

Tool Tip: How to Sharpen a Chisel

by [offseid](#) on February 1, 2008

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Intro: Tool Tip: How to Sharpen a Chisel

For many people, chisels are handy little tools...for prying open cans of paint, that is. But a properly-honed chisel is an extremely useful woodworking tool.

Sharpening a chisel is actually quite easy, especially if you use a honing jig. An initial investment of less than \$150 will get you chisels, a honing jig and sharpening stones - all of which will likely last longer than you will.

When I was first starting out in woodworking, I assumed that the "sharp" chisel I brought home from the hardware store was ready to go. But just because something is sharp enough to go through your hand if you're not careful does not mean it's sharp enough to take on wood with nice results.

Chisels go through an elementary grinding when being made which simply gives them a beveled edge. Look at the second picture below, and you can see the grinding marks on the main part of the blade. When we're done, the cutting edge will be glassy smooth.

So let's get started!



step 1: Items Needed

There are numerous ways to sharpen chisels. Some do it strictly by hand, while others use a jig. Some sharpen with oilstones, others with waterstones, and still others with diamond stones. Some use a strop at the end. This instructable will demonstrate the use of waterstones and a honing guide, and will get your chisel sharpened to 8000 grit with a microbeveled edge. Now here's what you need:

- **Chisels:** I recommend Irwin brand chisels (formerly Marples). Woodcraft sells a set of four for \$39.99. This instructable will work for any chisel, but you might need to do it more often for the cheaply-made ones.
- **Honing Guide:** A honing guide keeps your blade at the right angle for sharpening. Those who are more experienced go by feel, and indeed you may try this, but I use a jig. The one I use costs only \$11.99 from Woodcraft.
- **Sharpening Stones:** As I just mentioned, this instructable will demonstrate sharpening with waterstones. I use two combination stones (again, from Woodcraft), that take the sharpening through grits of 800, 1200, 4000 and 8000. The 800/4000 stone will set you back \$24.99 and the 1200/8000 stone will cost \$49.99.
- **Nagura Stone:** If you use a waterstone with a grit of 6000 or higher, you will need a nagura stone. The nagura stone creates the "slurry" that helps sharpen the chisel. The same link for sharpening stones above contains a link for the nagura stone, which you can buy for \$9.99.

Total Cost (at time of posting): \$136.95. Of course, if you only need one chisel you can knock \$20 to \$30 off of that total, depending on the size of the chisel you get.

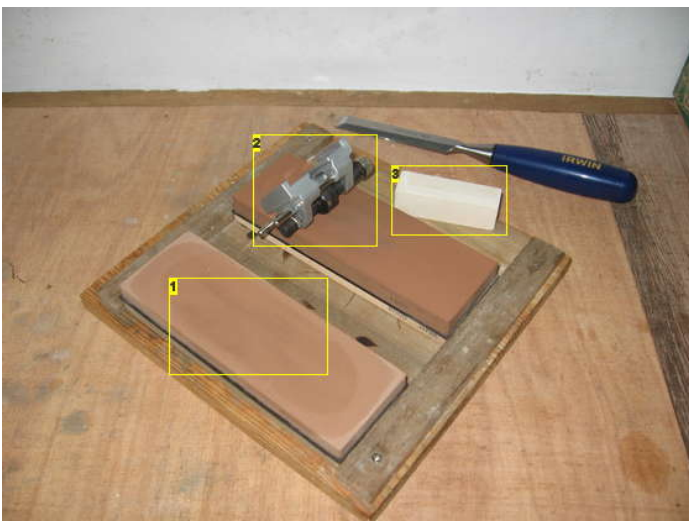


Image Notes

1. Combination stones have one grit on one side, and another grit on the other. I've created a little base here to hold the stones in place. Dowels which I'll glue into the bottom of this base will slot into holes on my workbench (once it's done).
2. The honing jig holds the chisel (or hand plane blade) at a fixed angle while sharpening. The guide rolls on the wheel you can see in the middle.
3. The nagura stone is only used on my 8000-grit stone.

step 2: They're Called Waterstones For a Reason

Put your stones in water and let them sit there a while. The few articles I've read about it suggest that only 5-10 minutes is needed. You may also choose to store your stones in water (like in a tupperware container); I know some who do, and some who caution against it.

step 3: Setting the Honing Guide

Insert your chisel into the honing guide with the bevel facing down. Tighten the honing guide just enough to hold the chisel, but leave it loose enough so that you can still adjust it. Ideally, the entire bevel will be touching the stone at the same time, but the front part is (obviously) more important.

