



A GUIDE TO YOUR SIDE REBATE (SIDE SNIPE) PLANES

INTRODUCTION

Your side rebate planes come in pairs so that you can manage any grain direction in use. You can get away with one plane when you are only planing across the grain. They are designed to trim dadoes/groves with or across the grain, whether the wall is vertical or at an angle for dovetails. The sole of this plane is made so that you can also use the plane for cleaning up the vertical edges in complex mouldings which you have made with Hollows and rounds. To get the terminology correct the left plane refers to the plane with the cutting edge on the left side when the front of the plane is pointing away from the user. Used and maintained correctly these planes will take your woodwork to another level.

ADJUSTING THE BLADE

This plane has no mechanical 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, lightly tap the brass abutment (which is directly in front of the wedge) several times with a small hammer. The wedge will loosen, remove the blade from the mouth of the plane. If the wedge is hard to remove put some furniture oil on the wedge.

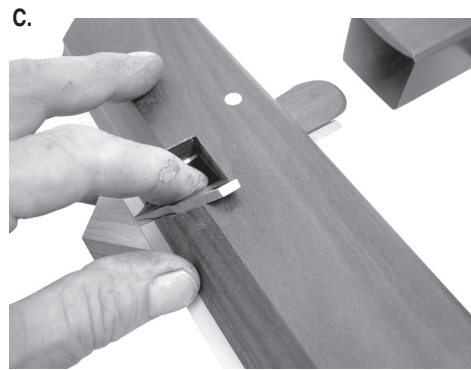


Warning: To avoid being cut by the blade, ensure you hold the plane so your hand is clear of the blade edge. Then tilt the plane at an angle so that the blade will not inadvertently slide out of the bed before you remove it with your other hand.

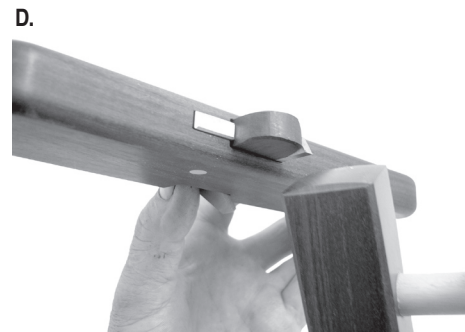
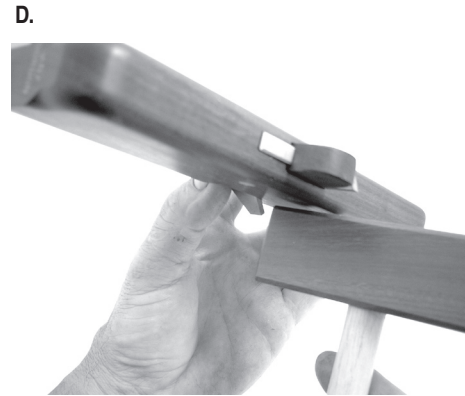
(B) To replace the blade, insert the blade into the plane body and lay the plane body on its side on the 'blade setting block' of hardwood provided. Ensure the sharp tip of the blade is flush with the bottom edge of the brass sole.



(C) Whilst the blade is still on the setting block, use your index finger to hold the sharp edge of the blade flat on the setting block, then put the wedge into position and lightly tap the wedge with a small mallet until the blade is held firmly.



(D) Turn the plane on its side and sight down the brass sole. If step C is done accurately the blade should be close to being in position. If not the blade can be adjusted laterally (left to right) by tapping the blade either up near the top of the wedge or down near the bottom of the wedge.



(E) If the blade depth needs to be adjusted tap the blunt part of the blade down near the bottom of the wedge for a deeper cut or tap the side of the plane behind where the blunt end of the blade protrudes.



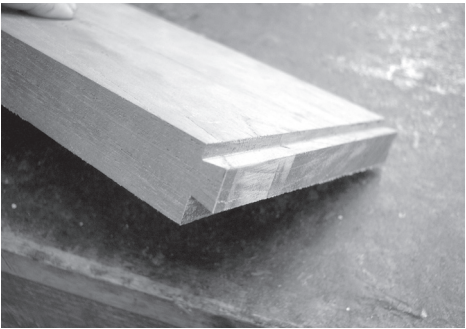
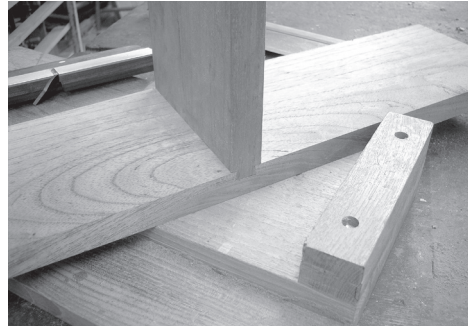
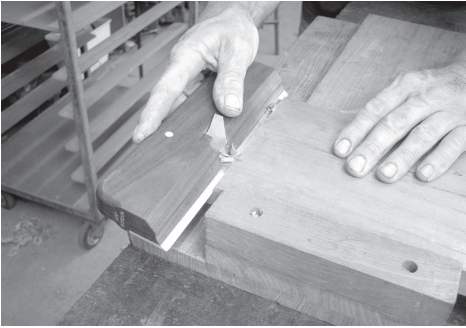
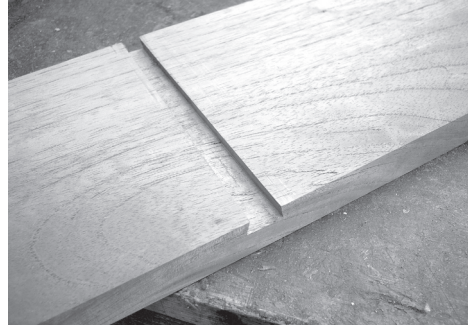
Note: You will most likely find that it is easier to advance the blade as opposed to retracting the blade. This is because you can take a more gentle approach by little taps on top of the blade whilst you are watching the blade advance.

