

Wooden Planes

Taiwanese-Style Planes Hong Kong-Style Planes

The Taiwanese-style planes are comfortable to use either pushing or pulling. When pulled, the bevelled and curved upper front surface seats comfortably in the heel of your hand. When pushed, it is an equally comfortable configuration for applying downward pressure. Each of these planes has the blade bedded at about 45°.

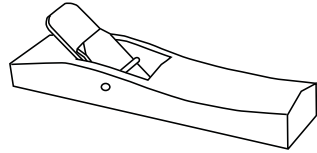


Figure 1: Taiwanese-style plane.

The Hong Kong-style planes are often used for knocking corners off boards or for bevelling long edges. The removable through-handle affords a comfortable grip for one-handed use. Bed angle is about 60°. Generally used with a pull stroke.

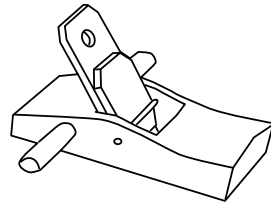


Figure 2: Hong Kong-style plane.

All blades are adjusted with judicious use of a 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.

Setting the Blade

Place the plane (sole down) on a smooth, flat wooden surface such as a scrap board. Slide the blade down until it just touches the scrap board and insert the wedge on top of the blade. Hold the plane firmly with one hand and tighten the wedge either with hand pressure or a light tap from a mallet or a plane hammer (see **Figure 3**). Hold the plane upside down and sight down the sole to check for further adjustment.

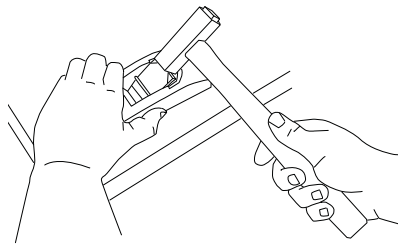


Figure 3: Setting the blade.

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, as shown in **Figure 4**. 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.

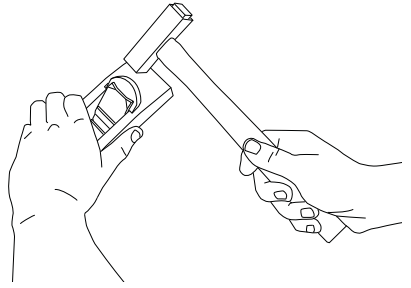


Figure 4: Increasing the depth of cut.

Decreasing the Depth of Cut

To decrease the depth of cut, hold the plane firmly in one hand, restraining the wedge and blade so that when the heel of the body is struck, they are prevented from dropping out of the plane body. Rap the heel of the plane body with the hammer as shown in **Figure 5**. Since this adjustment sometimes loosens the wedge, you may need to tap the wedge back in place, as shown in **Figure 3**.

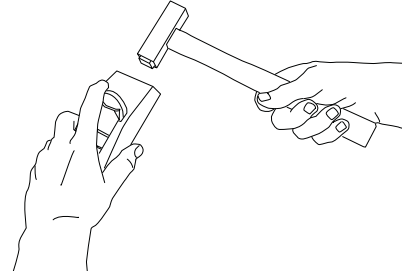


Figure 5: Decreasing the depth of cut.

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, hold the plane as shown in **Figure 5** and rap the heel of the plane body with hammer until the wedge is loose enough to pull the blade and wedge out.