Don't worry too much about getting it micron-level accurate at this point. Just get it to where you think the bevel is lying flat against the stone, and tighten the honing guide screw to lock the chisel in place.



step 4: First Passes at 800 Grit

Take your stone out of the water and put it somewhere where it won't slide all over the place. You may want to make a little setup like mine on Step 1. Another option is to place the stone on a piece of fine-grit sandpaper which has been secured to your workbench. You can see in the picture below that I had neither at the time, but merely used the lid of a plastic storage tub.

Set your chisel (in the honing guide) onto the stone. Applying even pressure on the back of the chisel blade, and with your thumbs on the jig, give it about five or six passes, forward and back. Try to distribute your passes over as much of the stone as you can, so you don't end up with a big groove right down the middle of your stone. Grooves are bad.

Wipe the blade clean and take a look at it. You'll now be able to see where the blade is making contact with the stone, because the grind marks will be worn away there. If you need to adjust the chisel's position in the honing guide, do so. You want the chisel blade to be contacting the stone at least for the first 1/8". The more the better, but the first 1/8" is the most important.

Do this step a few times. In between each set of passes, do three things: wipe the blade clean, inspect your progress, and rinse the stone of the residue that accumulated on it.

Now move up to the 1200-grit stone, and then the 4000-grit stone. Once you start making some passes with the 4000-grit stone, you'll notice the blade really starting to shine.



step 5: Using the Nagura Stone

The finer grits of waterstones (6000 and above) need a little help to produce the slurry needed to actually sharpen the chisels. Enter the nagura stone. You're now ready for the 8000-grit sharpening.

Take your wet nagura stone (which should have been submerged along with the other stones) and rub the top of your 8000-grit stone in a circular motion. You'll see the slurry starting to form on the top of the stone.

After each set of passes, rinse the stone like you did with the others, and reapply the nagura stone.

You're almost done. It's time to add a microbevel.



step 6: Adding a Microbevel

You've now gone through the four grits of waterstones, and you should have a chisel blade so shiny and sharp that it will put a smile on your face. But there's still one more thing you can do to help your chisel out: add a microbevel.

A microbevel (or second bevel) is just what it sounds like: a very small bevel at the end of your already-beveled edge. The primary purpose of this microbevel is to save you time. When your chisel dulls, you merely need to sharpen the microbevel instead of going through all of these steps from scratch. It will take several sharpenings before the microbevel has been ground more or less flat with the rest of the bevel; at that point, you will go through all of these steps again.

To put a microbevel on your blade, slurry up your 8000-grit stone with the nagura stone and put your chisel/honing guide onto the stone. Raise the handle of the chisel a tiny bit, and with a nice steady stroke, push forward to the other side of the stone. Pick up the chisel (don't draw it back on the stone), place it again on the near side, and repeat a handful of times. Each time, try to raise the chisel handle by the same very small angle.

After several sets of passes, you'll see a thin line on the end of your chisel blade. Job well done.

But wait! There's one more important step before you can pack your stones up and start hacking away at wood.

