Staples 101: Things You Should Know

What TYPE of Staples do I choose?

1. Choose Heavy Duty or Light Duty
   - T50® Series Staples: Heavy Duty
   - JT21® Series Staples: Light Duty

2. Choose the best suited material for your project. (Steel, Stainless Steel and MONEL®)
   - Rust-Free Staples
   - Marine applications: Monel® is a group of nickel alloys, primarily composed of nickel (up to 67%) and copper, with small amounts of iron, manganese, carbon and silicon.

What LENGTH of Staples do I choose?

3. When stapling make sure 3/16” to 1/4” of the staple is inside the base material, and up to 3/8” should be sufficient in softwoods. However, if the staple used “stands away” from the work—this means that too long a leg length has been used. In that case we recommend the next shorter leg length for desired results.
Chisel (Wedge) vs. Divergent (Tack) Staples

Chisel or “Wedge” Staple
The Chisel or Wedge point is where both legs of the staple taper in on both sides to a point. Below is how Arrow and Stanley depict this staple on their packaging. There is very little, if any, difference between the actual shapes of the point when you compare Arrow to Stanley.

Chisel points are more effective on longer staples when firing into soft wood. The chisel point allows the staple to penetrate the wood with more force than the Divergent point. This allows the staples with the longer legs to get all the way through to the crown.

Arrow Staples with a Chisel Point – 1/2”, 9/16”
  ** 3/8” is available in Chisel Point, however rarely used
Stanley Staples with a Chisel Point – 1/4”, 5/16”, 3/8”, 1/2”, 9/16”
  - All Stanley Staples use a Chisel Point

Divergent or “Tack” Staple
The Divergent point is used on shorter staples and is especially effective when firing into hard wood. The Divergent point twists as it enters the wood which allows a better hold. Below is what the Divergent point staple looks like on the Arrow Packaging.

In addition to the shorter staples, the Divergent point is also used on the Ceil Tile staples. This is to allow the staple to grab and hold through the ceiling tile, but not punch through the tile.
Arrow T50® staples come in Divergent and Chisel point, depending on the size.

- 1/4” Divergent Point #504
- 5/16” Divergent Point #505
- 3/8” Divergent Point #506
- 1/2” Chisel Point #508
- 17/32” Divergent Point #50CT
- 9/16” Chisel Point #509

Common Types of Staples

**CHISEL POINT**
- DRIVES STRAIGHT INTO WOOD

**DIVERGENT POINT**
- LEGS DIVERGE TO IMPROVE HOLD

**HIGH CROWN**
- CROWN FLATTENS TO EXERT OUTWARD PRESSURE AND IMPROVE HOLD

Stanley Staples
All Stanley Staples are Chisel Point.