

# Asian Hollow & Round Planes

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These versatile planes are used for working radiused profiles. The round planes smooth the inside of coves and coopered work or cut flutes when run along a fence, and the hollow planes smooth convex profiles, ease corners, or radius edges. The bodies are contoured for a comfortable grip on either the push or pull stroke.

Suitable for hardwoods as well as softwoods, they have tight mouths to minimize tear-out. Hardened to Rc60 for durability, and secured by a wedge and cross pin, the forged high-carbon steel blades are ground to closely match the sole curvatures; you need only lap the faces to finish sharpening them.

Setting the blade is done with gentle taps from a light mallet or a plane hammer – a seemingly daunting process, but once mastered, provides positive fine adjustment.

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 dry conditions.

## Increasing the Depth of Cut

To advance the blade, hold the plane firmly in one hand and tap either the front of the plane or 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. Retighten the wedge.

## Decreasing the Depth of Cut

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

## 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 the 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.