Nail Driving the Hard Way

It's one thing to drive a nail into a board.
It's another to do it while you hold the board in your lap.

What to do: Stack the dictionary and another large book on your lap. If you don't have a lark dictionary use three large books. Place a thick newspaper on top of the books to protect them. Finish off the stack by placing the board on top of the newspaper. Any scrap of lumber will do, but a piece of 2 x 4 is best. Now you are going to pound a nail into the board. That's right. You'll pound the nail while holding the board in your lap.

What happens: As you pound the nail, you feel the force of the hammer blows on your legs, but it won't hurt. Just be sure you don't pound the nail all the way through the board.

Why: Inertia saves the day.

More Impressive Nail Driving

You can experiment with nail driving using fewer books. But if you want to impress your friends, let someone else hammer the nail. Just be sure you always have a thick newspaper pad between the board and the books. Also be sure anyone swinging the hammer holds it so that the hammer head does not come down toward you. The person who is hammering must stand or kneel at your side and aim the hammer away from your face and body.