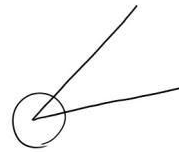


Sharpening Basics

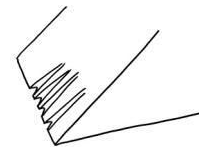
Ron Hock — www.hocktools.com

Why Bother?

- Because most *woodworking* is wood *cutting*.
- Quality woodworking requires sharp tools.
 - A sharp edge leaves a smooth, satiny surface.
 - For a precise fit;
 - Best gluing surface;
 - Simply irresistible.
- Sharp tools are safer, too.
 - Require less pressure.
 - Allow greater control.
 - Fewer sutures (maybe).



(1) Zero Radius = Sharp



(2) Scratches =

"Teeth"

What is Sharp? (1)

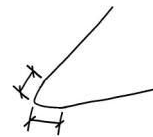
- Empirically: sharp enough to do the job.
- Technically: the intersection of two planar surfaces.
 - Zero radius = The Goal.
- Finer grits = smaller "teeth" (2).
 - Smoother surface.
 - Longer edge life.



(3) Radius = Dull

What is Dull? (3)

- Not sharp enough to do the job.
- How does it happen?
 - Hint: abrasive wear.
- Wear bevels (4) (no, not *were*bevels).
 - Larger on the "wood" side.
 - Smaller on the "shaving" side.

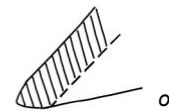


(4) Wear

Bevels

How to Sharpen:

- Remove the wear bevels (5).
 - Use the coarsest grit necessary (finest grit possible).
 - Form a burr.
- Polish new bevels.
 - Use finer grits.
 - Form a burr with each.
- To stop or not to stop?
 - Yes.
 - No.
 - But remove the last burr somehow (6).



or

(5) Remove the Wear Bevels



(6) Strop to Remove the Burr

Sharpening is a fundamental wood-working skill.

-It requires practice just like the other skills.

-It's easier than you think. Honest.

-It will help you be a better wood-worker.

Any Questions?

“What should I sharpen with?”

An abrasive that is harder than the steel.

And sharp enough to scratch it.

That would include aluminum oxide, diamond and a few others.

“But... but...”

Waterstones, diamond plates, loose diamond, oilstones, honing film.

All work.

All have supporters and detractors.

All have plusses and minuses.

So they each must work well enough to satisfy *someone*.

-Therefore, start with what you have.

Or whatever is easy to obtain.

Use whatever that is to refine your technique.

-Technique is more important than tools!

Yes, good tools are better.

But good technique is more better.

Practice.

Practice.

Practice.