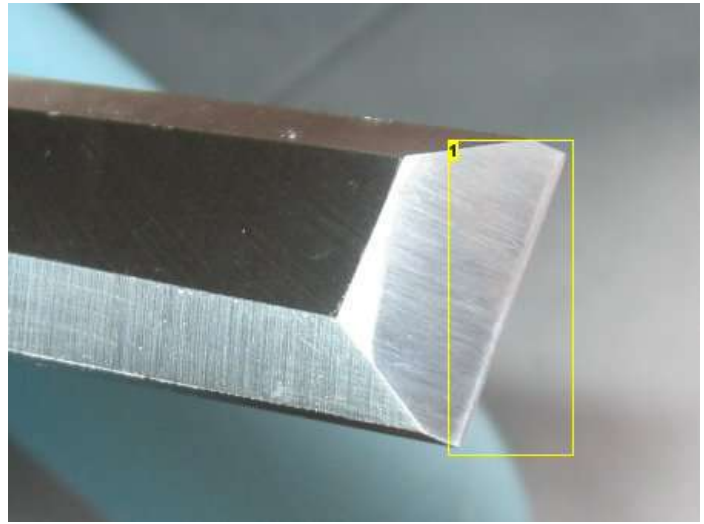


Image Notes

1. There it is - that little thin line is a second bevel, which alone needs to be sharpened when your chisel starts getting dull.

step 7: Flattening the Back

All of that sharpening you've done so far has created a little burr on the back of the blade edge. If you run your finger up the back of the chisel, you'll feel it when you get to the edge.

To get rid of that burr, you'll need to flatten the back of the chisel. To do this, start with the 800-grit stone. Lay the back of the chisel against the stone and make several passes on it. The chisel must lie completely flat against the stone.

It doesn't matter how much of the back you place on the stone. You only really need the very end flattened, but the more you have on the stone, the easier it will be to keep the chisel flat.

Do several sets of passes as you did with the blade, moving up through the 4000-grit stone.

There. You now have a finely-honed and powerfully useful tool. Now go to [this instructable](#) to see what you can do with it!

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Comments

50 comments

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amclaussen says:

Nov 19, 2009. 10:15 PM [REPLY](#)

I have found that sharpening with progressively finer wetordry sandpaper over glass is both very practical and comparatively inexpensive. A flat thick glass piece and the required 3M sandpapers are way cheaper than a set of stones; and you don't need to flatten them. Only the worst cases of badly dented chisels will benefit from a complete treatment on a set of 3 to 4 stones.

In my case, I bought a somewhat similar adjustable angle guide from "General" brand of tools that uses two small wheels that can roll freely at both sides of the sandpaper strip if you cut it a little wider than the blade to be sharpened, so that they don't have to roll over the sandpaper. Cutting the sandpaper in those widths gives several strips from every sandpaper sheet, which means even more savings!

To sharpen the narrow chisel blades, I made a wooden base with a lateral guide rail, so that the sharpening guide can roll straight and parallel to the sandpaper strip.

The glass plate is 3/8" (9 mm) thick, which is very rigid and ensures flatness even with some heavy down pressure; and was not expensive since the size is not large.

For me, the glass and wetordry sandpaper is the way to go.

amclausen, Mexico City.



Danzeboy says:

Sep 13, 2009. 6:37 AM [REPLY](#)

Man alive that looks sharp. My chisels are all chipped and need an expert like you. I'm a plumber so I put them through a lot of nails etc!



gitm says:

Oct 12, 2009. 9:09 AM [REPLY](#)

If you're putting chisels through nails you should use what's called a 'cold chisel'. Cold chisels are designed for that sort of thing and look almost nothing like wood chisels. You can find them at Lowes or Home Depot. They are beveled on both sides, each at about 35 degrees from the long axis (about 70 degrees total).



offseid says:

Sep 14, 2009. 11:21 AM [REPLY](#)

Hey, I'm no Yoda. Anyone can do this! But if your chisels are all chipped then you might need to grind them down on a grinder first to establish a flat edge and a starting bevel. I don't cover that here (I don't even have a grinder) but you could probably find tips (and video) on this elsewhere.

Once you've done that, start with this Instructable and you'll be set!



Future filmmaker says:

May 14, 2009. 6:54 PM [REPLY](#)

Now, I have a question, I accidently put a chink in my blade, so it now has a gap right in the middle, If I used this technique, would I be able to sharpen it back into a blade? (the dink is about .5 centimeters long, and is the shape of a half circle)



offseid says:

May 14, 2009. 8:08 PM [REPLY](#)

Let me preface my answer by saying I have never done this myself, I have just read a bit here and there. So if anyone has personal experience with this, I hope they'll share!

What I think you'd need to do is run the blade on a grinder until it is flat across the entire blade. Then you have to regrind a bevel (25 degrees or so) on the blade. After that, you start with the steps in this Instructable to hone the blade until it's sharp!

