

Standard Wheel Marking Gauge

The Veritas® Wheel Marking Gauge is an excellent workhorse for general layout work. It excels at marking across wood grain, but can also be used along the grain or even through end grain. When marking across the grain, the sharpened wheel cutter cuts wood fibers rather than tears them, leaving a clean line. The wheel cutter is also bevelled only on the inside face, resulting in the cutter continuously forcing the face of the gauge against the workpiece.

Setting Your Gauge

To set the gauge, loosen the thumbscrew and push or pull the rod through the body. An internal O-ring will keep light but constant friction on the rod, preventing it from accidentally slipping out. Tighten the thumbscrew to lock the setting.

Scribing a Line

The gauge is used to scribe a line by sliding it across or along a workpiece. When scribing a line, the brass face plate should be continuously forced against the workpiece. This will ensure the line is uniformly the same distance from the reference edge.

Traditionally, a marking gauge is pushed along the wood. However, many users find that better control is obtained by pulling the gauge. The cutter on this gauge will mark both ways, so whether you choose to push or pull will be based on what works best for you.

There are two types of cutting edge that can be employed in a marking gauge, a pin or a knife. The cutter on this gauge falls into the knife category. Typically, a knife-edge is used across the grain, whereas a pin is used along the grain; however, both can be used for either application. When running a gauge along a workpiece, it is important to be aware that a knife-edge is prone to grain following in coarse woods such as oak, if the grain lines approach the reference edge (as shown in **Figure 2**). To prevent this, move the gauge in the opposite direction.

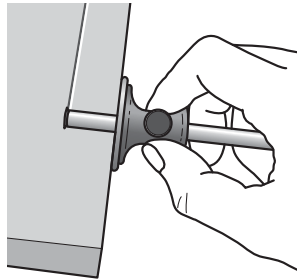


Figure 1: Holding the gauge.

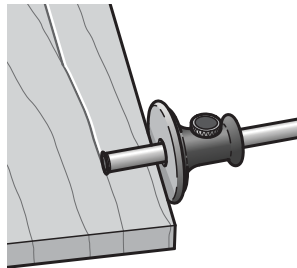


Figure 2: Grain following.

Transferring Dimensions

Your marking gauge excels at transferring dimensions. By setting the projection of the wheel cutter to a known dimension, such as the depth of a mortise, you can easily transfer that dimension to mark the tenon's length.

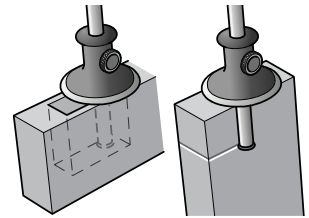


Figure 3: Transferring dimensions.

Sharpening

Although the wheel cutter is hardened, over time it may need to be resharpened. Remove the securing screw, then the wheel, and lap the face of the wheel cutter on a stone.

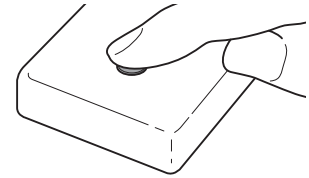


Figure 4: Sharpening the wheel cutter.