Sharpening Handbook

Because *sharp enough* ... usually is not

Chapter 19

Woodworking Power Tools

Chainsaws - see Saw Chains (Chapter 8)

Hollow Chisel Mortising Bits 19-2

Planers, Portable (Handheld) 19-3

Saw Chains - see Chapter 8

Saws (Reciprocating) - see Chapter 6

SharpeningHandbook.info

The full handbook, and the latest version of this chapter, are on the web at **SharpeningHandbook.info**. This chapter: November 2026.

Hollow Chisel Mortiser

I won't try to describe this better than Bob Van Dyke from the Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking and Fine Woodworking.

Bob authored this article with a nicely done video:

How to Sharpen Hollow Chisel Mortising Bits

One note though: *These tools should not be re-shaped. If that is needed, the bit should be replaced.*



Hollow chisel mortising bit

> *Know safety, no injury. No safety, know injury.*
> Unknown (but alas, true)

Notes & Comments

Lee Valley sells diamond sharpeners shaped like a cone (item number 77J8124) which can be quite useful for sharpening this tool.

Other companies may sell similar cones. Ensure the cone's shape is correct for the bit you are sharpening.



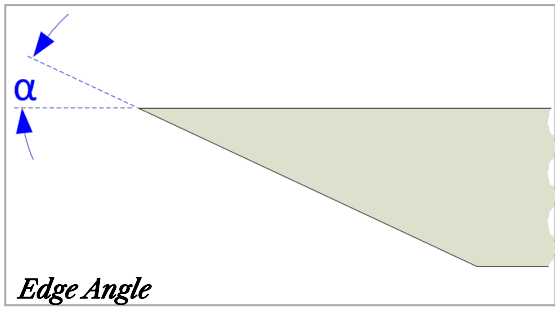
Cone sharpener

Ongoing maintenance - see Chapter 4, *Woodworking Tools*.

Portable Planers

Woodworking is not about making things perfect. It's about making mistakes, learning from them, and creating something unique.
Anonymous

These tools are often used for rough carpentry work, but a sharp edge on the blades will make this effort easier and safer.



Guidelines shown below are for **Primary Bevel Angles**. A micro / secondary bevel (see Chapter 1) is not recommended as it would have very limited value and would not be worth the effort.

General Guidelines

Use	α	Sharpness
General Purpose	60°	6

Notes & Comments

Grinding Wheels

If sharpening blades which are high speed steel (HSS), any of these Tormek grinding wheels should work well:

- SG Original Grindstone,
- SB Blackstone Silicon Grinding Wheel, or
- DF Diamond Fine Grinding Wheel.

If the blade is tungsten carbide,

- the DF Diamond Fine Grinding Wheel should work well,
- the SB Blackstone Silicon Grinding Wheel might work, but will not be as fast as the diamond grinding wheel, and
- the SG Original Grindstone will be tedious to use.

Tormek Jigs

The Tormek scissors jigs (SC-60 or SVX-150) are excellent for this. The SC-60 has a 60° setup built into it, so this makes it a perfect fit.

Severly Nicked Blades

Many of these blades are typically not very wide, so there is not much there to remove (a common size is 5.5mm / 0.217"). If there are significant nicks in the blade, it is probably best to use the other edge (if possible) or swap out the blade.

Sharpness Scale - see Chapter 1.
Ongoing maintenance - see Chapter 4, *Woodworking Tools*.
Grindstones and Other Sharpening Media - see Chapter 2.