

This small, low-angle block plane is only one third the weight of a standard block plane, a significant factor if you want to carry it in a pocket all day. The sole is 35/8" long and overall length is 4 1/2". It is an ideal plane for delicate trimming work, as well as fitting miter joints and breaking sharp edges.

The 7/8" wide blade is available in PM-V11® tool steel and is bedded at 15° with a 20° bevel angle.

The lever cap is molded to comfortably fit the palm of the hand. The lever cap wheel can be set from a full locking position to a controlled friction setting for blade adjustment. The combined feed and lateral adjustment mechanism makes blade setting accurate and easy.

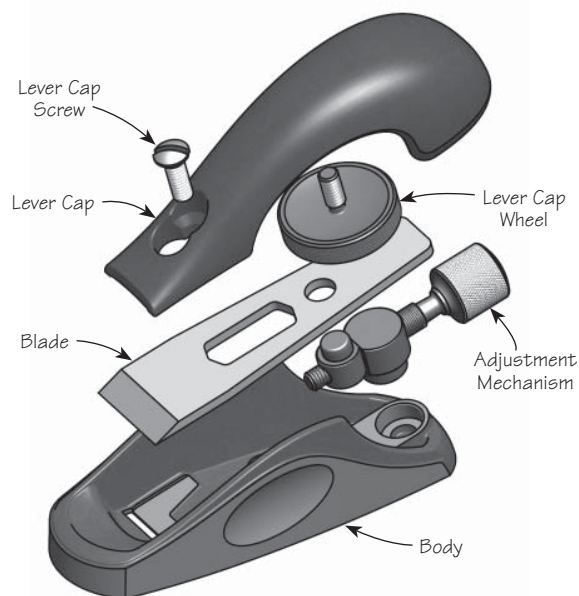


Figure 1: Pocket plane components.

Blade Adjustment

Caution: Be aware that the blade is sharp; careless handling can result in serious injury.

To initially set the blade, place the plane on a flat wood surface (e.g., a scrap of stock). Lightly clamp the blade with the lever cap wheel and advance the blade until it just touches the wood.

Flip the plane to a sole-up position, then sight along the sole to ensure the blade edge is parallel to the sole and adjust as required. Clamp fully (a quarter turn should be ample – **do not overclamp**) and take a test cut.

You will quickly get accustomed to setting blade depth by sighting along the sole, but for setting very fine shavings, you will still need to take test cuts.

A cautionary note: The lever cap clamping wheel has tremendous mechanical advantage. For normal use, it needs to be tightened only a quarter turn after full engagement with the blade. **Never torque it down as hard as you can or you may damage the plane.**

Backlash and How to Avoid It

To eliminate the possibility of the blade shifting backward unpredictably as the backlash is taken up, the final setting should always be made with the blade being advanced by the clockwise movement of the thumbscrew. If you need to retract the blade slightly, retract it more than required, and finish by **advancing** it to its desired position. This takes up all the play in the mechanism, eliminating any shifting in use.

Blade Sharpening

The pocket plane has a bed angle of 15° and the blade comes ground at an angle of 20°. Since the blade is used bevel up, the effective cutting angle will be 35°.

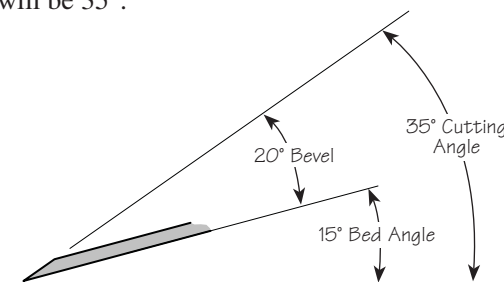


Figure 2: Blade geometry.

The 20° blade bevel is ideal for fine trimming work on end-grain softwood and some hardwoods. Ring-porous hardwoods such as oak may require a 30° micro-bevel to prevent blade edge failure. Simply hone the micro-bevel to the required angle.

Care and Maintenance

The body of the pocket plane comes treated with rust preventative. Remove this using a rag dampened with mineral spirits. Clean all machined surfaces.

We recommend that you initially, then periodically, apply a light coat of silicone-free paste wax to seal out moisture and prevent rusting (as well as act as a lubricant for smoother planing). Wipe off any wood dust from the surfaces that you will be waxing, apply a light wax coating, let dry, then buff with a clean soft cloth. At the same time, the solvents in the wax will remove any harmful oils left from your fingers that can lead to corrosion.

If storage conditions are damp or humid, the plane should be wrapped in a cloth or stored in a plane sack. This precaution will also guard against dings and scratches.

Accessory

05P65.02 PM-V11® Blade