

FORGED HYTEST TOOLS 5

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN

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FORGED AXES

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A Short History of the Australian Hytest Forged Axes

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2026

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Above image:

A digital reproduction of the original
Hytest Forged Tools logo / trademark

IP Number: 89070

Registered: 28th October, 1946.

Words: Hytest, Hytest Axe & Tool Pty. Ltd. Sydney & Melbourne. Hat

Image description: Rectangle on rectangle,
rounded-corners¹

¹ IP Australia

<https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/89070?q=hytest>

A Short History of the Australian Hytest Forged Axes

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A Short History of the Australian Hytest Forged Axes

Australian Hytest axes, 1946 - 2003

Hytest was a brand of Australian-made forged steel axes that were manufactured for nearly 60 years between the mid-1940s and the early 2000s². *Hytest* became an internationally renowned brand of axe, particularly for their competitive woodchopping racing axes. *Hytest* branded axes were first manufactured briefly by the Sydney based company *Plumb (Aust.) Pty Ltd* between 1944 and 1946 when the company changed its name to *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd*. *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* was absorbed into the Melbourne based *Trojan Limited* in 1965. In 1976, after the company became a *Boral Cyclone Limited* subsidiary, it was renamed *Trojan Pty Ltd*. In 1993, after *Boral* and *Cyclone* demerged, the company became a subsidiary of *Cyclone Hardware Pty Ltd* and it was renamed as *Trojan Australia Pty Ltd*. In the late 1990s, *Hytest* was being used as a brand by *Cyclone Industries Pty Ltd* in the marketing of their axes. In 2003, the brand name was sold to an Australian subsidiary of the American conglomerate, *Illinois Tool Works Inc*, and the use of *Hytest* as a brand of axe ceased.

The 'Hytest Forged Tools' Trademark Logo, 1946 - 2023

'*Hytest*', as the brand name of forged tools, was first registered as a trademark in the form of the '*Hytest Forged Tools*' logo³ for class 8 products⁴ by *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* in October, 1946.⁵ At the time, the *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* was a subsidiary of *Australian Consolidated Industries Limited* [A.C.I.]. A.C.I. was formed in January 1939, when the Melbourne based *Australian Glass Manufacturers Limited*⁶ was restructured to become a holding company of over a dozen subsidiaries 'that manufactured items such as bottles, glassware, sheet glass, engineering products and plastics'⁷. In doing so, A.C.I. became a suite of companies that were relevant to the manufacture of automobiles.⁸ Also in 1939, and as part of this consolidation, A.C.I. purchased a tool forge from *W H Plumb (Aust) Ltd*, in Collins Street, Alexandria, Sydney, and renamed it; *Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd*. This company was first registered in NSW in 1939 and then in Victoria in 1943⁹. In 1946, *Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd* was again renamed; '*Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd*' in an attempt to commercially distinguish it from its competitor, *Plumb USA*¹⁰ and registered the '*Hytest Forged Tools*' logo trademark in Australia¹¹.



The original 1946 *Hytest* logo / trademark
IP Australia Trademark Number: 89070
Registered by *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* on the 28th October, 1946. Registration ceased in 2023.
Words: *Hytest*, *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty. Ltd.* Sydney & Melbourne. Hat
Image description: Rectangle on rectangle, rounded-corners

In 1957, *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* registered the word '*Hytest*' as a new trademark¹² and released a new line of work and racing axes which helped it continue to expanded its market share. By 1965, the manufacturing of *Hytest* tools

² In 2004, *Cetram Pty Limited*, (an Australian-based intellectual property and trademark holding company owned by the *Illinois Tool Works [I.T.W.]*, which becomes *I.T.W. Australia Pty Ltd*), buys the *Cyclone tools* brands including *Trojan* and the 1946 & 1957 *Hytest* trademarks. Around this time the use of the *Hytest* brand name is discontinued.

³ IP Australia Trademark N^o. 89070

⁴ Class 8 products include '*Forged tools with or without a cutting edge*'

⁵ IP Australia Number 89070.

⁶ <https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/89070?q=hytest>

⁷ *Australian Glass Manufacturers Limited (A.G.M.)* was formed in c.1915 from the *Melbourne Glass Bottle Works Company* (1872 - 1915) and its industrial facilities at Spotswood, Melbourne.

⁸ <https://www.eoas.info/biogs/A000278b.htm> [Encyclopaedia of Australian Science and Innovation]

⁹ It was recorded in the *Herald* (Melbourne), 18th May, 1939, pp. 22, that A.C.I. Limited had 14 listed subsidiaries and again in the *Government Gazette Western Australia* of 28th October, 1960, that in 1959, Australian Consolidated Industries Limited held the following subsidiary companies; Australian Glass Manufacturers Company Proprietary Limited. A.C.I. Fibre Package Pty. Ltd. A.C.I. Plastics Pty. Ltd. Australian Window Glass Pty. Ltd. A.C.I. Sales Pty. Ltd. Australian Fibre Glass Pty. Ltd. A.C.I. Metal Stamping & Spinning Pty. Ltd. Bruntons Bright Steel Pty. Ltd. Crown Crystal Glass Pty. Ltd. Dott & Co. Pty. Ltd. *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty. Ltd.* Laminex Pty. Ltd.

¹⁰ *Sun News-Pictorial* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1922 - 1954; 1956), Thursday 16 December 1943, page 10

¹¹ IP Australia Trademark Number: 89070. Registered on the 28th October, 1946 - 2023: Words: *Hytest*, *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty. Ltd.* Sydney & Melbourne, HAT.

Image description: Rectangle on rectangle, rounded-corners

¹² see footnote #5 above. The original 1946 '*Hytest Forged Tools*' logo trademark ceased to be registered in 2023.

¹³ IP Australia Number 131788.

<https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/131788?q=hytest>

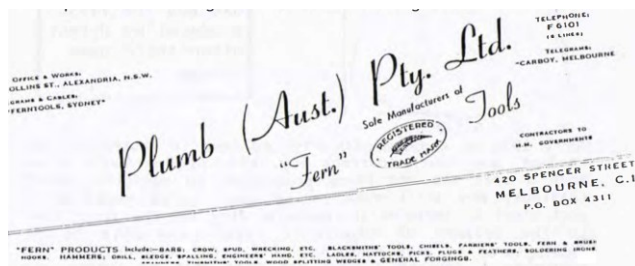
had eventually moved to the *Trojan* tool plant in Footscray, Melbourne. By this time, both *Hytest* and *Trojan* (via *Tulloch Ltd*) trademarks were owned by *Pioneer Industries Limited*, who then traded tools as '*Trojan Hytest*'. The '*Hytest*' trademark was then subsequently traded through a succession of company takeovers, most notably by *Boral Cyclone* and later by some American tool conglomerates such as *I.T.W.* and *Ames USA*. The '*Hytest*' trademark is currently held by *Ganz Australia Pty Ltd* and is registered to 2029. The '*Trojan*' trademark is currently held by the *Bunnings Group*¹³ and is also registered to 2029.

A.C.I.'s Acquisition *W.H. Plumb (Aust) Ltd* and the creation of *Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd*, 1939 - 1946

Just prior to WWII, The Lyons federal government's *Motor Industry Bounty Act 1938*¹⁴ provided financial incentives to local companies, that had at least two-thirds Australian ownership, to build automobiles in Australia. In 1939, A.C.I. acquired a tool forge, and its '*Fern*' tools trademark, situated in Collins Street, Alexandria, Sydney, from *W H Plumb (Aust) Ltd*¹⁵. This was in preparation for A.C.I.'s entry into the domestic car industry. The federal government's '*Motor Vehicles Agreement Act 1940* gave A.C.I. *practically exclusive rights to manufacture chassis and engines in Australia*'¹⁶ ¹⁷. However, with the outbreak of WWII and the subsequent realignment of the national allocation of resources¹⁸, A.C.I.'s venture into automobile manufacture stalled.

***Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd* and the '*Fern*' Branded Hatchets, 1939 - 1944**

A.C.I.'s newly acquired tool foundry, trading as *Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd* continued the production of '*Fern*' branded axes. As part of the war effort, it won contracts to supply the Australian military with forged hatchets using an imported '*zircon steel*'¹⁹. These were the first mass produced forged steel axes manufactured in Australia as the previous pre-war market was primarily feed by imports from the US [*Fayette R. Plumb Inc*], Canada [*Kelly Axe & Tool Co*], Britain [*Elwell / Brades*] and Sweden [*Ardvika*] with a small domestic supply of custom hand forged and cast steel axes [*Keech Castings*²⁰] that were primarily for the competitive woodchopping market.²¹



An early 1940s *Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd* company letterhead stating that they were the '*...Sole Manufacturers of 'Fern' Tools...*', contractors to *H. M. Government* and that its street address of its office and works as Collins Street, Alexandria, and its telegram and cable address as '*Ferntools Sydney*'.

The Tool Chest, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, *Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association*. pp. 20.²²

¹³ IP Australia Number 113589

<https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/113589?s=9e60e0a1-8cdd-422d-be7d-bf9b531c8b0d>

¹⁴ Motor Industry Bounty Act 1938, No. 54 of 1938. 07 December 1938 - 30 December 1950. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C1938A00054/asmade/text>

¹⁵ As explained in an article edited by Nigel Lampert titled, '*Australian Tools Original W.N. Plumb Pty Ltd*' published in the *Hand Tool Preservation Association Newsletter*, Volume. 2, No. 6, December, 1990, pp. 24, *W H Plumb (Aust) Ltd* was started by William Henry Plumb, a New Zealander from Arrow Town, South Island, at a premises in Kendall Street, Woollahra in 1911. Plumb manufactured drop forged spanners with the *New Zealand fern leaf* branding. He initially made a range of picks, wood splitting wedges and soldering irons. During this time the company received many government contracts. In 1931, the American axe manufacture *Fayette R. Plumb Inc* of Philadelphia, who had previously registered the trademark '*Plumb USA*' in Australia in 1920 [IP# 29127] and was importing a *Tasmanian Pattern* axe specifically for use on Australian hardwoods and distributing them through Nock & Kirby's hardware stores in Australia, brought legal action against *W. H. Plumb* and stopped him from trading under his own name. From about 1932 - 34, with a Mr W. A. Crick as the company's General Manager, W. H. Plumb recommenced production of axes under the '*Fern*' branding from old car springs at the Kendall Street, Woollahra, forge. At some point before 1939, *W.H. Plumb* moved their premises to Collins Street, Alexandria, Sydney. After ACI bought out the Alexandria business and brands in 1939, Plumb, trading as *Original W H Plumb Pty Ltd*, continued the manufacture of other forged tools using the 'orange plum fruit' branding until the mid-1970s when his daughter, Edna Burgess, closed down the business. https://www.htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_Dec_1990_V2.6.pdf

¹⁶ <https://pocketoz.com.au/drive/motoring-manufacture1.html>

¹⁷ *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 4 May 1940, page 6. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/95097487#>

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_home_front_during_World_War_II

¹⁹ A zirconium steel alloy. *The Tool Chest*, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, *Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association*. pp. 21.

https://htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_1-8.pdf

²⁰ From 1933, *Keech Castings Pty Ltd*, Mascot, Sydney, started manufacturing caste steel axes, many of which were used by competition axemen throughout the 1940s and 1950s. They developed their very popular *Keesteel* axes from the early 1960s and their *Keech Aussie Speed Axe* in the 1980s.

²¹ *The Tool Chest*, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, *Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association*. pp. 21.

https://htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_021_June_1992_V4.3.pdf

²² https://htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_021_June_1992_V4.3.pdf



An early 1940s Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd 'Fern' stamped hatchet head

Plumb (Australia) Pty Ltd realised it needed to develop a domestic supply of quality steel for the manufacture of forged tools and '...throughout the war and in consultation with BHP, experiment continued...[in an attempt]...to produce the correct steel in Australia. By late 1944 this was successfully and manufacture of a full axe was able to commence'²³. Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd commenced the manufacture of the first 'Hytest Forged Tools' axes at their Collins Street, Alexandria, foundry from the late 1944. By the mid-1940s, Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd was marketing²⁴ axes made of their new 'Hytest steel'²⁵ in the shape of the well-established Australian *Tasmanian*²⁶ axe pattern.

The *Tasmanian* pattern axe, 1870s - 1980s

The *Tasmanian* pattern axe head evolved out the early competition woodchopping sport of the 19th century in Tasmania. Competitive woodchopping has its roots in the early Tasmanian forest timber industry and is said to have started by a £25 bet between two Ulverstone axemen, Joseph Smith and Jack Biggs²⁷, on who could be the first fell a tree while timber getting at Sprent, Tasmania in 1870²⁸. The first confirmed record of a woodchopping match appeared in the *Tasmanian Mercury*, 10th January, 1872²⁹. At that time, it was more of an endurance race that a speed competition with the 'tree' being over a metre in diameter and the winning time being of some 44 minutes rather than seconds.

By 1891, there was a set of unified rules for competition woodchopping nationally that were developed by the newly formed *United Australasian Axemen's Association*, led by Hubert Allan Nichols (1864–1940). The association went on to specify the dimensions of an official 'racing axe' that was 'best for quick work'. It specified that a competitive axe head was to have a; '....greatest width of blade 5¼ to 5½ inches; width of blade at bottom of eye 4½ to 4¾ inches; width on top of poll 3¼ inches; depth of poll to top of eye ½ inch; greatest depth of eye 2¾ inches; diameter of handle at greatest point within the eye 15th - 10th of an inch; depth of blade from eye 4 to 4½ inches; axe to taper gradually from the eye and to run nearly even in thickness right across; thickness of poll 1½ to 1¾ inches; total depth from top of poll 7½ inches; weight of axes, including handle to be 5½ lbs to 6½ lbs³⁰.

²³ ibid

²⁴ Plumb Hytest axe heads' was 5 July 1945 in Wagga newspaper

<https://www.bladeforums.com/threads/hytest-axes-post-yours.1159451/page-6>

²⁵ These early 'Hytest' axes were forged from a quality carbon steel, probably historically similar to modern 1055 (carbon: 0.50% - 0.56%, manganese: 0.60% - 0.90% [adds hardenability] of a heat-treated hardness to around 50 – 60 HRC with low corrosion resistance) and 1060 (a highly regarded steel of carbon: 0.60%, manganese 0.60% to 0.90% and trace amounts of phosphorus and sulphur, of a heat-treated hardness of up to 55 - 60 HRC) steels.

²⁶ The *Tasmanian* axe pattern was, as explained in an article by the Victorian axeman, Val Quanchi, (1930 - 2008), that was published in the *Australian Forester History Society Newsletter* No. 5, 1990, pp. 3, developed when the Australian World champion axeman, Thomas Pettit, travelled to the US in the early 1900s and proposed to *Fayette R. Plumb Inc* that they produce an axe to his specifications that would be suitable for the Australian eucalyptus hardwoods.

²⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1477819982777466/posts/it-began/2223374604888663/>

²⁸ Molly Appleton, *Ian Clayton talks history of axe head and woodchopping*, *The Advocate*, Burnie, Tasmania. 2nd January, 2023

<https://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/8032115/origins-of-axe-racing-close-to-home/>

²⁹ On 6th January at a location between Port Esperance and Surges Bay, Edward Murray of Surges Bay and Edward Owens of Port Esperance competed in chopping a swamp gum tree 3 feet 6 inches in diameter, with the winner, Murray, cutting through the tree in 44 minutes and winning £3. An indication of the event's prominence was that reports of the match featured in several mainland newspapers. There were further events in the Port Esperance and Southport areas and chopping soon spread to other parts of Tasmania and Australia.

