

## Spoon Bits

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A spoon bit is greatly favored by chairmakers for two reasons. For one thing, it will bore a round-bottomed hole that provides maximum blind-hole depth in a chair leg, with no chance of a brad point or spur breaking through. But the most impressive feature of this kind of bit is that, in a single operation, you can bore an accurately sized and positioned hole at an acute angle — lower than is possible with any other kind of bit.

The spoon bit is designed for use in a two-jaw hand brace and can be used in either softwood or hardwood.



**Caution:** *Do not modify the spoon bit for power tool use! It has not been designed for speeds and forces beyond those that can be applied by hand.*



### Tips:

- To start, firmly install the spoon bit in your brace chuck, then position the edge of the bit such that it is slightly offset from the desired center point of the hole. (We recommend you practice on scrap first to get a good idea of how much to offset the bit, as this will depend on the size of the bit.)
- Always start the hole perpendicular to the workpiece.
- Since there is no lead screw (as in a conventional auger bit), feed pressure is important for controlling hole depth and rate of material removal.
- For an angled hole, tilt the brace over while drilling. (As with positioning the bit, practice will improve results.)
- When drilling all the way through a workpiece, ease up the feed pressure when exiting on the back side. Pushing too hard may create too much bite and, as such, break the bit.

## Sharpening

The spoon bit comes ready for use. The inside bevel has been honed. When resharpening, work **only** the outside of the **end** of the bit. Start with a 1000x stone and work the end of the bit with a sweeping motion, as if sharpening a carving gouge. Progress to a 4000x or higher stone. Finish by drawing the bit backward on a leather strop charged with honing compound.



**Caution:** *Do not hone, grind, file or abrade the **sides** of the bit in any way or you will change the overall hole size.*

## Care and Maintenance

- Although the forged-steel body of the spoon bit will usually withstand hard knocks without material failure, avoid dropping the spoon bit on a hard surface such as a concrete floor.
- Store in a dry place. The spoon bit can rust if exposed to moisture or humid conditions. As with any iron or steel tool, an occasional application of silicone-free paste wax will prevent rust.
- Resharpen as needed. If water stones are used, be sure to remove all traces of water after sharpening.