

Post pounder

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A **post pounder**, **post driver**, **post knocker** or **fence driver** is a tool used for driving fence posts and similar items into land surfaces. It consists of a heavy steel pipe which is closed at one end and has handles welded onto the sides. It is normally used by one person, but larger versions may require two.

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History

An early type was developed in 1933 by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to aid the installation of fencing along roads and highways.^[1]

Operation

The open end is put over the top of the post to be driven, then the tool is lifted and dropped repeatedly onto the top of the post. The closed end strikes the top of the post, driving it into the ground. Unlike a maul it can be used easily on tall posts, such as those used for deer fencing. Because the tube guides the striking force consistently in line with the post and strikes it across its full width, a post pounder usually damages the top of the post less than a maul. It is not suitable for posts which will be shorter than the length of the tool, or for posts which do not fit easily into the tube because of bulges or curves, or their over-large diameter. The tool is difficult to use on slanting posts.

Safety and Precautions

Single-person post pounders tend to be around 20 pounds (9 kg), but weight varies with model types. The diameter depends on the size of the post to be pounded. They can be dangerous to handle, especially if the lower edge of the pounder catches on the top of the post, when it can pivot towards the user and strike them on the head.

Hearing protection and a hard hat are often recommended.

References

- "Miniature Pile Driver Sinks Fence Posts", October 1933, Popular Mechanics (https://books.google.com/books?id=6CcDAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA26&dq=motor+gun+boat&hl=en&ei=6AXqTIOfAsienAf959ngDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CC4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=20gun%20boat&f=true) bottom of page 26, left side of page

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A red-colored post pounder next to two green steel t-posts

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