³⁰ A report on the *Unites Australasian Axemen Association* meeting held at Whitaker's Coffee Palace, Latrobe, Tasmania, on the 15th October, 1892. *North Coast Standard* (Latrobe, Tas. : 1890 - 1894), Tuesday 18 October 1892, page 2 (2).

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/212612915/23157856>



Above:
Standing Block competition, Latrobe, Tasmania, 1892

Left:
A Tasmanian timber-getter uses dozens of springboards to access to the crown of a giant old growth eucalypt

These first *Tasmanian* pattern axes were custom made by local blacksmiths from hand forged 'high grade charcoal smelted steel' as a special order for local competition axemen. These handmade *Tasmanian* pattern axes were highly sought after and considered a prized possession as they were far more efficient on the Australian eucalyptus hardwoods than the unwieldy imported long bladed axes made by; *Collins USA*, *Plumb USA* and *Kelly* in the U.S.; the *Elwell*, *Brades*, *Gilpin* axes in England; and the *Jarrahdale* in Sweden.^{31 32}

The Plumb USA 'Tasmanian' pattern axe, 1908

The first massed produced drop forged *Tasmanian* pattern axe was produced in the US by *Fayette R. Plumb Inc* in 1908. In the early 1900s, the Australian champion axeman, Tom Pettit, working as a representative for the American *Fayette R. Plumb Axe Company*, and took the initiative, when he visited the parent company in the United States, to propose that they produce an axe suitable to Australian hardwoods. He supplied the information and details of what the axeman required and the company quickly produced what they called the '*Tasmanian*' pattern axe solely designed for the Australian market. It became very popular as a competition and as a working axe. The axe head had a round poll, better weight distribution, with weights ranging from 3.5 to 5 pounds and a better steel in the blade to suit local hardwoods.

'Hytest Forged Tools' axes, 1944 - 1957

From 1944, *A.C.I.'s Plumb (Aust) Pty Ltd* began marketing their new round poll *Tasmanian* pattern axe as a '*Hytest Forged Tools*' axe. It was the first massed produced drop forged *Tasmanian* pattern axe to be made in Australia, ending an eighty year wait for local axemen.³³ These new Australian made axes were embraced by the local competitive woodchopping fraternity. The company used the success of the competitive axemen who used their axes in the promotion of them. In one 1946 *Hytest* advertisement, it made reference to the results of the *World Tree-felling* event at the 1945 *Sydney Royal Easter Show*, where axemen using the *Hytest* axe, won 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings³⁴.

³¹ *The Tool Chest*, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 18.

https://htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_1-8.pdf

³² *Australian Forest History Society Newsletter*, No. 5, 1990, pp. 3

<https://www.foresthistory.org.au/newsletter/afhsnewsletter05.pdf>

³³ *ibid.*

³⁴ *The Tool Chest*, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 21.

https://htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_1-8.pdf



Left:
A 1946 *Plumb (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.* advertisement featuring their 'Hytest' axes and their 'sensational success' as used by the champion axemen, 'Snowy' Richards, Albert Newcombe and Andy Maxwell in woodchopping competitions in late 1945 and early 1946.

The ad features the original oval *Plumb (Aust.) Pty Ltd 'Hytest Forged Tools'* logo that includes their *Sydney* [Collins Street, Alexandria] and the *Melbourne* [Booker Street, Spotswood: the existing ACI site] foundry locations.



Right:
A digitally re-coloured image of the Australian World Champion axeman, 'Snowy' Richardson, from a *Hytest Axe and Tool Pty Ltd* advertorial that features an early racing axe with the new 1946 *Hytest Forged Tools* logo-trademark that was originally published in the *ABC Weekly* magazine in 1946³⁵

Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd, 1946 - 1965

In early 1946, *Fayette R Plumb Inc, USA*, made legal representation to *Plumb (Australia) Pty Ltd* concerning their trading name. The American company had registered their Australian trading name 'Plumb USA' as early as 1920³⁶ and had previously been successful in restricting the usage of 'Plumb' as a trading name by others in Australia from 1931.³⁷ Consequently, in March, 1946, W. A. Crick, manager of *Plumb (Australia) Pty Ltd*, issued a circular stating that the company will change its name to the '*Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd*' '.....at an early date....thereby completely removing any possibility of confusion or misunderstanding with the products of all other makers'³⁸.

Early Hytest Forged Tools axes, 1946 - early 1950s

After the company name change, *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* continued to brand their round poll axes as '*Hytest Forged Tools*' and stamped their axe heads accordingly³⁹. They continued to conscientiously market their green painted round poll work axes through print media advertising and promoted their green painted race axes through the sponsorship of annual competitive woodchopping events around the country.

In December 1946, The *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* was proudly quoting 'Snowy' Richardson in their advertisements, who said that the '*...Hytest is best axe...[he]...have ever used*'⁴⁰. This marketing device was used in direct competition with Hytest's rival race axe manufacturer, *Keech Castings*.

By 1949, as a result of feedback from competition axemen, such as Snowy Richardson, Andy Maxwell, Albert Newcombe, George Parker and other axemen in the forestry industry⁴¹, *Hytest* racing axes became better balanced

³⁵ *ABC Weekly*, Vol. 8 No. 49, 21st December, 1946. pp 35.

³⁶ IP Australia Trademark #: 29127, Words: PLUMB USA. 17 Sep 1920.

<https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/29127?s=ec2db3bd-5afe-4154-9bbe-c3337b7bd6b0>

³⁷ *The Tool Chest*, Volume. 2, No. 6, December, 1990., Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 24.

https://www.htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_Dec_1990_V2.6.pdf

³⁸ <https://ozwrenches.com/museum-plumb.htm>

³⁹ Between 1946 and 1957, *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* stamped their work axe heads with '*Hytest Forged Tools*' and their race axe heads '*Hytest Forged Racing Axe*', at first at the poll, and later on the cheek.

⁴⁰ *The ABC Weekly*, 21st December, 1946. pp. 35.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1330217936/view?partId=nla.obj-1331128215#page/n34/mode/1up>

⁴¹ Axemen from around the country were wanting an axe made to suit the timber they were cutting, which naturally varied from the soft mountain ash of Tasmania and Victoria to the hard turpentine and tallow woods of northern New South Wales to the jarrah of Western Australia.

with a narrow square poll and a flared blade⁴². *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* continued to market their square poll green race axes, their round poll 'Green' work axe as well as their 'economy finish' red painted 'Fern' work and three-quarter axes well into the mid-1950s⁴³.



A late 1940s / early 1950s round poll 5lb Hytest Forged Tools work axe with a double stamp on one side. Probably an early version of the Hytest 'Green' work axe.



Late 1940s / early 1950s green square poll 5lb Hytest Forged Racing Axes with the 'Hytest Forged Racing Axe' stamp on the poll on one side and the '5' lb weight and a 'V' stamp on the other. The 'Hytest Forged Racing Axe' stamp was later found on the cheek rather than the poll, and then even later with both stamps (the 'Hytest Forged Racing Axe' and the weight stamps) on the cheek on the one side. (It is possible that the 'V' identifies the steel as vanadium steel alloy).



The Hytest Forged Tools round poll Hytest Green axe, early 1950s - mid 1950s

By the early 1950s, Hytest was advertising their 'Green' work axe that, although still featuring a round poll, was made using the same steel as their racing axes⁴⁴.



Left:
A 1950 Hytest advertisement featuring the 'Green' axe that are '...fitted with specially selected and seasoned American Hickory handles....tempered to give a tough cutting edge....[and] are forged in one piece from the same specially developed steel as the Hytest Racing axes'.

