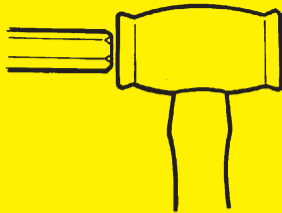


**Steel hammer against steel**

Risk of damage.  
The hammer may chip and the workpiece can buckle.



**Soft hammer against steel**

No risk.  
Hammer does not chip. The workpiece keeps its shape.

Material	Characteristics
<b>Copper</b>	For striking where marks on the workpiece should be avoided, but a full hammer weight is required. Discolours. Expensive material.
<b>Tin</b>	Softer than copper - easily changes shape. Not electrically conductive. Poisonous.
<b>Lead</b>	Softer than copper and tin - easily changes form. Poisonous.
<b>Plastic (Nylon)</b>	The most common material for soft hammers. Has the right spring and absorbs shock effects. Strikes lightly without marking. Plastic = medium. Nylon = hard.
<b>Polyurethane</b>	Extremely durable material with a long life. For striking lightly without marking the workpiece. Highly resistant to oil and solvents.
<b>Rawhide</b>	Made of dried and compressed buffalo-hide (one of the toughest natural materials available). Gives a hard, somewhat springy hammer stroke without shock effects. Small risk of marking.