lift.

Not during the dangerous part.

After it.

The sling that needs pulling free.

The beam that needs squaring.

The pallet that needs pulling.

The Right Job With The Wrong Instrument

A bare hand reaching into the space a load occupies is the right intention with the wrong instrument.

Tools are replaceable. Hands are not.

The hand around a load is usually doing one of four things.

Pulling something toward you.

Aligning or positioning something.

Retrieving something out of reach.

Pushing or holding something steady.

The **J Hook** retrieves lines, slings and rigging without stepping beneath the load.

The **L Hook** aligns and positions without putting the hand between the load and where it might move next.

The **Angled Hook** pulls and guides directionally without putting the hand in the travel path.

The **T Hook** steadies without the hand becoming the thing that's holding.

Reach with the tool. Not your fingers.

TOMORROW...

Watch the moments after the next lift.

Notice what gets retrieved, straightened, pulled clear or steadied once the load has landed.

Ask whether a hand was the right instrument for that part of the job.

IN THE TOOLBOX

HandHelmet® Hooks with D-Handle Grip

Four hooks. Four jobs. The J Hook retrieves lines, slings and rigging. The L Hook aligns and positions loads. The Angled Hook pulls and guides directionally. The T Hook steadies and stabilises. One shaft length. Four feet. The hand stays at the other end.

*Just because your hand
can reach it...*

doesn't mean it should.



*The beam is square. The sling is clear.
Somewhere nearby, a bolt dropped during the rigging.
It landed just out of reach.*



CHAPTER FIVE

Don't Touch The Steel

Something small lands somewhere awkward. The hand retrieves it. No decision required. The hand just goes. It is one of the oldest habits in any workshop — and one of the quietest sources of small injuries.

The bolt dropped.

Everyone heard it.

Nobody saw exactly where it went.

Somewhere near the base of the machine.

Behind the guard frame.

Under the edge of the plinth.

Close enough to see if you crouch down.

Close enough to reach with a stretch.

So the hand goes in.

But this particular bolt fell beside a machine
that was running ten minutes ago.

The surfaces near it are still warm.

Or the bolt fell through swarf from the last cut.

Steel swarf thin enough and sharp enough
to open skin without any pressure at all.

The hand doesn't know any of this.

The hand just reaches.

The Category Of Injury Nobody Talks About

A cut from a steel edge that didn't look sharp.

A burn from a surface that had cooled enough to touch
but not enough to be safe.

A puncture from a sliver of swarf
that was invisible against the floor.

Small enough to treat at the first aid station.
Not serious enough to report.

But consistent enough that every experienced
tradesperson carries a collection of small scars
they can't always explain with confidence.

They just accumulate.

Quietly.

Shift by shift.

Year by year.

The Sharp Edge That Wasn't There Before

Steel changes when it's worked.

A plate safe to handle before cutting
has edges after cutting that are entirely different.

What The Magnet Changes

A magnetic pick-up tool doesn't look like
a safety device.

It looks like a useful workshop tool.

You hold one end.

The magnet does the reaching.

The bolt comes up from beside the machine.

The quick release drops it where it needs to go.

The hand never touched the edge it couldn't see.

If the magnet can reach it...
the fingers didn't need to.

If the magnet can pick it up, the fingers didn't need to.

TOMORROW...

Notice the next time something small lands somewhere awkward and a hand goes in to retrieve it.

Watch whether anyone checked the edge or temperature before the fingers arrived.

Ask whether a magnet would have been faster and safer.

Holding isn't always working.



The bolt is back. The floor is clear.

The job is almost signed off.

One piece of steel still needs holding in position.

It won't stay where it's put.



CHAPTER SIX

Can You Just Hold That?

Not the tool being struck. The thing being built. One person holds. One person works. And the person holding can't do anything else until the job releases them.

"Can you just hold that?"

Just while I start the first bolt.

Just while I line up the gasket.

Just while I get the tack weld in.

Just until I get this clamp on.

It sounds like a small request.

But it turns one job into two.

One person holds.

One person works.

The Plate That Won't Stay

The fitter positions the plate.

Takes their hands away to pick up the clamp.

The plate moves.

This is one of those jobs that should take five minutes
and takes twenty-five.

Not because the work is difficult.

Because the steel won't stay where it's put.

What Every One Of These Moments Has In Common

The steel is in the right place

What The Magnetic Holding Tool Does

The magnet grips the steel.

The handle becomes the place the hand stays.

The steel stays where it needs to be
while the next part of the job happens.

Not a lifting device.

Not a crane attachment.

Something that holds the steel the way a second pair
of hands would — without needing a second person.

Some jobs don't need another person.

They just need something that can hold the steel for a minute.

What Happens To The Hand

The hand that holds the plate can't start the bolt.

The hand that steadies the flange can't fit the gasket.

The hand that stops the spool rotating can't reach the tool.

Freeing that hand doesn't just change where the hand is.

It changes what the hand can do.

That is what the magnetic holding tool gives back.

Not safety in the obvious sense.

Hold the position. Not with your hands.

TOMORROW...

Notice the next time someone is asked to hold something while someone else does the actual job.

Watch how long the holding takes.

Ask whether something could have held it instead.

IN THE TOOLBOX

HandHelmet® Magnetic Holding Tool

A high-strength magnetic tool that holds steel panels, flanges, pipe spools and fabricated components in position while the work gets done around them. Not a lifting device. Not a crane attachment. Something that holds the steel the way a second pair of hands would — without needing a second person.

*When the hand genuinely
has to do the work...*

protect it properly.