The Brisbane Telegraph, 1st September, 1950, pp. 2.

Right:
A 1951 Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd (A Subsidiary of A.C.I. Ltd) of Collins Street, Alexandria, Sydney, advertisement featuring the Hytest Green Axe

Pacific Islands Monthly, November 1951, pp. 117.

HYTEST Sets The Standard For Forged Steel Axes and Tools!

Every Hytest Green Axe and Tool must "make the grade" before it is passed for delivery. Thanks to these exacting factory tests, Hytest products never fail to live up to their name. Throughout the Islands, as in Australia and New Zealand, Hytest stands for dependability under all conditions.

HYTEST GREEN AXES are forged in one piece from specially-developed alloy steel. They're tough but flexible, with 3½, 4, 4½ and 5 lb. sizes. Heads only (Ref. 1011A) or fitted with Hickory or Aust. Handles. (Ref. 1011HH or 1011).

THREE-QUARTER AXES. 2½ lb. head, 28 in. handle. (Ref. 1007). Supplied with or without handles.

CULTIVATING HOES for every plantation (Ref. 3850).

TOMAHAWKS 1½ lb. head, 16 in. handle (Ref. 1001). Supplied with or without handles.

CANOE ADZES. Another "special" (Ref. 1120).

Also Sledge Hammers, Woodsplitting Wedges, Banana Mattocks (Blade 9 in. x 3 in., weighs 5 lb.) and a wide range of other tools.

Hytest Green Axes and Tools are available from leading wholesalers, Island merchants and trade stores. Write for illustrated leaflet showing the full range.

HYTEST AXE & TOOL PTY. LTD.
(A Subsidiary of A.C.I. Ltd.)
Collins Street, Alexandria, N.S.W., Australia.

CIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—NOVEMBER. 1951

Hytest Forged Racing Axes, early 1950s - 1957

By the early 1950s, local axemen were winning competitions with the green Hytest square poll racing axes in Australia and overseas. Demand grew and Hytest began exporting its racing axes to England, America and South Africa⁴⁵. Hytest expanded its Collins Street works with additional bays being completed by 1953⁴⁶. In a 1953 report on the 31st Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Australian Consolidated Industries Limited held at its head office in

⁴² The Tool Chest, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 22.

https://htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_1-8.pdf

⁴³ Pacific islands Monthly, PIM. Vol. XXIV No. 12, 1st July, 1954, pp. 27.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-325741527/view?partId=nla.obj-325799686#page/n28/mode/1up>

⁴⁴ The Brisbane Telegraph, 1st September, 1950, pp. 2.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/22970226>

Pacific islands monthly, Vol. XXII, No. 4 (Nov., 1951), pp. 117. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-318462303/view?partId=nla.obj-318565133>

⁴⁵ The Tool Chest, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 25.

https://htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_1-8.pdf

⁴⁶ Archives City of Sydney, NSW

<https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/920483?keywords=hytest&highlights=WyJoeXRlc3QxXQ%3D%3D&lsk=635656734fe2d5d9402de582103d691c&id844525>

Melbourne, it was stated that the *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* was ‘...now marketing a ‘most popular’ and an ‘.....improved design 5lb axe with a wider cutting blade, the shape of which was designed in conjunction with Australia’s leading axemen and timber getters’⁴⁷.

HYTEST AXE AND TOOL PTY. LTD.

There is a healthy demand for Hytest forged steel axes, as experienced axemen recognise “Hytest” as a quality product, most suitable for use in all types of Australian timbers. Substantial successes were again achieved at the wood chopping contests at the various Royal shows, particularly in Sydney and Adelaide.

We are now marketing an improved design 5lb. axe with a wider cutting blade, the shape of which was designed in conjunction with Australia’s leading axemen and timber getters. It is proving most popular.

A report on A.C.I.’s 31st Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Australian Consolidated Industries Limited held at its head office in Melbourne on 21st October, 1953⁴⁸.

It was reported that Hytest was ‘...now marketing an improved design 5lb. axe with a wider cutting blade, the shape of which was designed in conjunction with Australia’s leading axemen and timber getters’.

The green *Hytest Forged Racing Axe*, 1953 - 1957

In a 1956 advertorial, *Hytest* promoted their green *Forged Racing Axe* by announcing that 3 of the champions at the *Sydney Royal Easter Show’s* woodchop competition, Doug Yould (from Tasmania), Tom Kirk and Jim Larvis (from NSW), used the *Hytest green Forged Racing Axe*; that axemen from around the country are using the *Hytest Forged Tools* work axe and that; ‘*Hytest axemen....won more events outright, and secured more places in the finals than axeman using any other brand*’⁴⁹. The advertorial also featured a square poll *Hytest Forged Tools* ‘Green’ work axe.

Hytest Racing Axe Seath, mid 1950s

During the 1950s, *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* produced a sheath for their racing axes. It was of a modern design to fit the flared blade of their racing axes of the time. The sheath was fully stitched with a felt welt and made without the use of steel rivets. It also featured a leather strap with a steel buckle. The side cover material was a green skiver fibreboard⁵⁰ (that matched the colour of their green *Forged Racing Axe*) and featured the ‘HYTEST’ brand name embossed in bright aluminium foil on both sides.



A mid-1950s green 5lb *Hytest Forged Racing Axe*. Cheek stamped with ‘Hytest Forged Racing Axe’ with a ‘5’ lb weight stamp. The stamps themselves are identical to those seen on the earlier *Hytest Forged Racing Axes* of the late 1940s - early 1950s, but are stamped on just one of the cheeks.



A green mid-1950s *Hytest* racing axe sheath



‘HYTEST AXE’ competition woodchop singlet worn by champion axeman Tom Kirk, c. 1950

⁴⁷ *West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 31 October 1953, page 17
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/52937839/3820248>

⁴⁸ *ibid*

⁴⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/471878009643002/posts/3301166660047442/>

⁵⁰ A skiver fibreboard is typically made by laminating a thin piece of sheep hide (skiver) to a high density cellulose based vulcanised fibreboard. The fibreboard was probably manufactured by another of A.C.I.’s subsidiaries, *A.C.I. Fibre Packages Pty Ltd*, which had a factory at its industrial complex on South Dowling Street, Waterloo, Sydney. By 1956, *A.C.I. Fibre Packages Pty Ltd*, had also replaced its factory at Spotswood, Melbourne, and was ‘...responsible for the cartons and containers required for the packaging of ACI [glass] products as well as those required by other industries’ [*Australiana*, May 2007 Vol.29 No. 2. pp.19. https://australiana.org.au/assets/issue/May_2007_Vol_29_No_2.pdf]

The square poll 'Green' Hytest Forged Tools work axe, mid 1950s - 1957

At some point around the mid-1950s, *Hytest axe & Tool Pty Ltd* modified their 'Green' work axe and gave it a square poll to match that of their successful racing axes. The company also introduced the 'Z' stamp on axe heads. This possibly referred to the particular zirconium⁵¹ steel alloy sourced from BHP at the time. The zirconium sulphides vastly improved the steel's multi-directional impact toughness during the forging process and zirconium carbonitrides improved its wear resistance.⁵²



A 1956 Hytest advertorial promoting their green racing axe by announcing that 3 of the champions at the Sydney Royal Easter Show's woodchop competition; Doug Youd, from Tasmania, Tom Kirk and Jim Larvis from NSW, used Hytest axes, and that axemen from around the country are using Hytest axes. It announced that; 'Hytest axemen....won more events outright, and secured more places in the finals than axemen using any other brand'.⁵³ The advertorial features the green Hytest Forged Racing Axe and a square poll Hytest Forged Tools 'Green' work axe.



A square poll 4½lb 'Green' work axe with the Hytest Forged Tools & weight stamp on the cheek.



red paint not original

A mid 1950s square poll 4½lb 'Green' axe with the Hytest Forged Tools stamp on one cheek and the weight stamp on both sides with a 'Z' stamp above one of them on the other side at the poll.