USING YOUR SIDE REBATE

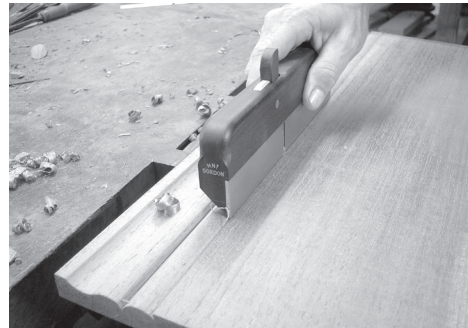
Your side rebate plane will cut up to 7/8" (22mm) for the life of the blade. You may be able to push this to 1" (25mm) in some cases when the blade is new but you will find the wedge will impede some shavings when cutting over 7/8". When trimming the walls of a dado or groove whether the walls are vertical or angled for sliding dovetails the depth of cut will depend on the width of the dado or groove. You will find for dados with vertical walls the depth of cut equals the width of the dado. If you are doing the grooves for dovetail joints the depth will be slightly less than the width at the narrowest point. You need to allow for this when marking out your joints.

This is the ideal plane if you wish to make/modify sliding dovetail joints to be tapered. These planes will cut the male and female parts of these joints with ease. You will obviously save a lot of time if you remove the majority of the waste wood with a saw or router and use these plane to do the trimming work.





When making mouldings with Hollows/Rounds and Snipe bill planes, side rebate planes fit the bill for cleaning up the vertical walls found in complex mouldings.



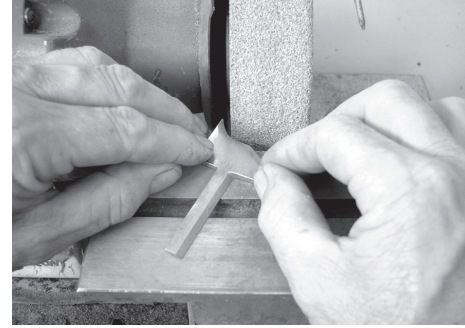
Keep your blade sharp and with a fine set this plane is capable of tearout free cuts with, against or across the grain.

More information on using Side rebates is on the HNT Gordon website under "Using Planes".

Lastly don't be afraid to experiment with these planes as you will be surprised with what shapes you can come up with.

SHARPENING YOUR BLADE

Whilst these blades are an unusual shape, in essence they have a standard 30 degree bevel about the size of a block plane, so they are sharpened in the same fashion. The one extra thing you need to do with these blades is to keep grinding away the curved relief shape on the blade as you wear down the edge through repeated sharpening. To do this set up your grinder with a flat tool rest and grind the curved profile on the corner of the grinding wheel as shown in the photo. You will know when you have ground enough by sighting down the curved part of the sole and won't be able to see the blade.



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

Once you have honed away the hollow ground bevel, 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 away the wear on the bevel of the blade and then polish the bevel and back of the blade 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.)

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Regularly rub a bit of candle wax on the brass part of the sole to minimise friction making planing easier, and this will minimise wear on the sole thereby maintaining the correct profile for longer.

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.

Like any plane I recommend that you tune your Side rebate 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 brass 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 brass/wood sole with any commercial oil or wax.

PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES

P: If wood shavings are getting clogged in the throat of the plane, you have either got the blade set too deep, the blade is blunt or you are taking a shaving over 7/8" (22mm) deep.

R: To fix this problem, sharpen your blade or adjust the depth setting. DO NOT attempt to widen the mouth of your plane as this will only increase choking and tearing of the grain.

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: You can't take a fine full width shaving with one of your side rebates.

R: This problem may be that the sole of the plane is not straight in its length. Use a straight edge to check this and if required straighten the sole as described in the "Care and Maintenance" section.

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