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'Arrotino' Spokeshave Sharpening Guide

The guide is designed for use with a spokeshave blade modified for paring leather, i.e. with a bevel angle reduced from 25 - 30 degrees down to approx. 10 degrees. It is simple to operate and even inexperienced users can produce outstanding results.

It does not need expensive waterstones or elaborate sharpening systems; all that is required are readily available "wet or dry" papers. These will stick, when wet, to a variety of smooth, non - absorbent surfaces including limestone, marble, granite or even Formica. Blunt, rounded or damaged blades can be restored by using coarse grits to start with, (say 200 or 400) and then moving on to intermediate grits (600 or 800) and finishing with, say, 3000 grit for a fine mirror finish. After that the blade should only need honing with a fine grit to maintain a keen edge.

Instructions For Use

- 1 Place blade, bevel side down, on underside of guide.
- 2 Fit washer to bolt and push bolt through hole. Secure on top with washer and locking nut. Ensure that the blade is square and centered in the guide and is pushed back as far as it will go. Tighten the locking nut. Do not over-tighten, finger tight will do. (see *fig. 1*)

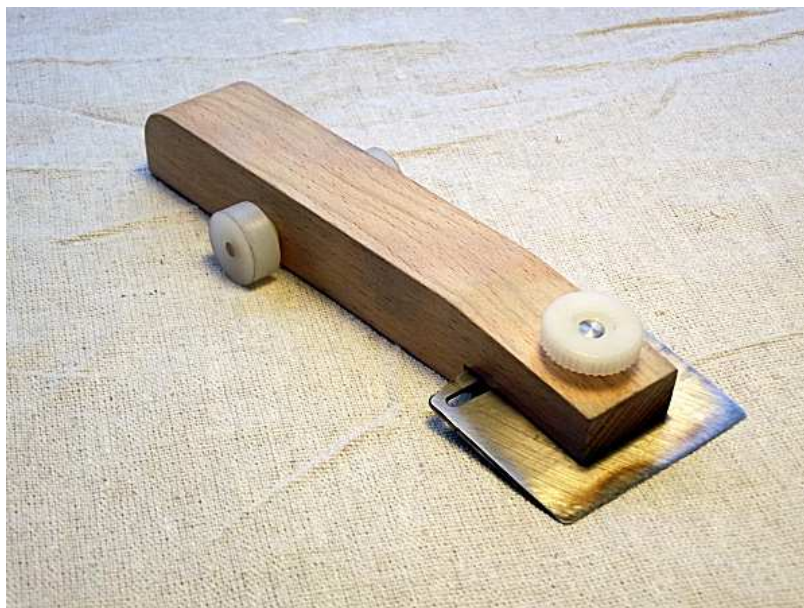


fig. 1

- 3 Place the pre-soaked 'wet or dry' paper onto a smooth, non-absorbent surface.

- 4 Resting one hand on the guide with the fore and middle fingers on either side of the blade (see fig. 2) run the guide back and forth using 4"-6" strokes.. Keep the pressure on the front of the blade; use only enough pressure on the rear of the guide to allow it to move smoothly. Inspect the blade after every 15-20 strokes to check progress.



fig.2

Marking the beveled area with a permanent marker helps to check that all areas are in contact with the abrasive surface.

- 6 Change the grade of paper as required.
- 7 The final tip -bevel can be obtained by placing two pieces of 2.5mm or 3.0mm card under the wheels for the last few strokes with the fine grit paper. (see fig.3)



fig.3

8. Finish the process in the normal way with a leather strop.