The 'Z' stamp later appears on some early Hytest Forester, Craftsman and Challenger axes. It could be a reference to Hytest's use of a Zirconium steel alloy from BHP that was faded out soon after the 1957 models were released.

The 1957 Hytest 'Trinity': the Forester, Craftsman & Challenger axes, 1957 - mid 1970s

On the 15th April 1957, the *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* registered the word; 'Hytest', as a new Australian trademark [Nº. 131788] for class 8 products that included '....all tools...in this class, and tools with a cutting edge including axes and hatchets'⁵⁴. This was in preparation for the marketing of a new 'work tested' 'Hytest' range of square poll work axes that included; the red 'Forester' for the 'timber getter', the green 'Craftsman' for the 'farmer' and the blue 'Challenger' for the 'householder'. The axes in the range had '....a price for every purse', and they were marked with a single stamp on the cheek with; 'Hytest', the model name and its weight in lbs. A transfer sticker type label, based on the design of their 1946 trademark logo, was affixed to the other side which said 'Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd, Sydney, Australia, Hytest Forged Tools' with the model name. This new range was widely marketed in the following years.⁵⁵



Late 1950s Hytest Forged Tools Challenger axe



Late 1950s Hytest Forged Tools Craftsman axe



Late 1950s Hytest Forged Tools Forester axe

⁵¹ Added in trace amounts at typically less than 0.05%

⁵² *The Role of Zirconium in Microalloyed Steels*, T. N. Baker. Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

⁵³ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/471878009643002/posts/3301166660047442/>

⁵⁴ IP Australia

<https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/131788?s=de68fc34-134f-40ac-83a5-9906c9ff039b>

⁵⁵ *The Western Herald*, 18th July, 1958, pp. 4. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/10639358>

The Hytest Black Racer, late 1950s - late 1970s

Also in the late 1950s, *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* began production of the new black *Hytest Racer*. The 5lb version was 7½" [190mm] from poll to bit with a 6" [150mm] cutting edge. It was '*specifically designed for speed competition using Australian hardwoods....[and] made from carbon vanadium⁵⁶ steel obtained from BHP⁵⁷*'. The axe head was marketed in a ½ black (enamel paint) and ½ polished (or '*bright*') finish. The *Black Racer* received particular international notoriety after it featured in an Australian axemen tour of England and Rhodesia in 1966 and a tour of Basque Spain in 1968. In the early 1970s, the *Black Racer* was marketed as being '*dropped forged from finest steel which is rolled to our specification. Carefully ground, hardened and tempered. Individually tested and polished*'⁵⁸. The success of Australian axemen abroad with these racing axes created renewed demand and the '*Black Racer*' was exported to Europe, USA and South Africa⁵⁹. Production of the '*Black Racer*' ceased in the late 1970s as it was superseded by the new *Trojan Hytest Silver Racer*.

Hytest Kauri and Hytest Ringbarker specialty axes, c. late 1950s - mid 1960s

At around this time, Hytest introduced two other specialty models of axe, the *Hytest Kauri* and the *Hytest Ringbarker*. The Ringbarker was said to be used with a shorter ¾ length handle⁶⁰.



Late 1960s 5lb black Hytest Racer with the 'Hytest Racer 5' stamp.



A c. late 1950s organe Hytest Kauri 4½ lb axe.



A c. late 1950s Hytest Ringbarker

Hytest Axes and HRC ratings, late 1950s - early 1960s

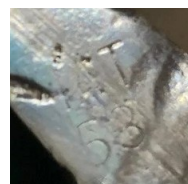
During post-war period of economic growth of the 1950s, *A.C.I.* began supplying parts for the new Australian automotive industry. The industry required high quality steel parts and the testing of steel was adopted. Consequently. At around this time, it appears, *Hytest* axe heads began being stamped with a HRC⁶¹ hardness rating.



A 4½ lb Hytest Challenger axe head with a 'HAT 61' stamp on the bottom edge of the head.



A 5 lb Hytest Forester axe head with a 'HAT 55' stamp on the bottom edge of the head.



A 4½ lb Hytest Challenger axe head with a 'HAT 61' stamp on the bottom edge of the head

⁵⁶ 'Vanadium is most commonly added to carbon steels to produce a high strength low alloy (HSLA) steel. The addition of a small amount of vanadium can dramatically increase the tensile strength of HSLA steels, making vanadium one of the most cost-effective additives in steel alloys.'
<https://atlanticptyltd.com.au/vanadium/steel>

It is also possible that this steel was a Chromium–vanadium steel alloy that consists of carbon (0.50%), manganese (0.70–0.90%), silicon (0.30%), chromium (0.80–1.10%), and vanadium (0.18%). Chromium and vanadium both make the steel more suitable for hardening. Chromium also helps resist abrasion, oxidation, and corrosion. Chromium and carbon can both improve elasticity
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromium%E2%80%93vanadium_steel

⁵⁷ *The Tool Chest*, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 24 - 25.

https://www.htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_25-32.pdf

⁵⁸ c. early 1970s hardware catalogue promoting the 'paper label' *Trojan Hytest Forged Steel* axe range

⁵⁹ *The Tool Chest*, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 25.

https://www.htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_25-32.pdf

⁶⁰ Facebook image file: 526134909_10163641981681349_8525305179629649623_n

⁶¹ The Hardness Rockwell C (HRC) scale uses a sphero-conical diamond indenter under 150 kilogram-force to test the hardness of steel, deep case hardened steel, and stainless steel, hard cast irons, pearlitic malleable iron, titanium, titanium alloys, and other materials harder than 100 HRB. For high-quality cutting tools, such as axes, the ideal hardness is usually somewhere between 55 and 62 HRC, depending on how it is to be used, with a work axe at the lower and a racing axe at the upper end of that range.



Forester, Craftsman, Challenger—all three axes have proved their mettle under actual working conditions since they were introduced a year ago... Forester in the hands of timber-getters... Craftsman on the farms... Challenger in the nation's backyards.

There's a long working life forged into every Hytest axe. Each is finely tempered to hold its cutting edge and FULLY GUARANTEED against faults in manufacture. It's easy to choose the right Hytest—there's one for every purse and purpose—and you can select the right weight—3½, 4, 4½ or 5 lb.

The Forester
The Forester... for the Timber-getter! Has a razor-edged red and bright head fitted to an all-weather American Hickory handle. The Forester quickly repairs its slightly extra cost through longer cutting, perfect set and balance and 100% reliability. 3½, 4, 4½ or 5 lb. head.

The Craftsman
The Craftsman... for the Farmer! The medium-priced Hytest that's designed to stand up to grueling work on farms or station all the year round. Green and bright head with a choice of handles—American Hickory or spotted gum—seasoned red. 3½, 4, 4½ or 5 lb.

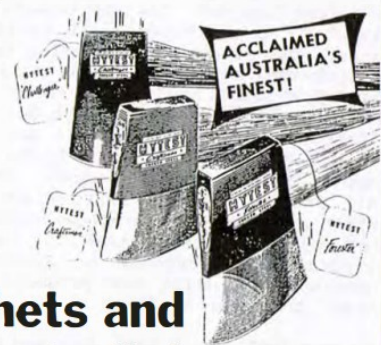
The Challenger
The Challenger... for the Householder! It's the outstanding low cost axe for the woodheap and odd jobs around the home. With its all-blue head and red-stained handle, the Challenger is another dependable axe designed for one job. Select the weight that fits right—3½, 4, 4½ lb.

There's an Australian-made, HYTEST AXE designed and priced for you!
Hytest stays ahead of all competitors—every Hytest Axe is forged from top-quality Australian steel.

A 1958 Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd advertisement promoting their new range of Hytest axes that are proven '...under actual working conditions...[and are]...forged from top-quality Australian steel'.