Good luck, and if you think of it, post a reply to this after you've solved the problem.



offseid says:

May 14, 2009. 8:12 PM [REPLY](#)

Whoops, let me follow up by saying that if you don't have a grinder (as I don't), you'd have to "grind" that blade down until it's even by using sandpaper or a rough-grit sanding stone (don't use your nice waterstones). I don't know how long that would take. When you're done, then you might consider running it over your coarsest waterstone (maybe 800?) just to be sure that it's a nice straight smooth edge. Then you'd "grind" the bevel in the same way (man, that might take forever!) and after that, get to honing the blade.

Hope that made sense!



Future filmmaker says:

May 15, 2009. 4:25 AM [REPLY](#)

lol, maybe I should just go and ask for help from a professional at my woodcraft store before I ruin my chisel !



anderekel says:

Jul 21, 2009. 9:30 PM [REPLY](#)

What I did with my plane blades that had some nicks (bought some used planes) is I had my local sharpening guy sharpen them. He ground out all the nicks for me and cost me 10.50 for three blades. Then I'm gonna sharpen'em back up to nice and ready to use. It's a lot easier than trying to do it yourself and possibly screwing it up. :D



Future filmmaker says:

May 14, 2009. 6:49 PM [REPLY](#)

Man , I love the store "woodcraft"! And I figured out there is one about 20 miles from my house :)



jeff-o says:

Apr 2, 2008. 8:35 AM [REPLY](#)

Great instructable. I recently had to sharpen one of my chisels and did it with increasingly finer sandpaper. It's good to know that I was at least somewhat on track! Maybe once I own a full set I'll invest in proper stones as well.



i.am.flink says:

Sep 2, 2008. 8:29 AM [REPLY](#)

Many people use only sand paper. Some auto parts stores that cater to mechanics doing restorations that include body work will have extremely fine paper that equates to 12000 grit.

The "scary sharp" system is based on sandpaper with an adhesive back applied to glass. You can get a piece of glass for a jalousie window (the slat kind) and some 3m spray adhesive to hold the paper to the glass.

An experienced sharpener may mangle nicely with only fingers to hold the chisel. Personally, I use a Veritas jig to hold my blades. I'm not using it to get done quicker, mind, I just want it to be right when I'm done.



dawfun says:

May 13, 2009. 11:41 AM [REPLY](#)

I relied on the "Scary Sharp" approach for a couple of years while I built up my skills and tool collection. Once I ran out of sandpaper, I went ahead and invested in "proper" sharpening stones.

This is the original (a great read) on "Scary Sharpening": <http://tinyurl.com/gcyg4>



offseid says:

May 13, 2009. 11:55 PM [REPLY](#)

Classic. Scary Sharp will live forever! I will try it one day, but when those stones are sitting there ready to go (after 5 minutes in water of course), I always use the stones.



jeff-o says:

May 13, 2009. 1:02 PM [REPLY](#)

Hilarious! And informative, too. I'll probably stick with sandpaper for the time being...



jeff-o says:

Sep 2, 2008. 12:21 PM [REPLY](#)

That's sort of what I used. I started with 100 grit and moved up to 4000. It was enough for what I had to do. I don't use my chisels very often, but when you need one it's the only tool that will do!



david_baines says:

Apr 15, 2009. 10:45 AM [REPLY](#)

Excellent instructable, thank you. I've been wondering for quite a while how to sharpen chisels properly, and now I'll just have to find all the bits needed. Thanks for the links to the suppliers, I've sometimes seen waterstones in supermarkets, but didn't know where to go to find different grades. I've never heard of nagura stones before. Thanks!



eric m says:

Apr 2, 2009. 11:30 PM [REPLY](#)

These stones cost too much.

Why ?



offseid says:

Apr 6, 2009. 8:08 PM [REPLY](#)

If I have the story right, I heard that King bought all of the quarries that produced the substance that does the actual sharpening. Maybe the price is high because they have the market cornered?



thepelton says:

Mar 30, 2009. 10:44 AM [REPLY](#)

I made a jig for sharpening chisels out of a wedge of wood and some wooden toy wheels. I used an inca jig protractor to get the right angle so that I could lay the chisel on the top of the wheeled edge and roll the whole thing over some sandpaper, and get a wicked sharp edge.



ezcheese says:

Mar 28, 2009. 3:10 PM [REPLY](#)

The way I was taught was that a chisel was not sharp enough to use until you could shave your arm with it. To this day my left arm is hairless from testing my plane blades and chisels on it.

