

Patent Pending

The straight roller assembly provides a stable base so that blade edges remain perfectly straight and square to the blade. This is desirable for most blades; however, with larger smoothing planes, a perfectly straight blade can result in “plane tracks”, small steps in the surface of the wood between plane strokes. To avoid this, it is beneficial to add a slight camber or curve to the edge of the blade.

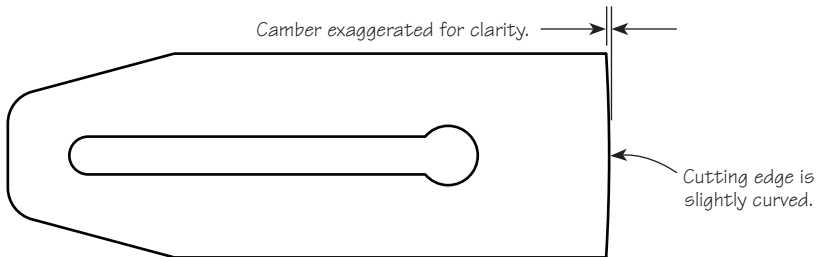


Figure 1: Typical plane blade with camber.

The barrel-shaped roller on the camber roller assembly allows the guide to rock slightly as pressure is applied across the blade. It also has a flat section in the middle to indicate a position straight across the blade.

By replacing the straight roller assembly on the standard blade carrier* with the camber roller assembly, adding a camber to the edge of a blade is easily controlled while still maintaining an accurate and consistent micro-bevel angle.

**Note: Since narrow blades do not require a camber, the camber roller assembly is not used with the narrow-blade carrier.*

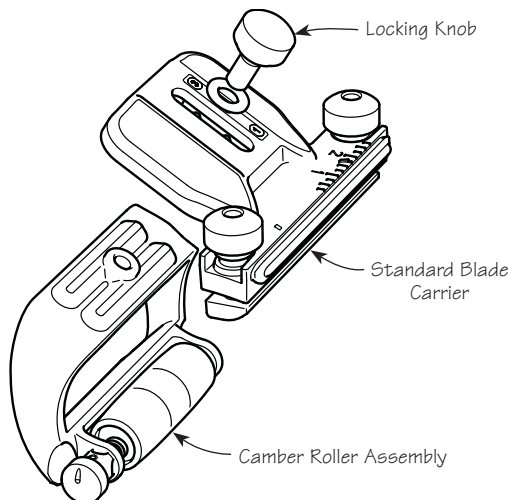


Figure 2: Installing the camber roller assembly.

Adding a Camber to the Edge of a Plane Blade

Generally, it is not necessary to add camber to the primary bevel. Since no more than a slight curvature is required, you need only camber the edge of the micro-bevel.

There are a number of theories regarding the amount of camber that is necessary and how to achieve it. Some references recommend using three locations (left, right and middle of the blade); others recommend five or more locations.

Since these techniques will result in a blade that is slightly faceted across its bevel, some techniques call for taking a few strokes while varying the pressure across the blade during the stroke in an effort to smooth out the curve.

No matter which technique you choose, in order to get a consistent and even curve across the blade, you need to apply consistent finger pressure to various locations across the blade and count the number of strokes at each location to ensure that equal amounts of metal are being removed. Keep in mind that the resulting camber is **not** controlled by the shape of the roller. With practice, you will develop just the right procedure.

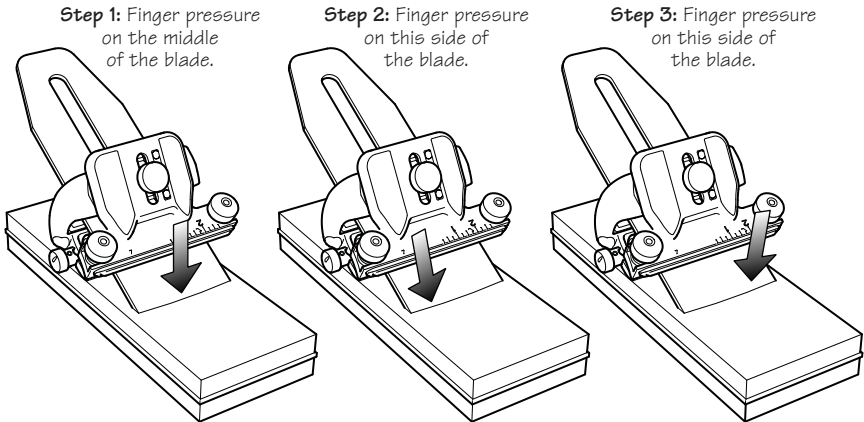


Figure 3: Basic process for honing a camber onto a plane blade.