The Western Herald, 18th July, 1958, pp. 4.

HYTEST Makes Australia's TOP SELLING Axes, Hatchets and Tools in Australia!



Challenger for the householder... Craftsman for the farmer... Forester for the bushworker—the customer is always right when he can select his favourite weight from the full range of forged, work-tested Hytest Axes!

You don't have to be a champion axeman to cash in on Hytest—simply stock, display, and sell Hytest... your customers will do the rest! Just remember that Hytest outsells other brands because Hytest Axes are designed, forged, and finished by Australian hands for Australian hands.

Hytest Tools include Sledge Hammers, Wedges, Picks, Mattocks, a range of other Forged Tools, and the new Block Splitter that's tops with men who own slow combustion stoves or who have tough blocks to split. Write for illustrated catalogue and price list TODAY.

A.C.I. SALES PTY. LTD.

Box 4292 G.P.O., Sydney Box 4311 G.P.O., Melbourne P.O. Box 17, South Brisbane
P.O. Box 26, Kilkenny (S.A.) Box 1642 G.P.O., Perth Box 872 H G.P.O., Hobart

Hardware Year Book, 1959

A13

An A.C.I. Sales Pty Ltd advertisement in the 1959 Hardware Year Book promoting the full range of Hytest axes including the new 4½ & 5 lb 'black and bright' Racer.

Consolidation of the Tulloch and Hytest NSW foundries at Trojan Ltd in Melbourne, 1962 - 1965

In 1962, *Pioneer Industries Limited* took 'financial control' of *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* as part of its consolidation of the various forging foundries on the Australian east coast and that had also included the acquisition of *Tulloch Ltd* and its tool forges at Rhodes, NSW, in the same year. Interestingly, *Tulloch Ltd*, itself, had previously acquired the Melbourne based *Trojan Ltd*⁶² in 1961. By 1965, *Pioneer Industries Limited* had full ownership of *Hytest Axe & Tool Pty Ltd* and moved its machinery to *Trojan Ltd*'s Raleigh Street, Footscray, works. This equipment joined the presses from *Tulloch*'s Rhodes, NSW, plant [moved in 1962] and *Gwillight*'s Melbourne plant [moved in 1964].⁶³

Hytest axes manufactured by Trojan Ltd, a subsidiary of Pioneer Industries Limited, 1965 - mid 1970s

Pioneer Industries Limited now had the foundry presses from *Tulloch*, *Hytest* and *Gwillights* at *Trojan Ltd*'s Melbourne foundry making *Hytest* branded axes. It continued to strongly market the successful *Hytest* axe model range where some were now being marketed as 'Trojan Hytest Forged Steel' axes. Axes continued to be marketed into the early 1970s with an identifying *Hytest* and model stamp on one cheek with a paper label affixed to the other. The label read 'Trojan Ltd, Victoria, Australia, Manufacturers of Hytest [model name] Forged Steel'.

⁶² *Trojan Limited* listed as a public company in 1948 - 49 and its products were being marketed as 'Trojan' tools in 1961. The company had emerged from an engineering business in Sunshine, Victoria, that was started by Mr James L. Scott in the early 1900s. *Scott & Son Pty Ltd* initially manufactured petrol and gas engines and moved to Raleigh Street, Footscray in 1914. During WWI they manufactured hand tools for the Australian defence forces. During the depression of the early 1930s the company expanded its production of 'Scott' branded hand tools. Soon it purchased shovel dies from the *Titan Nail and Wire Works Pty Ltd* and by the late 1930s began marketing their hand tools under the 'Trojan' brand name (a reference to the ancient Greek myth about the Trojan War and the fall of Troy in the twelfth or thirteenth century BC where the Achaeans used a 'Trojan Horse' to secretly enter Troy and then destroy the Trojans) prior to its public listing in 1949.

The Tool Chest, Volume 6, No. 3, August, 1994, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 10.

https://htpaa.org.au/images/TC/TC_033_Aug_1994_part-1.pdf

⁶³ *Ibid.* pp. 11.



Above:
The Trojan Ltd 'Hytest Forged Steel' label on a 5 lb Forester axe manufactured in the mid-1960s.

Left:
A Trojan Hytest Forged Steel Forester 5 lb axe of the mid-1960s featuring the Trojan Ltd, Victoria, Australia label and the half red / half bright finish.



Above:
Hytest 5 Forester stamp on a Trojan Hytest Forged Steel Forester 5 lb axe of the mid-1960s.

Left:
A Trojan Hytest Forged Steel Forester 5 lb axe of the mid-1960s featuring the Hytest 5 Forester axe head stamp and the half red / half bright finish.

Trojan Ltd's Hytest Silver Racer, late 1960s - mid 1970s

In the late 1960s, after further research and liaison with axemen, *Trojan Ltd* produced the first 'all bright', polished steel, *Hytest Silver Racer*. It was a large *Tasmanian* pattern racing axe with a cutting edge of 6.5" (165mm) and a weight of 5lbs (2.25kg) and polished in an 'all bright' finish. Compared to the earlier *Black Racer*, the *Silver Racer* was '...wider in size but with marginally less material under the eye. It still retained the square poll'⁶⁴. Each axe was '...individually tested for hardness and stamped accordingly'⁶⁵. They were marketed with foil labels on the head and haft. The label on the head read 'Trojan Ltd, Victoria Australia Manufacturers of Hytest Forged Steel' and 'Hytest Forged Tools'. The label on the haft read 'Manufactured by Hytest Select Hickory'. As prize money for woodchopping competitions increased and the sport became more professional, the *Hytest Silver Racer* became highly sort after by both local and international competitive woodchop axemen. *Trojan Ltd* had produced an axe which was vastly superior to anything previously manufactured. The *Trojan Hytest Silver Racer* soon became an internationally famous Australian racing axe and was considered to be the finest in the world.



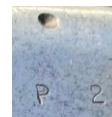
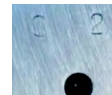
Above:
A Trojan Hytest Silver Racer straight out of the box featuring a mid-1970s paper label



Right:

'C 2', 'P 3' & 'O 3' stamps on Hytest Silver Racers. These stamps are said to indicate the steel hardness and it is suggested that they also indicate the grind for the corresponding timber.
C2 = Chisel / Softwood - 58 to 60 HRC
P2 = Plunge / Hardwood - 56 to 58 HRC
O3 = Oversized / Knotty wood - 54 to 56 HRC

Left:
A mid-1970s 'ground' Hytest Silver Racer



Above:
A 'paper label' yellow Hytest Forester was produced by Trojan Ltd as an addition to its range of work axes and possibly for the UK market.

National Springs Pty Ltd and its acquisition of Trojan Ltd, 1970

In 1970, *National Springs Pty Ltd* acquired *Pioneer Industries Limited*, and with it, *Trojan Ltd*, as well as the *Trojan* and *Hytest* registered trademarks⁶⁶. *Trojan Ltd* continued to develop, manufacture and market *Trojan Hytest* axes.

Trojan Hytest 'paper label' axe range, early 1970s - mid-1970s

In the early 1970s, probably connected to the *National Springs Pty Ltd* acquisition of *Trojan Ltd*, the entire *Trojan Hytest Forged Steel* axe range, including; the *Black Racer*, red *Forester*, green *Craftsman*, blue *Challenger* as well as the heliotrope 'Yukon' (a new promotional model) are marketed by without a stamp on the axe head and are sold with just the *Hytest forged Steel* 'paper label'.

⁶⁴ *The Tool Chest*, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 25.
https://www.htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_25-32.pdf

⁶⁵ *ibid.* pp. 24.

⁶⁶ *ibid.* pp. 12

RACING AXE

Drop forged from finest steel which is rolled to our specification. Carefully ground, hardened and tempered individually tested and polished. American first quality Hickory handle 32" long, cutting edge width 6" (1 1/8") overall length of head 7 1/2".