I use water stones up to 6000 grit and then strop using the palm of my hand. You don't need a leather strop & paste. Its got to be done quick or else you cut yourself though.



see spot run says:

Dec 12, 2008. 7:02 AM [REPLY](#)

nice Instructable-- couple things for other people to remember -- sharpen early; sharpen often;

1. in step six you say to look for the thin line on the chisel edge. this line is on the bevelled side of the chisel. The back needs to be dead flat. If you see a thin line on the back of the chisel, then it's time to flatten the back again and sharpen.

2. another thing that took a little while for me to figure out is that the stones need to be flattened periodically to keep them flat too. when using a honing guide the center of the stone tends to get dished out because as from the metal rubbing on the stone. the back of the chisel is only going to get as flat as the stone. To "dress" the stones, I rub the wetstone back and forth on a thick piece of glass (3/16" min for me) with some wet/dry sandpaper spray-mounted to it, sprinkled with some water. Typically the ends of the stone rub when first dressing. After a few minutes of work the whole surface of the stone shows wear equally. At this point I know the stone is flat (or at least as flat as the glass.) I got my current piece of glass for free from an architect friend as a 12"x12" left-over sample. my previous piece was a scratched up glass tabletop.



trooperdog says:

Mar 18, 2009. 4:59 PM [REPLY](#)

wow , thanks thats good info



offseid says:

Dec 13, 2008. 6:33 AM [REPLY](#)

Hey thanks for the comment! Yes, thanks for the clarification if it wasn't clear enough in my post - the thin line (microbevel) should be on the bevel edge. And yes, a flat back is essential and should only really need to be done once for the life of the chisel.

And thanks also for the tips about flattening the stones. I didn't get to that (seemed a bit tangential) but it is really important so I appreciate what you said. I have a sanding screen (180 grit) glued to a piece of glass to flatten my lowest grit stone, and I flatten the other ones with the next lower grit stone. I've also heard that polished granite makes a good dead-flat surface if you don't want to go with glass.



mauriceh says:

Oct 31, 2009. 9:09 PM [REPLY](#)

OK, I *KNOW* you will laugh at this, but please think about it:

One of the very best ways to "true" your stones (making them flat again is called "True'ing" them) is to pour some water on a flat concrete sidewalk, and work the stone on this surface.

I find a "figure 8" pattern is best.

This cuts the stone to flat very quickly and effectively.

Once it is flat, I then finish it with sandpaper, wet, on glass, as you described above. That is just to take out any scratches on the stone.



Rishnai says:

Apr 1, 2008. 9:27 PM [REPLY](#)

Excellent instructable. I'll have to use this to sharpen my chisels soon, that's for sure. Speaking of sharp chisels, my old woodshop teacher was real anal about keeping sharp chisels, and if you nicked an edge or something, he'd make you stick around and sharpen the dang thing. He had one set he said he kept razor-sharp, which he wouldn't let us touch, but said one could theoretically shave with it if he felt the need. Is it actually possible to get a chisel that sharp, or was he just jiving us?



i.am.flink says:

Sep 2, 2008. 8:24 AM [REPLY](#)

you can easily shave the hair from your arm with a well-honed chisel. I don't think I would want to try shaving my whiskers with one, though. It would probably work, but unlike a chunk of wood, when you make a gouge it will hurt more :-)



offseid says:

Apr 2, 2008. 6:55 AM [REPLY](#)

Well, I think it's definitely possible. I think I heard that razor blades are sharpened to something like 3000 or 4000 grit, and I sharpen my chisels up through 8000 grit. However, woodworking blades are sharpened at a 25-30 degree angle, as that is optimum for wood. I'm not sure what the optimum angle is for skin. :)



Rishnai says:

Apr 2, 2008. 8:00 PM [REPLY](#)

