



# Reshaping the Skew Chisel

An alternate shape  
minimizes dig-ins.

**Y**ears ago, an old professional spindle turner showed me a different way to sharpen a skew. When I tried it, I was sold. This modified grind is more versatile, friendlier and more responsive than a traditional grind. Used correctly, a modified skew is difficult to catch and dig into the wood, unlike a conventional skew. In the years since, I've found that many early 20th-century turners from Maine to Indiana adopted the same alternate shape. They were all on to something good.

It's easy to learn how to sharpen a modified skew. I'll show you how to take a regular skew chisel with a flat cross section and turn it into a far superior tool in an hour or so.

**before**



**after**