

OLD STREET TOOL, Inc.

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The care, use and tuning of your hollows & rounds.

Sharpening

The irons in your planes have been sharpened before shipping. The profile of the iron must very closely match the plane's sole. We suggest the irons be maintained through the use of quality oil stones and slips. Each successive sharpening should be done in such a way that the profile of the iron continues to match the plane's sole. Each time the planes are sharpened one should try to shape the irons closer to the profile than they were before. For more information we have a DVD on sharpening profiled hand tools available for sale on our web site.

Setting

Your planes will arrive with the irons retracted up into the body with the tang resting against the left, or blind side, cheek of the wedge mortise. The iron can be advanced as needed by simply tapping the heel of the tang with a small brass or plastic mallet, after which the wedge will need to be re-set by tapping with a wooden or plastic mallet. Generally, you will set the iron so that, when viewed from the toe, the cutting edge appears as a dark hair-line just proud of the profile of the sole.

When you need to remove the iron for sharpening, simply tap it down as already described and it will release due to being tapered. Similarly, if you need to set the iron for a lighter cut, it is best to drive it down to release it, then set it in a retracted position and advance in the manner already described. This approach will avoid damage to the wedge that may result from removing it by tapping the finial with a hammer or mallet.

Use

On our web-site we offer two DVD's covering the making of moldings. We strongly suggest anyone interested in traditional molding techniques purchase one or both.

When sticking moldings using hollows and rounds, the standard trade approach is to define elements of the molding with appropriately sized and located rabbets. Or, in some cases, grooves. The latter are produced with a plow plane, while rabbets can be started with snipe's bill, rabbet, or moving fillister planes and completed by bringing the floor and shoulder of the rabbet to the gage lines with a rabbet plane. In addition to defining aspects of the molding, these rabbets or grooves also establish guiding surfaces for the hollows and rounds as they follow up to produce the curved elements. We find accurate layout and a planned sequence of steps critical for

achieving a faithful rendering of a molding as designed.

Often it is suggested one start at the far end of the stock being molded and work back to the normal starting point. We find this approach works best with planes having fences and depth stops. Accurate profiles struck with fenceless planes like hollows and rounds are often easier when working with long full strokes guided by either a batten or a guiding surface like those left by rabbets.

It is not uncommon for the sole of a molding plane to lightly scorch from friction during use. Unlike metal planes, the increased temperature from friction has little effect on the wear properties of wooden soled planes. While scorching may seem unsightly, it doesn't damage the plane. Heavy scorching can usually be attributed to an improperly profiled iron or improper setting of the iron. The main wear issue one is likely to experience with hollows and rounds is wear caused by running the sole of the plane along sharp arrises of the stock. We suggest you ease sharp arrises with a flat soled plane before using your hollows or rounds in such instances.

Choking is usually caused by a dull iron or very heavy cut. Improper fit of the wedge is also a possible cause. Avoid clearing choked planes with sharp objects that can scare the wedge or the escapement. Scarring of these parts will generally cause additional problems.

Maintenance

The finish on your planes is Min-wax "Antique Oil Finish" applied as a wiping varnish. It should be compatible with other high quality finishing oils. It is a good idea to add fresh coats to any worn areas, from time to time, or areas of the sole which have been tuned. After applying finish we suggest buffing with fine steel wool and waxing with a high quality product such as Tre-Wax.

Thank you for your purchase of Old Street Tool, Inc. planes. We encourage you to contact us through our web-site should you need additional information or should you have problems with our planes.