

These small planes are well suited to a variety of detailed shaping tasks, from making musical instruments and models to sculpting and building furniture, particularly moldings and chair seats. Of traditional construction, their mouths are set well back in the white oak bodies to give fine control on the pull stroke, and they have self-wedging laminated steel blades that are honed ready for use. Setting the blade is done with gentle taps from a light mallet or a plane hammer.

As with any product made from wood, these planes will react to local humidity levels. In a heated shop (where humidity can be very low), wood contraction can bind the blades in the bodies. Be prepared to shave a bit of wood from the throat sides if you will be using them in very dry conditions.

Increasing the Depth of Cut

To advance the blade, hold the plane firmly in one hand and tap the end of the blade with the hammer. Use light taps at first to develop a good feel for the amount of force required to move the blade a predictable amount. Sight down the sole of the plane to ensure the blade edge is parallel to the sole and adjust as required.

Decreasing the Depth of Cut

To decrease the depth of cut, rap the heel of the plane body with the hammer.

Adjusting the Skew

To adjust the blade for even shaving thickness, tap either side of the blade with the hammer until the blade edge is parallel to the sole.

Removing the Blade

To remove the blade, rap the heel of the plane body with hammer until the blade is loose enough to remove by hand. Alternatively, turn the plane body upside down, clamp the blade edges in a woodworking vise (equipped with soft pads or wooden jaw liners), and drive the body off by tapping its heel.

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