

## History of Pope Products - Pope and Falcon Planes

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Pope Products Limited was founded in 1925 and was originally known as "Popes' Sprinkler and Irrigation Company" having its beginning in a small backyard factory. It is interesting to trace the history and development of the associated companies and to note the fact that wood-working planes and other tools became a significant part of their product range, at least for a period in the Company's history. In tracing this history the Australian Industrial Property Organisation (A.I.P.O) records proved most useful in obtaining dates and copies of the trade marks taken out.

The first reference to Pope Products Limited that I was able to find was when they became proprietors of two trade marks under the word GEYSER and a logo of a hose nozzle. These were previously registered by a Walter Arnold Deutsher of Sycamore Grove, Ripponlea near Melbourne in Victoria. They were originally registered on the 15th August 1929 and Pope Products Ltd became subsequent proprietors on 18th December 1933. This gave Pope a further connection with water sprinklers, sprayers and director jets for hoses, nozzles, pipe couplings, unions and other metal fittings for liquid spraying or distributing devices.

During 1934 Pope Products Limited, Irrigationists of Robert Street, Croydon Park, South Australia, applied on the 17th February for SARCO, and on the 5th April for NIFTY as trade marks. Both were abandoned in the following year. Even at this time it would appear that the intention was to diversify the range as SARCO was to apply to goods manufactured from rubber and gutta percha. The 5th August 1943 was the next most significant date as the trade mark POPE was applied for. This was deemed to be a distinctive trade mark on 12th September 1946. By this time the registered office was at Charles Road, Beverley, South Australia and Pope described themselves as Manufacturers and Merchants. Applications covered a very extensive array of products in several different classes. Water sprinklers, associated items of equipment and torch cases, toy guns and ash trays were also mentioned but, most important, tools started to appear.

The mark POPE and a logo mark (A) were applied for and covered a number of items, including spanners and spanner sets, hand drills, (but not drill bits), hack saw frames and pliers without a cutting edge. There was no mention of planes. At the same time two additional marks were applied for (B,C) and in this case planes were mentioned along with hack saw frames of metal, hand drills, pliers and spanners. All four marks as above were also registered in another class, "Cutlery and Edge Tools", on the 11th August 1944.

Having established the earliest possible starting date for the manufacture of the Falcon plane it is of interest to look at the association of A. Simpson & Son Limited and the eventual disappearance of Pope from the company name, which became Simpson Limited. The first reference to Simpson in research of this article was an application for this name as the trade mark of A. Simpson & Son Limited, Hardware Manufacturers and importers of Pirie Street, Adelaide, South Australia. This was made on the 8th January 1945. It was deemed a distinctive mark on 18th February 1946. By 20th May 1959 Simpsons called themselves manufacturers and had their registered office at 41 Pirie Street and on this day applied that the mark Simpson be associated with a number of classes encompassing an extensive range of items. If the items involved sheet metal or a limited use of cast iron it was mentioned but there were no hand tools

The 29th October 1964 would seem to be the date when Pope and Simpson came together to become Simpson Pope Limited. At about this time the address for the new company became Simpson Avenue, Dudley Park, South Australia. The production of Pope hand tools had probably ceased prior to any involvement by Simpson with Pope. As far as can be ascertained at this stage it was 1979 when the name of the company became Simpson Limited only.

The trade marks (A), (B), and (C) were removed from the register on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1957 which was basically one period (14 years) of trade mark registration. The mark POPE continued and is still registered in relation to certain classes to this day, principally hose and tap fittings, water sprinklers etc. Washing machines, electric motors and internal combustion engines, lawn mowers appeared to be still covered under this mark. The original mark GEYSER and the logo of a nozzle were also removed from the register in September 1957.

## Planes - Falcon and Pope

Trevor Rowe, an HTPAA member in South Australia, says that to his knowledge Falcon planes were developed between 1944-1945 and began selling to the public in 1946. The name was changed from Falcon to Pope in the early 1950s and it is most likely that they ceased manufacturing in 1955/57. This information ties in with that obtained from the A.I.P.O. and subject to any further information coming to hand this is probably the period of plane manufacture by Pope Products.

There has been a high number of sightings of Falcon planes at markets and other places where second hand tools are sold and although these were produced for several years there must have been many sold. The planes then became Pope and production continued for a number of years. As the incidence of Pope plane sightings is considerably less than Falcon it may suggest shorter periods of production, probably lower demand resulting from greater competition from overseas makers. During the war and in the immediate post war period the demand for these tools was considerable but as soon as the supply from overseas was resumed, with perhaps a quality/price edge, the local manufacturer with a limit on quantity could not compete.