FINISH Head half black enamel half bright - handle clear lacquered for protection. Each axe packed in INDIVIDUAL cartons.

The Choice of Champions

Reference No.	Head Weight	Handle Measure	Per Dozen Weight Measure
118-164	5 lb.	32" Hickory	80 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.

FORESTER BRAND

Drop forged from finest tool steel. Carefully ground, hardened and tempered and polished. American first quality 32" Hickory handle. Ideal for the axeman and professional Woodsman.

FINISH Head half red enamel half bright, handle clear lacquered.

Reference No.	Head Weight	Handle Measure	Per Dozen Weight Measure
118-021	3 1/2 lb.	32" Hick	60 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-028	4 lb.	32" Hick	66 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-036	4 1/2 lb.	32" Hick	72 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-044	5 lb.	32" Hick	78 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.

CRAFTSMAN BRAND

Forged from high quality tool steel, fully ground, hardened and tempered and polished. Available with either American Hickory handle or 1st quality Australian timber handle. The axe suited to both the professional and the home user who requires a top quality axe.

FINISH Head half green enamel and bright, handles lacquered for protection.

Reference No.	Head Weight	Handle Measure	Per Dozen Weight Measure
118-052	3 1/2 lb.	32" Hick	60 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-060	4 lb.	32" Hick	66 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-079	4 1/2 lb.	32" Hick	72 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-087	5 lb.	32" Hick	78 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-095	3 1/2 lb.	32" Aust	60 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-109	4 lb.	32" Aust	66 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-117	4 1/2 lb.	32" Aust	74 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-125	5 lb.	32" Aust	80 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.

CHALLENGER BRAND

Forged from high quality tool steel, hardened and tempered. Blade one-third polished. Available with Australian Timber Handle.

FINISH Head dark blue enamel one third bright, handle lacquered.

Reference No.	Head Weight	Handle Measure	Per Dozen Weight Measure
118-133	3 1/2 lb.	32" Aust	62 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-141	4 lb.	32" Aust	68 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.
118-168	4 1/2 lb.	32" Aust	74 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.

PROMOTIONAL -- YUKON BRAND

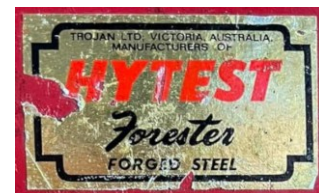
Forged from high quality tool steel, hardened and tempered available with 32" Australian Timber handle.

FINISH Blade Heliotrope enamel and bright, handle lacquered.

Reference No.	Head Weight	Handle Measure	Per Dozen Weight Measure
118-451	4 1/2 lb.	32" Aust	74 lbs. 2.0 c. fl.

Early 1970s hardware catalogue promoting the 'paper label' Trojan Hytest Forged Steel axe range featuring the following axes;

Racing Axe: [black enamel / 1/2 bright (polished steel)]
 Forester Axe: [red enamel / 1/2 bright]
 Craftsman Axe: [green enamel / 1/2 bright]
 Challenger Axe: [blue enamel / 1/3 bright]
 Yukon Axe: [heliotrope (pastel purple) enamel / bright edge]



A Trojan Ltd 'paper label' Hytest Forester Forged Steel axe

Trojan Pty Ltd, mid 1970s - 1987

In the mid-1970s, after the sale of *National Springs Pty Ltd* and its assets, *Trojan Ltd* is renamed *Trojan Pty Ltd*. In 1976, *Trojan Pty Ltd* registers a new trademark [#301354] and logo [#301355]. Prior to this, it appears *Cyclone Company of Australia Ltd* had gained a financial interest in *Trojan Ltd*. Also in 1976, *Boral Ltd* merged with *Cyclone Company of Australia Ltd* and formed *Boral Cyclone Ltd*. This merger coincided with the registering of the new 1976 *Trojan Pty Ltd* trademarks. *Trojan Pty Ltd* continued to manufacture 'Trojan Hytest Forged Steel' labelled axes at their Footscray foundry. Later in 1980, a new logo trademark was registered by *Trojan Pty Ltd* and axes were labelled as *Trojan Australia Hytest*.



Trademark Numbers 301354 301355⁶⁷ and registered by Trojan Pty Ltd from 1976 to 1997. It is later transferred to Boral Cyclone Hardware Pty Ltd in 1987 and then to Trojan Australia Pty Ltd in 1993 after the demerger of Boral Cyclone Ltd.



A Trojan Forged Steel Hytest Challenger axe label featuring the 1976 Trojan logo registered to Trojan Pty Ltd



Trademark Number 348218⁶⁸ registered by Trojan Pty Ltd from 1980 to 1987.



A Trojan Australia Hytest Craftsman Axe featuring the 1980 - 1987 Trojan Australia logo trademark registered to Trojan Pty Ltd.

⁶⁷ <https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/301355?s=afef662d-3d18-498c-9375-3f1d07681d00>

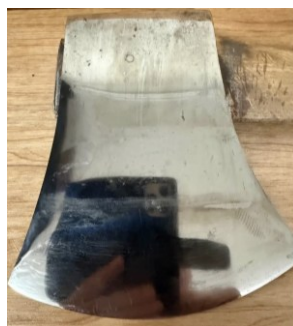
⁶⁸ <https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/348218?q=348218>

Trojan Pty Ltd's Hytest Silver Racer, 1977 - mid 1980s

From the late 1970s, a number of new *Hytest Silver Racers* were produced by *Trojan Pty Ltd*, each with a progressively broader flared blade that changed the pattern shape away from that of the original *Trojan Ltd Tasmanian* pattern *Silver Racer*. In 1977, *Boral Cyclone Limited's* subsidiary *Trojan Pty Ltd* marketed a new *Hytest Silver Racer* with a flared, seven inch wide, blade that became popular for a period. This flared pattern, similar to that of a felling axe, came to dominate the shape of *Cyclone's* axes from that time. In the early 1980s, it released two further models. Each had a wide flared blade but only varied slightly in detail. The 1985 *Trojan Hytest Forester Racing Axe*, for instance, was a 6lb axe with a 7" blade that has been described as being too wide and heavy for the average woodchop competitor⁶⁹. By this time, however, the introduction of the chainsaw had caused axe manufacture to wane and production of drop forged racing axes became less viable⁷⁰. By 1987, the *Trojan* Raleigh St foundry was shut down by *Boral Cyclone Ltd* and *Hytest* became increasingly used in conjunction with *Cyclone* branded axes instead.



A 1977 Trojan Forged Steel Hytest Silver Racer axe with a paper label featuring the 1976 - 1980 Trojan trademark logo registered to Boral Cyclone Limited and trading as Trojan Pty Ltd



A early 1980s flared Trojan Hytest Silver Racer

Boral Cyclone Limited complete acquisition of Trojan Pty Ltd and closes the Footscray foundry, 1987

In 1987, *Boral Cyclone Limited* acquired *Trojan Pty Ltd* and moved the Footscray machinery to its Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi, foundry that it had established in 1951. The *Trojan* Raleigh St site is then sold in that year. As a result of this consolidation some 200 people were employed at the Korumburra Road foundry during the late 1980s and 1990s.⁷¹

Cyclone Hardware Pty Ltd, 1993 - 2004

In 1993, *Boral Cyclone Limited* demerged into the two separate business identities; *Boral Limited* and *Cyclone Hardware Pty Ltd*. *Cyclone Hardware Pty Ltd* became the sole owner of the *Trojan* and *Hytest* brand names and continued to produce and market *Hytest* branded axes through two new companies; *Trojan Australia Pty Ltd & Cyclone Industries Pty Ltd*. *Trojan Hytest* branded axes were traded through *Trojan Australia Pty Ltd* and *Cyclone Hytest* branded axes were traded through *Cyclone Industries Pty Ltd*.

