

# Japanese-Style Marking/Cutting Gauges

**Mortise Gauge**  
**Marking Gauge**

**07P15.50**  
**07P15.52**

The tapered blades on these Japanese marking gauges cut fibers rather than tear them, as can happen with a pin-tip gauge. This fine cut-line is useful for chisel registration and to eliminate surface grain tear-out when sawing. The long fences ensure good control in use.

## Adapting the Mortise for Blade Fit

Blade adjustment is normally quite difficult on a new “unadjusted” gauge. If you find the blade mortise too tight to allow blade depth adjustment, remove the blade from the slot and then sand the inside faces of the slot with sandpaper to increase the width of the mortise. Don’t overdo the sanding; you need only remove enough material to allow the blade to be secured without splitting the stem. If the blade has a loose fit in the mortise, use shim stock (a small tapered sliver of wood, or similar) to secure the blade.

 **Caution:** Be aware that the blades are sharp; careless handling can result in serious injury.

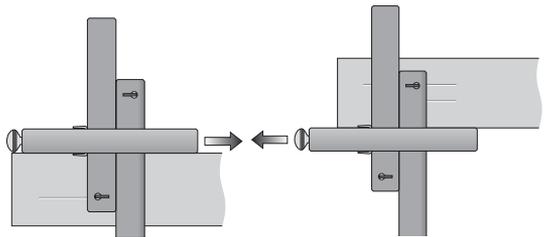
## To Set the Blades

Tap the blades into the blade mortise with a hammer until they project  $1/16''$  to  $1/4''$  from the underside of the beam.

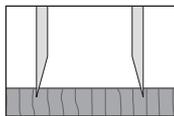
Careful use of pliers will ease blade removal.

## Mortising with the Double-Stem Gauge

For mortise work, the blades are set on opposite sides of the fence and used independently to mark the edges of the mortise, as shown in **Figure 1**. Ensure the blade bevels face one another to achieve best mortise definition (see **Figure 2**).



**Figure 1:** Using the double-stem gauge for marking a mortise.



**Figure 2:** Blade bevels facing each other.