



Figure 12. Outboard: a) grooves span a new split and an old seam. The surface is made good below with hand-applied *chunam*; b) ends of wedges are trimmed and battered. Fish Road. Author.

The time-consuming carving and fitting of the strakes, as well as the manufacture of cord and the sewing of the seams, traditionally involved fishing families and occupied three months of the monsoon. The tools used are still of the simplest. The most important are three different chisels or shaves used for most operations from: making wedges to shaping a component; counter-sinking stitch holes; and rapidly removing excess timber (Fig.13).



Figure 13. a) the three edge-tools used by a master boatbuilder; b) shave with a curved blade achieves a fine finish. Benaulim. Author.

Tool handles are bound with rings to resist heavy pounding by a 1lb hammer, but