

The Veritas® Chisel Plane is cast in ductile iron and has been accurately machined. It transforms a standard 1" chisel into a small plane. The plane body keeps the chisel on course and prevents the blade from digging into the workpiece. The sole of the plane is machined flat and the sides square, enabling it also to perform well as a rabbet plane. The bed angle of 45° is the same pitch as used on bench planes. Because the chisel is installed with the bevel down, the cutting angle remains 45° and allows chisels with standard bevel angles of 20° to 35° to be used.

The body of this plane comes treated with a rust preventative. We suggest you remove this using a rag dampened with mineral spirits. As for all iron and steel tools, we recommend that you periodically apply a light coat of silicone-free paste wax to seal out moisture and prevent rusting; this also has the added bonus of acting as a lubricant for smoother planing.

Installing a Chisel

1. Loosen the clamping screw.
2. With the plane on a flat surface, insert the chisel (bevel down) so that the edge makes light contact with the surface on which it is resting.
3. Tighten the clamping screw just enough to capture the chisel.

Note: When rabbeting, it is important that the edge of the chisel also be aligned with the open side face of the body. A jig to position the chisel may be made by attaching a square strip of wood to a flat board. Hold the body against the strip and ensure that both the edge and side face of the chisel are flush with the contacting surfaces.



Figure 1: Installing the chisel.

Adjusting the Chisel

Hold the plane so that the toe (front end) is toward you and the sole of the plane is facing up.

Sight along the sole to check how far the chisel's cutting edge extends beyond the sole and that the edge is parallel to the sole. A test cut will quickly tell you if the chisel needs to be adjusted for depth of cut. A shaving of unequal thickness across its width indicates that the edge is not parallel with the sole and adjustment is needed.

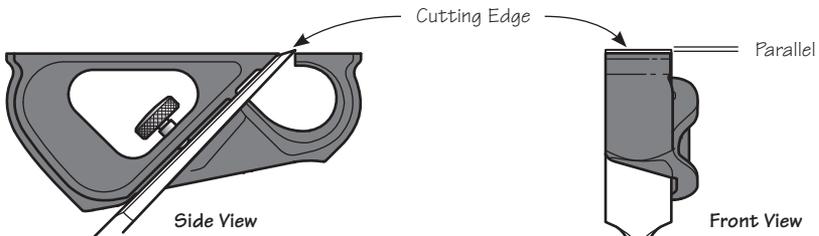


Figure 2: Adjusting the chisel.

To increase the depth of cut, tap lightly on the butt end of the chisel with a small hammer. To reduce the depth of cut, tap on the back end of the plane body. The light shock will shift the blade. When large adjustments to the depth of cut are required, loosen the clamping screw, manually reposition the chisel, and retighten clamping screw, then proceed with fine adjustment as described above.

Lateral adjustment is achieved by backing off the clamping screw only to the point where the chisel can be pivoted within the plane body.

Take a trial cut and inspect the shaving for desired depth of cut and consistency in thickness.

Using the Plane

Grip the plane with one hand around the back of the body and below the neck of the chisel. Place your other hand on top of the front of the body for additional pressure and increased control. Try to keep your hands clear of the arched area just forward of the blade to allow the shavings to spill out of the body. Skewing the plane at a slight angle in either direction will improve the cutting dynamics. This will also determine from which side the shavings will spill out of the plane.

Rabbeting

To cut a rabbet, clamp a straight board onto the workpiece to act as a guide. Run the open side of the plane along the guide, ensuring that the side face of the body always remains in contact with the guide. Continue making passes until the desired depth is reached.

The chisel plane can clean up machine-cut rabbets and tenons in the same manner.

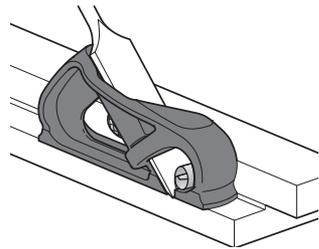


Figure 3: Rabbeting.

Cutting Dadoes

To cut 1" wide dadoes up to a depth of 3/8" with the chisel plane, use a guide as explained above. Dadoes of widths other than 1" can be achieved by using the appropriate size chisel, progressively advancing the chisel until the required depth is achieved. Similarly, the chisel plane may be used to clean up machine-cut dadoes.

Cutting a Hinge Recess

The chisel plane can be used to cut out the recess required when installing hinges. Score the hinge outline with a cutting gauge. Start with a chisel protrusion quite a bit less than the desired depth of the recess. Progressively plane and readjust the chisel until the final depth is achieved.

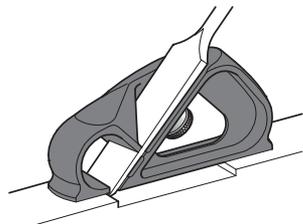


Figure 4: Cutting a hinge recess.