



## A GUIDE TO YOUR BLOCK PLANE

### INTRODUCTION

Your Block plane is designed for trimming small work along the grain or across the end grain. It can be used with one or two hands and when using it with one hand it is particularly comfortable to pull the plane toward you with the palm of your hand resting neatly in the shaped front of the plane. For soft wood end grain work use a skew cutting action, but for hardwood use with a straight action.

### ADJUSTING THE BLADE (BASIC)

This is recommended as the easiest method to set your blade.

This plane has no mechanical blade adjustment, but with minimal practice you will be able to adjust the blade quickly and to very fine tolerances.

Follow these simple steps:

(A) To remove the blade, tap the plane body just in front of the throat with a small hammer. The wedge will loosen, remove blade and wedge.

**Warning:** To avoid being cut by the blade, ensure you hold the plane so your hand is clear of the blade edge. Then tilt the plane at an angle so that the blade will not inadvertently slide out of the bed before you remove it with your other hand.

A.



(B) To replace the blade, place the plane body on the 'blade setting block' of hardwood provided. Place the blade in position letting the weight of the blade sit down flat on the block of wood. Using your index finger, also ensure the blade is sitting against the bed.

B.



(C) Whilst the plane is still on the setting block, place the wedge loosely into position. To set the wedge tap the top centre of the wedge with a small hammer using a series of medium to light taps until the wedge is firm.

**Note:** If the blade loosens during use, the wedge needs to be set more firmly by tapping harder on the wedge.

C.



Procedure (B) and (C) done correctly will set the blade ready for use. Sight down the sole to check blade is correctly set, and then start your planing work. If the plane is not cutting correctly, reset the blade as per procedure (A), (B) and (C).

### ADVANCED BLADE ADJUSTMENT

Advanced blade adjustment is recommended after you are confident with the basic method. Learning the advanced method will give you more flexibility with taking deeper or finer shavings off your wood. Refer photo (D).

(i) Sight down the sole of the plane placing your thumb on the wedge.

(ii) To take a deeper cut, tap the top of the blade to advance it.

(iii) To take a finer cut, tap the plane body just in front of the throat to retract the blade.

(iv) To level the blade if it is high on one side, tap the side of the blade to bring it back to level.

**Warning:** For any blade adjustment use your thumb to hold the wedge firmly in position with a downward pressure. This prevents the blade coming out during adjustment.

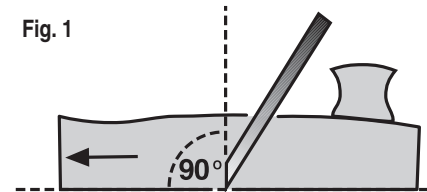
D.



### USE AS A SCRAPER

To add flexibility to planing difficult hard woods, the blade can be reversed (Fig 1) to make the plane scrape. Blade set up is same as procedure (a), (b) and (c).

Fig. 1



### SHARPENING YOUR BLADE

Your blade is sharpened ready for use, and to keep it sharp we recommend the following sharpening technique:

Once you have honed away the hollow ground bezel, regrind a 30 degree hollow using a standard 6-8" bench grinder. Only grind to 1/32" (0.5mm) of edge to prevent burning it.

Then use a 800 - 1200 grit stone to hone the bezel and back of the blade flat, then polish the two surfaces on a 6000 grit stone ensuring the polished surfaces extend right to the edges.

A secondary bevel may be used depending on your preference.

**Note:** The essence of sharpening is not getting the angles perfect, but rather polishing the two surfaces to a perfect point using good quality fine grit stones. (About a 6000 grit stone will give you a fine sharp edge.)

Fig 2 shows the effect of a hollow ground bezel and if used saves time and effort when sharpening your blade, plus reduces the wear on your stones.

Fig. 2

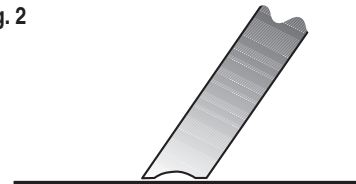


Fig. 3



### CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Regularly smear a little linseed oil on the sole of the plane to reduce friction. This will lengthen the plane's life and makes planing wood easier.

Keep a smear of machine oil on the blade to prevent rust.

If your workshop is exposed to extreme dry or damp conditions for extended periods it is recommended that you store the plane (when not in use) in the plastic bag and box that it came in.

Tune your plane once a year by placing a piece of 240 grit sand paper on a perfectly flat surface (cast iron saw bench top or thick glass) and rub the sole of the plane over the sand paper. Rub only enough to ensure the sole is flat. This will ensure your plane remains in perfect working order. Re-oil the wood sole with any commercial oil or wax.

### PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES

**P:** If wood shavings are getting clogged in the throat of the plane, one of the following is the problem: you are using the plane with a skew action, the blade is set too deep, the blade is blunt or the plane has a build up of gum around the mouth.

**R:** To prevent the shavings from clogging do one or all of the following: don't use a skew action, reduce your depth of cut, sharpen your blade or clean up the mouth of the plane.

**P:** If the blade is chattering, the wedge is too loose or the plane's bed is fouled by dirt or wood shavings.

**R:** Tighten the wedge or clean the bed to ensure the blade is sitting perfectly flat on the bed.

**P:** If you can't laterally adjust your blade, you will probably find that the blade edge is not square to the blade side through repeated sharpening. Refer Fig.3

**R:** Re-square the blade edge and sharpen.

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