Finch & Co



FINE SAILORS WHALEBONE FID, ENGLISH OR AMERICAN

A FINE SAILORS WHALEBONE FID, ENGLISH OR AMERICAN
OLD SMOOTH PATINA
CIRCA 1850 – 60
SIZE: 33CM LONG – 13 INS LONG

LITERATURE

FIDS WERE HANDCRAFTED UTILITARIAN OBJECTS ON BOARD SHIP FOR INSERTING THIMBLES INTO PREPARED ROPE, REAMING OUT GROMMETS, SPLICING ROPE, WORKING KNOTS AND FOR OPENING HOLES IN A CANVAS SAIL, BECAUSE SAIL MAKERS PREFERRED SPREADING THE THREADS OF THE CANVAS RATHER THAN CUTTING A HOLE IN IT. THE POINT OF THE FID, WHICH COULD NOT BE TOO SHARP OR IT WOULD SNAG THE YARNS, HAD TO BE PROTECTED AS IF IT BECAME DAMAGED A RAGGED POINT COULD RUIN A SAIL BY CATCHING OR TEARING IT. THUS A SMOOTH SURFACE WAS MOST IMPORTANT.