

## Basic tools are a low-tech treat

Copicy Hawa Service In this era of excessive

automation and virtual interaction, there is something refreshingly real about a plain old hand tool. A claw hammer never needs batteries. There is no such thing as a turbo screwdriver or a fuel-injected wrench. A ripsaw nover gots a virus or falls to boot up, and if it "crashes" it's probably because you

dropped it.
Tools are great because unlike most of the complex mechines running our lives, they are simple and understandable and dumber than you and me. I look at my toolbox and feel good about myself; I feel superl-

That said, there are so many tools evallable today that it's hard to figure out exactly which ones are assential and which are strictly superfluous. The "do-ityourself" creze is in full swing, and the mom-and-pop hardware shops have been supplented by airport hanger superstores that hawk 50 types of power drills and

200 different hammers.
Hand tools may be as dumb as stumps, but put them all together in a big room and they can be very intimidating. The trick is to evaluate your needs and only purchase the equipment you plan to

In the spirit of being smart about tools, check out "Chic Simple: Tools"

(Knopf), a pocket-size hardcover that is handsome enough to display on a coffee table but practical enough to store on a

This cerebral volume is one in a series of primers "for living well but sensibly," spearheaded by SoHo designers Jeff Stone and Johnson Gross.

The "Chic Simple" manifesto states that the book series is "for those who believe that quality of life comes not in occumulating things, but in paring down to essentials."

in "Chic Simple: Tools," author Robert Love juxtoposes clearheaded advice on tool usage and ownership with insightful hardware aphorisms from Winston