HANDHELMET®

*The plate is tacked. The flange is bolted.
The job is nearly done. There is one last thing.*



CHAPTER SEVEN

The Last Layer

Six chapters asked the same question in six different ways: does the hand need to be there? This chapter starts from a different place. Sometimes it does.

There is a word used in safety that most people
have heard without thinking much about what it means.

Residual.

What remains after everything else has been done.

Not the starting risk.

What remains after the job has been looked at differently.

After the task has been changed where possible.

After simple tools have been used wherever they could help.

What remains after all of that...

is residual.

And what protects the hand against what remains...

is residual protection.

That is what a glove is.

Not the first answer.

The last one.

Most workplaces treat gloves as the first answer.

The dispenser by the door.

Grab a pair.

Start the job.

When The Hand Has To Take The Impact

Some jobs don't end when the hand reaches the work.

The hand still has to hold the tool.

Turn the valve.

Carry the component.

Position the shackle.

Guide the chain.

Open the hatch.

Grip the wrench.

These are not jobs where the hand can stay away.

They are jobs where the hand has to do the work.

When knocks, pinches and the everyday contact
of working close to heavy equipment is the remaining risk...
the glove becomes the final layer
between the hand and the job.

Mechanix® M-Pact

Not every job needs an impact glove.

But when the hand has to work close to heavy equipment,
impact protection becomes more than comfort.

Why This Chapter Comes Last

A book that put gloves first would be a different book.

It would say: here are the hazards, here is the PPE.

That is not a wrong message.

It is just an incomplete one.

The incomplete part is the question
that comes before the glove goes on.

Does the hand need to be here?

Six chapters asked that question.

Six times a simple tool provided a different option.

When the question has been asked honestly...
when the tools that could keep the hand back
have been considered...

what remains is what genuinely needs doing by hand.
And for that...

the glove earns its place.

Not as permission.

As protection.

When the hand must go in... protect it properly.

TOMORROW...

Before reaching for a glove, ask whether the hand needs to go where it's going.

If it does, make sure the glove matches what the hand is about to face.

If it doesn't, one of the previous six chapters probably has a better answer.

IN THE TOOLBOX

Mechanix® M-Pact

An impact-protection glove for maintenance, construction and industrial work where the hand still needs to grip tools while being protected from everyday knocks, scrapes and impacts.

When the hand genuinely has to do the work, the M-Pact becomes the final layer between the job and the hand.

*Give your hands
somewhere better to be.*

HANDHELMET®

ONE LAST THOUGHT

Every day, people build.
Repair. Lift. Move. Align.
Guide. Reach. Hammer. Carry.

And every day...
their hands help them do it.

Sometimes those hands have to be close to the work.
Sometimes they don't.

Learning the difference is one of the simplest ways
to make work safer.

The simple tools in this book don't replace skill.
They don't replace experience.
They don't replace judgement.

They just give the hand somewhere better to be.

Because your hands have looked after you
every day of your working life.

They deserve the same in return.

WHY HANDHELMET?

People rarely question why we wear a helmet.

A helmet protects one of the most important parts of the body. We would never think of working without one where the risk demands it.

Hands deserve the same respect.

They build. Repair. Lift. Carry. Create. They earn our living. Yet they are often expected to go where no part of the body should.

The name HandHelmet comes from one simple idea.

What a helmet does for the head, HandHelmet tries to do for the hands.

Sometimes that means moving the hands further away. Sometimes it means helping them hold, guide or retrieve something from a safer distance. Sometimes it means protecting the hands when they genuinely have to be close.

Different tools. One purpose.



To help your hands go home in the same condition they arrived.

HandHelmet believes many hand injuries begin long before the injury itself.

They begin with ordinary habits that nobody questions.

The habit of holding a struck tool with bare fingers. The habit of reaching for a load that is almost in position. The habit of stopping a swing with an open palm. The habit of touching steel without asking what condition it is in.

None of these habits feel dangerous. That is why they persist.

HandHelmet makes tools and publishes books based on one simple belief:

Before asking your hands to do the job, it is worth asking whether a simple tool could do that part instead.

Not always. Not for every task. But more often than habit usually allows.

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Because your hands are not tools.

THE HANDHELMET RANGE

FingerSafe™

Holds the punch. Moves the hand back.

HandHelmet® Chisel Grip

Fits over the chisel. Protects the hand that has to stay close.

Push Pull Stick

Guides the load. Keeps the hand at the other end.

HandHelmet® Hooks with D-Handle Grip

Four hooks. Four jobs. Four feet of distance.

Long Reach Magnetic Pickup Tool

The magnet reaches in. The fingers don't.

HandHelmet® Magnetic Holding Tool

Holds the steel. Frees the hands for the actual work.

Mechanix® M-Pact

When the hand has to be there. The last layer.

Full specifications and ordering at

handhelmet.com

HANDHELMET® FIELD LIBRARY

BOOK ONE

All About Hands

What We Are Protecting

BOOK TWO

The Hand Returns

50 Industrial Safety Observations About Why Hands Enter Hazards

BOOK THREE

The HandHelmet® Book of Controls

The Many Ways People Protect Their Hands Before Injuries Happen

BOOK FOUR — THIS VOLUME

Everyday Tools That Keep Your Hands Safe

A practical guide to simple workshop tools that help keep hands further away from everyday hazards

BOOK FIVE

Coming Soon

Before asking your hands to do the job...

Ask whether a simple tool could do that part instead.

HANDHELMET®

Because your hands are not tools.

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