


Apron Plane

This small, low-angle block plane is only half the weight of a standard block plane, a significant factor if you want to carry it in your apron all day. The 5½" long, tough, ductile iron body will take job-site accidents in stride. This is not a plane body that will break when dropped. It has good hand feel; the unique side wings let you grip it comfortably and firmly as well as providing excellent stability for shooting. The ideal plane for all light trimming, whether it be fitting miter joints or breaking sharp edges. The low blade angle of 12° not only lets you use lower cutting angles, but it also aligns the blade more closely with the direction of cut, minimizing chatter. The 1¼" wide blade is available in your choice of A2, O1 or PM-V11® tool steel.

The lever cap is molded to comfortably fit the palm of the hand, as well as to securely hold the blade directly over the bed at the front. The lever cap wheel (underneath at the rear of the lever cap) can be set from a full locking position to a controlled friction setting for blade adjustment. The combined feed and lateral adjustment mechanism makes blade setting easy and accurate.

Blade Adjustment

 **Caution:** Be aware that the blade is sharp; careless handling can result in serious injury.

To initially set the blade, place the plane on a flat wood surface (e.g., a scrap of stock). Lightly clamp the blade with the lever cap wheel and advance the blade until it just touches the wood.

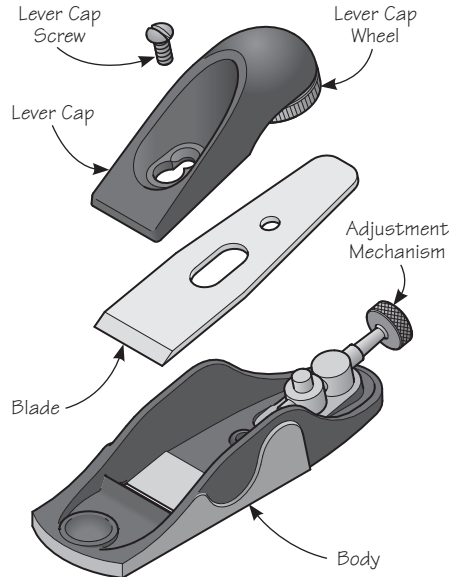


Figure 1: Plane components.

Flip the plane to a sole-up position, then sight along the sole to ensure the blade edge is parallel to the sole and adjust as required. Clamp fully (a quarter turn should be ample – **do not overclamp**) and take a test cut.

You will quickly get accustomed to setting blade depth by sighting along the sole, but for setting very fine shavings, you will still need to take test cuts.

***A cautionary note:** The lever cap clamping wheel has tremendous mechanical advantage. For normal use, it needs to be tightened only a quarter turn after full engagement with the blade. Never torque it down as hard as you can or you may damage the plane.*

Backlash and How To Avoid It

To eliminate the possibility of the blade shifting backward unpredictably as the backlash is taken up, the final setting should always be made with the blade being advanced by the clockwise movement of the thumbscrew. If you need to retract the blade slightly, retract it more than required, and finish by **advancing** it to its desired position. This takes up all the play in the mechanism, eliminating any shifting in use.

Blade Sharpening

The apron plane has a bed angle of 12° and the blade comes ground at an angle of 25° . Since the blade is used bevel up, the effective cutting angle will be 37° .

The 25° blade bevel is ideal for fine trimming work on end-grain softwood and some hardwoods. Ring-porous hardwoods such as oak may require a 30° bevel to prevent blade edge failure. Simply hone the micro-bevel to the required angle.

It is difficult to be definitive about many of these bevel angles. Some people never skew a block plane in use; other people always skew it. If you normally use a block plane in a skewed position, you can get away with lower bevel angles. If you are always working clear pine, you can get away with very low bevel angles. Only you know which wood you will be working and how you will be working it. Experience will tell you what you can and cannot do.

With your bevel and cutting angles set for the demands of end-grain work, you will easily deal with parallel grain cutting.

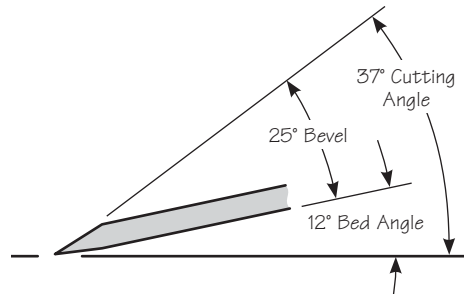


Figure 2: Blade geometry, as supplied.

Care and Maintenance

The body of the apron plane is ductile cast iron and comes treated with rust preventative. Remove this using a rag dampened with mineral spirits. Clean all machined surfaces.

We recommend that you initially, then periodically, apply a light coat of silicone-free paste wax to seal out moisture and prevent rusting (as well as act as a lubricant for smoother planing). Wipe off any wood dust from the surfaces that you will be waxing, apply a light wax coating, let dry, then buff with a clean soft cloth. At the same time, the solvents in the wax will remove any harmful oils left from your fingers that can lead to corrosion.

If storage conditions are damp or humid, the plane should, in addition to the treatment outlined above, be wrapped in a cloth or stored in a plane sack. This precaution will also guard against dings and scratches.

Accessories

- 05P27.03** 25° O1 Blade, 0.098" × 1¼"
- 05P27.04** 25° A2 Blade, 0.125" × 1¼"
- 05P27.72** 25° PM-V11® Blade, 0.125" × 1¼"
- 05P27.06** 38° Coarse Toothed A2 Blade, 0.125" × 1¼"
- 67K73.16** Leather Apron Plane Holster