

Semi-automatic punch for the approximate determination of metal hardness consists of a housing containing a striker and a striker spring. It further comprises a core mounted within the housing so as to be capable of longitudinal movement, with a hard alloy tip attached to its end and sharpened at an angle of 136° , a damping spring positioned between the core and the housing, and a mechanism for locking and releasing the striker, comprising balls located in holes in the housing capable of engaging with a ring groove on the striker, and a stopper mounted externally on the housing and capable of axial movement to release said balls.