

Order of learning

From my own learning and watching hundreds of students try to learn the sharpening process, I recommend learning the turning tools in this order:

1. SCRAPERS

(all shapes, but not including profile scrapers)

2. PARTING TOOLS

3. SKEW CHISELS

We'll cover the above tools in this issue.

4. ROUGHING GOUGES

5. DETAIL GOUGES

6. BOWL GOUGES

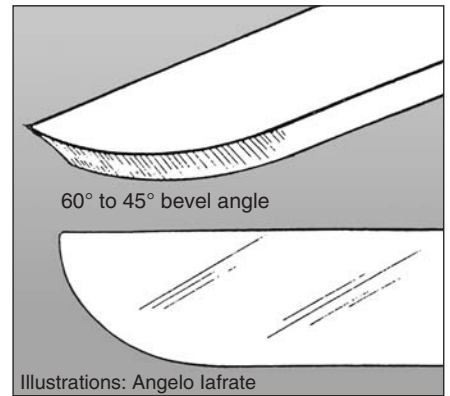
We'll cover gouges in the Winter 2003

1. issue.

Sharpening scrapers

These are tools, of almost any shape, that are intended primarily to cut with a burr and not rub the bevel on the wood. Yes, I know we violate both of those guidelines from time to time, but that does not help someone who is starting out. Of all the turning tools, scrapers are some of the most straightforward to sharpen. Few turners struggle with these tools in getting the basic process, and we don't have to be too fussy about shapes, angles, and multi facets on the ground face.

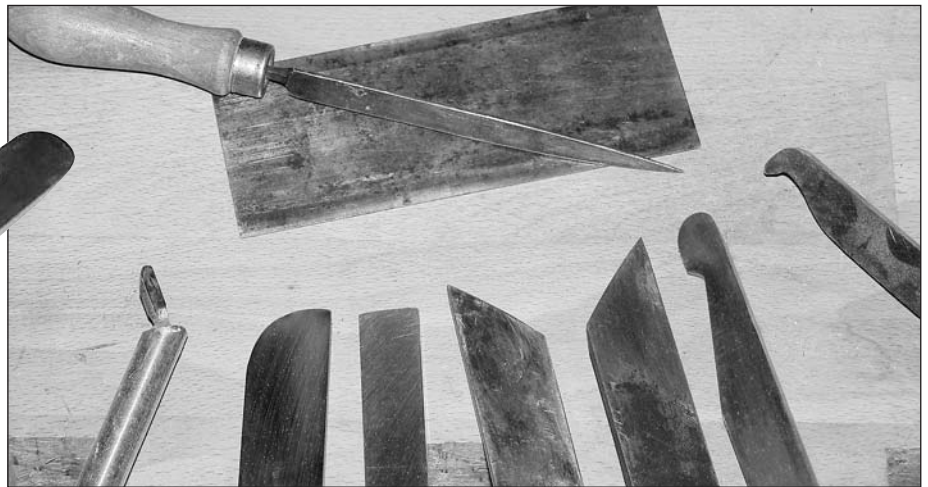
The first rule of sharpening turning tools: Profile the tool first, then pull a bevel up to meet that profile. For a scraper, personal preference determines the shape. You will probably discover that the slight dome on a



One version of a side-cutting scraper

new "round nose" scraper you just bought isn't very rounded. You may even find you don't use one side of the rounded end, so it may take on the shape of a side-ground scraper. Whatever the specific need or your style of turning, shape the tool first.

Next, rough in the bevel angle. When most of these tools are new, I find the bevel to be 80 to even 90 degrees below the cutting edge. I believe manufacturers started with the notion that a scraper



Woodturning scraping tools are quite similar to the cabinetmaker's scrapers (background, shown with a burnisher). Both types of scrapers usually cut with a burr and both can make use of a burnisher to raise that burr. Turning scrapers are thicker and heavier in weight and come (or can be made into) in an array of shapes for specific purposes.