

August



Woody's
World
The Newsletter of



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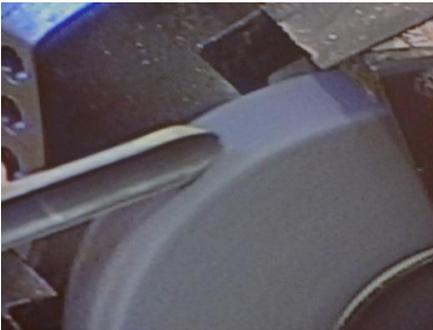
Sharpening - in our back to basics range

Last month the session was on how to sharpen your tools with the minimum of fuss. Effectively in other words.

First up was Mick Smith who suggested, then demonstrated, that you do not need fancy kit to get a really good edge on a bowl gouge.

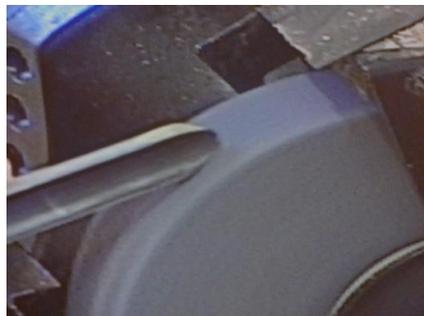
Step one is to get a 45 degree end on the 'point'. See step 1 in the sequence of pictures. Grind the tip but roll the metal back and forth.

Think of a finger nail being trimmed. You will see a line forming on the side



Hand held cutting the 45 degree then rock to left and right to get the front curve.

Next you need to grind the sides. This is done by grinding the sides i.e. pushing the chisel up the grind stone and rolling over.



In doing this second stage do not recut the tip.

Mick pointed out that his 'freehand' method meant you could achieve a good sharp chisel very quickly. With practice you would get the angles correct every time.

To demonstrate this point Mick handed over to a member for a quick demo of how easy it all was.



The finished spindle gouge with clean cutting edge.

Following on from Mick was Nick who introduced the use of special kits for sharpening.

Some members had these from various firms. The belt system was felt to be the surest way to get a good sharp tool. The kits such as Robert Sorbey's had mixed reviews from those who had them. Nick pointed out that the kit with the platform plate as shown below was good. This allowed adjustment of the angle blade to stone. For a scraper it was ideal as you just swung the chisel through an arc.



Using a platform the angle of which can be adjusted. It allows you to swing easily through the grind.

Nick made the point that of all the systems, the O'Donnell system used to be considered the best. Unfortunately this was no longer made.

What type of grinding wheel should you have?

Opinions differed as to how effective special wheels were. Mick advocates a cheap wheel system with a grey wheel. He felt the white wheels and specialist systems, whilst good, were not worth the extra cost. An ordinary fine wheel was O.K. Members who had the best systems, including belts, disagreed with this view.

One thing all were agreed on was the wheel must be kept flat across the face. Use will inevitably cut a groove into the face of any wheel. You need a special diamond jig to do this and true up the wheel properly.