I don't know either, but I guess that's why I'm not in the razorblade business.



roflmaozedong says:

Feb 7, 2008. 6:17 PM [REPLY](#)

WOOPS im so sorry! i meant to push the plus but accidentally pushed the minus when i was rating! shoot i hope it can get fixed haha. sorry!!!
good instructable!



offseid says:

Feb 7, 2008. 10:17 PM [REPLY](#)

It's all good. Why don't you make up for it by giving a plus to a lousy instructable? ;) Just kidding...



ibanezfoo says:

Feb 7, 2008. 2:51 PM [REPLY](#)

Nice! I wish I found this a month ago. I needed to sharpen some chisels for a shelf project I was working on. I just used a file and it got me through, but this looks much better.



berserk says:

Feb 2, 2008. 11:55 AM [REPLY](#)

I am glad to see an Instructable on sharpening chisels - it's something I feel strongly about :-)

One thing to make this cheaper in the short run for someone who does not yet buy into the benefits of nicely honed chisels is to use sand paper. If you tape it onto a flat surface you can roll your jig past the end of the paper, allowing for longer strokes. At <1\$ for a good sheet of sand paper, you could do a lot of sharpening before you could buy a set of water stones.



russ_hensel says:

Feb 6, 2008. 8:20 AM [REPLY](#)

Rather than use sand paper use wet or dry paper. It is easy to find in 600 grit, but you can get much finer 2400 or so. Google the scary sharp system. When wet the paper will just stick to a glass plate or granite counter top (both of which are often very flat. russ_hensel



Lftndbt says:

Feb 3, 2008. 12:42 AM [REPLY](#)

"tape it to a flat surface" glass my friend, try some glass.... :) works a treat...



berserk says:

Feb 3, 2008. 10:40 AM [REPLY](#)

Yes, glass is what I use, too. Not everyone has a sheet of glass sitting around, though, but most people have _something_ flat in the house they would not need to buy. Especially since I found picture frame glass and even window glass not rigid enough unless you have something flat to put underneath the glass.

Having said that, I use a sheet of tempered glass that, I think, used to be the side window of a bus. And I agree with you, Lftndbt, it works like a charm!



i.am.flink says:

You can also use the strip panes of glass from jalousie-style windows. They run about 4 inches wide and 12-24 inches long. Not very expensive either.

Dec 26, 2008. 9:40 AM [REPLY](#)



berserk says:

LOL, you must live in a MUCH warmer climate. I have seen jalousie windows when I was travelling, but I don't even want to think about how they would work in -30C with a -45 windchill in Winnipeg, Canada. Where they are more easily available I can imagine that jalousie style panes would work great, though.

Dec 27, 2008. 10:00 AM [REPLY](#)



i.am.flink says:

It's bloody cold, here, as well. They enclose the porch. Keep out the snow and rain :-)

Jan 30, 2009. 1:39 PM [REPLY](#)



offseid says:

Well I live in Malaysia where these things (we call them "louver (louvre?) windows" here) are all over the place. But these are often textured - not so nice for this task!

Dec 27, 2008. 7:30 PM [REPLY](#)



i.am.flink says:

I'll bet a glass supply has some smooth ones.

Jan 30, 2009. 1:39 PM [REPLY](#)



alvincredible says:

COOL i can see your smile in the reflection!

Feb 5, 2008. 12:22 AM [REPLY](#)



aerohydro says:

When setting up a set of new chisels, by far the major task is flattening and polishing the back. I would tend to do this first, but that's personal preference. Without an accurately flat and polished back, the edge won't be up to scratch. I don't understand why you would hone the main bevel if you're going to use a micro-bevel as well. My main bevels are all rough from the grinder, with a small, finely honed micro-bevel. I find that this is the most efficient method.

Feb 2, 2008. 2:18 PM [REPLY](#)



Lftndbt says:

Are your chisels full length heat treated...??

Grinder sharpening.... so they would be...since standard chisels such as these Irwins pictured are only heat treated on the first inch meaning a grinder would ruin them. Those are some VERY nice chisels you have there...

But i'm a lil' confused... "My main bevels are all rough from grinder"

If you do have full heat treated chisels, the grinder wheel you would have to be using wouldn't leave a "rough" surface....