The product range for both names was the same as shown below,

Falcon 9", Nos F4 1/2, F5, F5 1/2, F6, F7 bench planes and a F220 block plane

Pope Nos 4, 4 1/2, 5, 5 1/2, 6, 7 bench planes and a F220 block plane

Pope Products also manufactured 151 and 151R spokeshaves, hand drills, multigrips and open ended spanners. The hacksaw frames mentioned in the original trade mark applications do not appear to have been produced. It does not appear that a plane marked F4 was produced as all examples sighted are marked 9".

## Technical Details

The following details have been observed on a number of Falcon planes which show a few minor variations. Unfortunately there have been fewer Pope planes with which to make a comparison, however it would appear that consistency of production had been achieved by this stage - the only variation being two different markings on the cutters. See below.

Also the brass depth of cut adjusting nut is 1" diameter in all examples. Frogs are all die cast. Where more than one example has been seen the dimensions of the base are consistent. All lever caps are the same.

Pope planes with their dark blue painted base and frog, clear varnished handle and knob and POPE cast into the lever cap with yellow backing are quite distinct from their FALCON counterparts which have a black base, red frog and reddish varnished handle and knob. The two markings sighted of the lever cap are an arched FALCON with POPE below or arched FALCON with the words "A POPE PRODUCT" below. Red colouring was used on the recessed backing of these marks. FALCON or POPE is cast on the base in front of the knob, with sizes or identifiers behind the knob. 'Made in Australia' is cast in front of the handle up to size 4 1/2 and behind the handle thereafter.

The Falcon cutters are consistently marked as shown right on all the examples sighted.

Of the two variations of lever cap already mentioned the one with the casting in of FALCON - A POPE PRODUCT being the less frequent mark. A development from cast iron frogs to die cast appears to have been fully developed by the time of Pope's production. There is some variation in the brass Adjusting nuts with a 1 1/4" and two 1 5/32" sizes noted. However these were mainly 1" diameter which was fully adopted by the time of Pope's production. The Falcon F220 and the Pope No 220 are coloured black and blue respectively with their cutter marked the same as shown right.

The planes with the larger adjusting nuts have narrower base castings, cast iron frogs and two of the three have the less frequently marked lever cap which may suggest earlier production as tabled below.

9"	9 7/16" x 2 3/8" (2 1/2) - 1 5/32" Nut	FALCON - A POPE PRODUCT
F 4 1/2	10 3/8" x 2 7/8" (3) - 1 1/4" Nut	FALCON - POPE
F 5	14" x 2 3/8" (2 1/2) - 1 5/32" Nut	FALCON - A POPE PRODUCT

There is also a possibility that the lever caps marked FALCON - A POPE PRODUCT may only be associated with 2" cutters.

There have been three sightings of what could be classed as transitional planes, that is in the sense of moving from Falcon to Pope production. Two of them are Nos 4 1/2, the base castings having Falcon around the knob but with the bases and frogs being Pope blue. The handles and knobs are clear varnished, not Falcon red, and they have Pope lever caps. There was also a No 7 with all the Pope characteristics, consistent markings on the base but no identifying Pope or Falcon mark in front of the knob

The attached reference list of planes is taken from a product list giving blade size and length of plane. The comparison list is from a pamphlet supplied with a new Pope plane

<b>FALCON</b>		<b>Catalogue Dimensions</b>		<b>Actual Base Dimensions including handle protrusion.</b>	
Catalogue Number	Cutter	Length	Width	Length	Width
F 4 (195 - 03)	2"	9"	2 1/2" (2 3/8")	9 3/8"	(9 1/2")
F4 1/2 (195 - 04)	2 3/8"	10"	3" (2 7/8")	10 3/8"	
F5 (195 - 06)	2"	14"	2 1/2" (2 3/8")	14"	
F5 1/2 (195 - 07)	2 3/8"	15"	3"	15"	
F6 (195 - 08)	2 3/8"	18"	3"	18"	
F7 (195 - 09)	2 3/8"	22"	3"	22"	
F220	1 5/8"	7"	2"	7"	
F151	Flat face spokeshave				
F151R	Curved face spokeshave				

<b>POPE</b>		<b>Catalogue Dimensions</b>		<b>Actual Base Dimensions including handle protrusion</b>	
Catalogue Number	Cutter	Length	Width	Length	Width
No. 4 (195 - 03)	2"	9"	2 1/2"	9 1/2 "	
No. 4 1/2 (195 - 04)	2 3/8"	10"	3"	10 1/2"	
No. 5 (195 - 06)	2"	14"	2 1/2"	13 7/8"	
No. 5 1/2 (195 - 07)	2 3/8"	15"	3"	15"	
No. 6 (195 - 08)	2 3/8"	18"	3"	18"	
No. 7 (195 - 09)	2 3/8"	22"	3"	22"	
No. 220 (80 - 01)	1 5/8"	7"	2"	7"	
No. 151 (151 - 02)	Flat face spokeshave				
No. 151R (151 - 03)	Curved face spokeshave				