

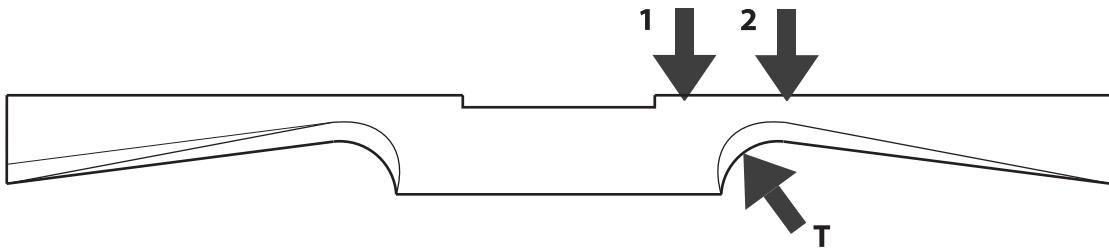
CALEB JAMES

About your spokeshave:

This shave is modeled after a traditional 19th-century style round bottom wooden shave. It has a low angle cutting geometry which means it is well suited for end grain carving and shaping going with the grain direction. It is designed to be used in the push or pull position but many will likely find tight curves are more easily controlled in the pull position. The shave is designed to easily flow from flats to curves with no depth of cut adjustment. Though if working a very specific radius a dedicated blade setting may give improved handling.

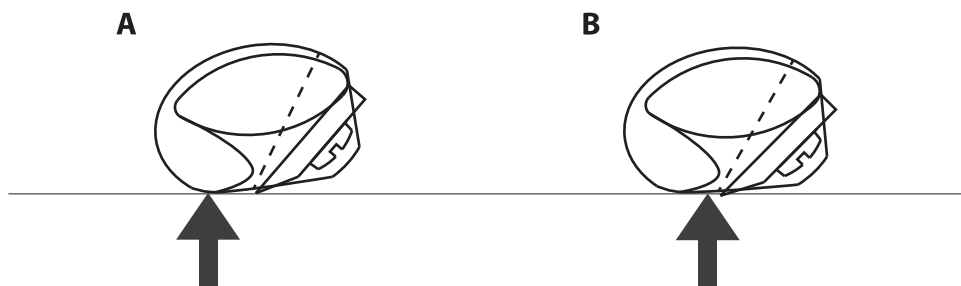
Use:

In the pull position, hold the shave with the index fingers resting in position 1, the middle fingers in position 2, the thumbs in position T and the remaining fingers resting lightly on the arms. A relaxed grip results in better control and feedback in use.



Adjusting the depth of cut:

The blade is adjustable, however the depth of cut can be varied during use. Due to the fact that the sole is slightly curved, the depth of cut is controlled by the point at which the sole is making contact with the surface ahead of the blade. To take a lighter cut, ride at a point further away from the blade (see illustration A). To take a deeper cut, ride at a point closer to the blade (see illustration B).



The blade is adjusted via two slotted screws. Set the blade to take the maximum depth of cut desired when cutting at position B. In use a lighter cut is achieved by rolling forward onto the toe of the tool at position A.

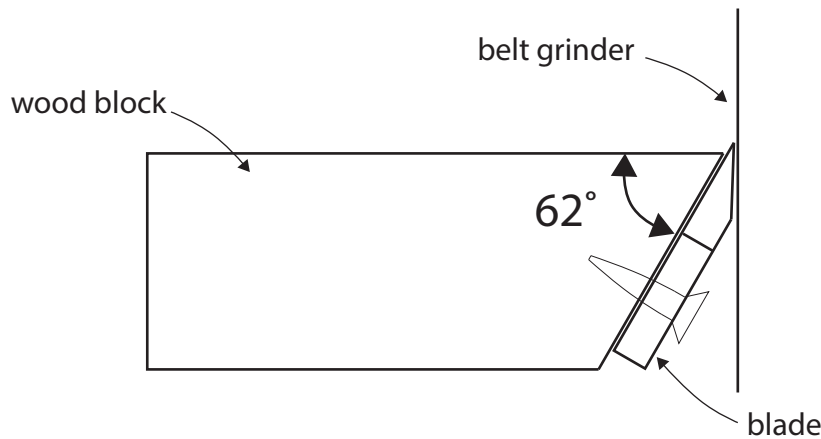
To get a feel for the cutting action of the shave begin by rubbing the sole of the shave along a piece of wood far enough ahead of the blade that you are not cutting at all. It might feel silly but rub back and forth for several passes while not taking a shaving. Then roll back toward the cutting edge slightly until you begin taking a very thin shaving. This helps calibrate your hands for where the cutting edge is. With some practice this exercise will become unnecessary.

Exit a cut by rolling forward onto the toe away from the blade. The natural tendency is to roll backward to exit a cut, however, this will cause the blade to dig in and take a heavy cut.

Sharpening:

The blade comes with a primary bevel of 28° and a 30° secondary bevel. A flat bevel is sufficient however a slightly convex bevel may improve performance while carving into very tight curves. This gives a carving action similar to that of a carving gouge. Avoid exceeding 32° for best performance. Higher bevel angles may not permit the blade to cut properly because of insufficient clearance behind the cutting edge.

The primary bevel can be ground if desired by mounting the blade to a simple jig for use at a belt grinder. Make the jig from a wood block that measures approximately $6'' \times 7/8'' \times 1-1/8''$. Cut a bevel of $\sim 62^\circ$ along its length and mount the blade to this beveled side, as illustrated below. Do not grind all the way up to the edge. Hone the edge by hand on a bench stone. Finish with a light stropping being careful to avoid rounding the edge.



Maintaining the sole:

All wooden soled tools will wear with use. Avoid applying heavy pressure when shaping sharp edges. To reduce wear a boxing strip has been inserted at the heaviest wear points.

The sole of your spokeshave directly in front of the cutting edge is curved to a $4''$ radius. It can be maintained with 220-320 grit sandpaper adhered to a flat reference plate. Extreme care should be used to remove as little material as needed to reestablish the sole's shape.