Trojan Australia Pty Ltd's Hytest axes, 1998 - 2004

From 1998, *Trojan Australia Pty Ltd* manufactured⁷² *Trojan Hytest* branded axes with a new trademark logo. The *Trojan Hytest* trademark logo changed again in 2003.⁷³



Two 1998 Trojan Australia Pty Ltd logo Trademarks registered by Cyclone Hardware Pty. Limited.



The 2003 Trojan Australia Pty Ltd logo Trademark registered by Cyclone Industries Pty Ltd



A Trojan Australia Trade Tough Forrester Racing Axe featuring the 2003 - 2004 Trojan Australia logo and trading as Trojan Australia Pty Ltd.

⁶⁹ *The Tool Chest*, Volume 4, No. 3, June, 1992, Journal of the Hand Tool Preservation Association. pp. 27.

https://www.htpaa.org.au/images/TC/Newsletter/TC_June_1992_V4.3-page_25-32.pdf

⁷⁰ These days, they are generally individually CMC machined from blocks of tool steel.

⁷¹ <https://www.sgst.com.au/75-year-old-wonthaggi-cyclone-factory-to-close-in-october/>

<https://www.sgst.com.au/cyclone-statement-confirms-end-of-wonthaggi-factory/>

⁷² Probably manufactured at the old Trojan Footscray, Melbourne foundry.

⁷³ 2003 - 2004 *Trojan Australia* trademark logo registered to *Boral Cyclone* trading as *Trojan Australia Pty Ltd*.

Cyclone Industries Pty Ltd's Hytest axes, 1999 - 2004

Later in 1999, *Cyclone Industries Pty Ltd*, manufactured⁷⁴ and marketed a flared 2.25kg (5lb) *Cyclone Hytest 'felling'* patterned race axe with a new *Hytest* logo.⁷⁵



A Cyclone Hytest felling axe featuring the 1999 - 2004 Hytest Axe logo registered to Boral Cyclone trading as Cyclone Industries Pty Ltd. The 'Cyclone Hytest' stamp is in the 'champignon' font that is also used for 'Cyclone' trademark. The word 'Hytest' is in the 'champignon' font that is used for 'Cyclone' trademark.

Cyclone Hytest 'felling' axes ground and hung as racing axes

The American conglomerate, *I.T.W.*, buys and shelves the *Hytest* trademark, 2004 - 2014

In 2004, *Cetram Pty Limited*⁷⁶ (an subsidiary of the American conglomerate, *Illinois Tool Works*) bought the 'Cyclone' tools brands that included the 'Trojan' and the 1946 & 1957 'Hytest' trademarks. At around this time, the manufacturing of 'Hytest' branded axes is discontinued, but, the registration of the 1957 'Hytest' trademark is maintained.

***Ames Australasia* buys the *Hytest* trademark, 2014 - 2026**

In 2014, *I.T.W. Australia Pty Ltd* sells the *Cyclone*, *Trojan* and *Hytest* brand names / trademarks to *Ames Australasia*, a subsidiary of the US conglomerate *Griffon Corporation*, trading as *Cyclone Tools Pty Ltd*, 317-323 Abbots Rd, Dandenong South, Victoria. *Ames Australasia* continued to maintain its registration of the 1957 'Hytest' trademark, but, it allowed the registration of the original 1946 *Hytest Forged Tools* trademark logo to lapse in 2023.

***Bunnings Group* buys the *Trojan* trademark, 2015 - present**

In 2015, the *Trojan* brand name was acquired by the *Bunnings Group Limited* and *Trojan* branded tools continue to be marketed with a new *Trojan* trademark that was registered in that year. The trademark is currently registered by *Bunnings Group Limited* to 2029.

***Ganz Australia Pty Ltd* buys the *Hytest* trademark, 2026 - Present**

In 2026, *Ganz Australia Pty Ltd* took ownership of the *Hytest* trademark, which is currently registered till 2029⁷⁷, and the *Cyclone* trademark, which is currently registered till 2031⁷⁸. Under its ownership of *Ganz Australia Pty Ltd*, *Cyclone Tools Pty Ltd* ended its Australian manufacturing operations in October, 2026, with its historic foundry at Wonthaggi, Victoria, closing permanently after 75 years of manufacturing⁷⁹.

⁷⁴ Probably manufactured at Cyclone Tools' foundry in Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi, Gippsland.

⁷⁵ IP Australia, TM Number: 4156. <https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/4156?s=b8ffa311-771b-48c5-8888-c2b3a6a3b9b8>

⁷⁶ An Australian-based intellectual property holding company owned by the *Illinois Tool Works [I.T.W.]*, which later became *I.T.W. Australia Pty Ltd*.

⁷⁷ IP Australia, TM Number: 131788. <https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/131788?s=de68fc34-134f-40ac-83a5-9906c9ff039b>

⁷⁸ <https://search.ipaustralia.gov.au/trademarks/search/view/4156?s=198a0490-e85e-47a4-9103-109b59f8095a>

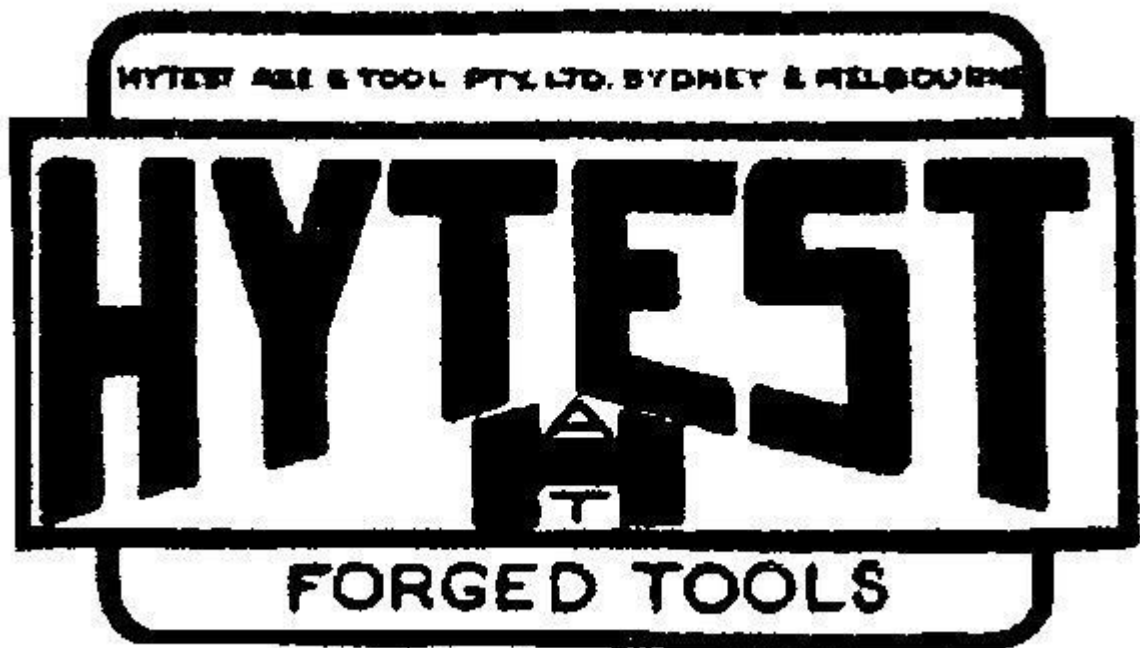
⁷⁹ <https://www.sgst.com.au/75-year-old-wonthaggi-cyclone-factory-to-close-in-october/>

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Hytest logo / trademark

Number: 89070

IP Australia Registered: 28th October, 1946 - 2023

Words: Hytest, Hytest Axe & Tool Pty. Ltd. Sydney & Melbourne, Hat.

Image description: Rectangle on rectangle, rounded-corners