Thanks :)

Feb 3, 2008. 12:39 AM [REPLY](#)



aerohydro says:

My chisels are mostly older Bergs and a few Bahco's. I presume most of the blade is hardened. The grinder I use is a basic bench grinder with the standard grey wheels. I think these are silicon carbide. With these wheels one has to be very careful not to overheat the steel and draw down the temper of the cutting edge. The white aluminium oxide wheels are much better in this respect. The main bevel of most of my chisels is ground at 25°. Since the grinding wheels are round, the bevels are somewhat hollow ground. The surface texture left on the steel is roughly equivalent to what you would get from 80 grit or so silicon carbide paper. In terms of blade sharpening, this is a rough surface.

follow this up by adding a micro-bevel using a honing guide and silicon carbide paper on glass. Because I only have a small amount of material to remove, I usually start with 800 grit and work through 1200 and then 2000. Since the backs of my blades are flat and polished to this level already, it only takes a few strokes on 2000 grit to remove the burr from honing. If I'm feeling fussy I then polish the micro-bevel further by drawing it over a leather strop charged with buffing compound.

One question: Even with a chisel that is only heat treated for the first inch, why would a grinder ruin them? Whether a powered grinder or course hand stones are used, the amount of material removed to establish an edge is the same.

Feb 3, 2008. 1:55 PM [REPLY](#)



Lftndbt says:

Hmmm... Nice instructible...

Instead of describing the microbevel as a length, perhaps- 25 degree first, then second bevel of 30 degree..

The second bevel is more a necessity than a "time saver"

It spits the grain and allows the chisel to "flow" through the timber.. a single bevel will jamb easily and become dull very quickly...

Re- sharpening the second bevel only, will not give you the same cut at a newly sharpened tip... I always do both angles when sharpening regardless of the situation...

A honing gauge with degrees and pre-set angles, would be a good place to start for newcomer's.

Off to sharpen the good ole' "footprints" chisels... I only sell Irwin at work though... Some quality stuff... Yours are obviously not exposed through tang, but are they full tang through the handle..? They look nice...

Feb 3, 2008. 12:31 AM [REPLY](#)



offseid says:

Feb 3, 2008. 5:22 AM [REPLY](#)

I did think about getting into the whole science of chiseling/planing, and how the wood is best sliced with a 25-30 degree angle. But I figured most people would really care about all that, so I kept it basic.

But you're right - the first bevel is done at a 25 degree angle, and the second at a 30 degree angle. That way when the microbevel starts dulling, it remains above 25 degrees for a longer time and will continue to cut. Then you rehone it back to 30 degrees and start over.

Thanks for your good comments!



finfan7 says:

Feb 3, 2008. 12:10 AM [REPLY](#)

Nice instructable. I am lucky in that my father was a harpsichord maker for years and so he taught me a lot. Not every one is so lucky. I am glad someone thought of putting this up here for those who don't have someone to help them learn things which are so basic and useful to the craft.



offseid says:

Feb 2, 2008. 5:46 PM [REPLY](#)

aerohydro - Thanks for that suggestion. I've never heard anyone preach about flattening the back first - sounds solid. And yes, you may be right about the microbevel being the only thing you'd need to do. The guy who taught me how to sharpen insisted that you needed at least 1/8" sharpened, which would mean doing it as I've laid out here. Since you've had luck with only the microbevel, it may be worth a look. **NOTE TO READERS:** If you want to try this method, you can still use the honing jig. Just raise the chisel handle 5 degrees or so, so that only the tip of the chisel is touching the stone. Follow the rest of the steps (minus the microbevel) as in this instructable.

dontno and **LinuxH4xOr** - I don't have access to a grinder, so didn't address that here. I know that there are other complications with using a grinder, like creating a slight hollow in the chisel, but maybe someone else can address how to fix it.

berserk - There is a method of sharpening called the "scary sharp" method which uses only sandpaper. [Click here](#) to read more about it.



GorillazMiko says:

Feb 2, 2008. 1:21 PM [REPLY](#)

Another awesome Tool Tip Instructables. Usually don't do this, but now, I will, awesome job!

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