Flat and Curved Palm Planes 15P10.10 15P10.20

Palm planes are ideal for working on small projects and in tight spaces where a larger plane would be cumbersome. These are based on the Stanley #100 and #100¹/₂. The flat palm plane is perfect for chamfering and trimming, while the curved palm plane has the sole rounded side to side $(1^{1}/_{2}" radius)$ and front to back (12" radius), making it ideal for working hollows such as on chair seats and moldings. The squirrel tail handle provides a positive in-hand feel and comfortable grip. The investment-cast steel body is accurately machined, has a 45° bed angle and a fixed mouth, and uses a cogwheel screw to secure the included blade.



Blade Adjustment



Caution: Blade is sharp. The sides and top edges of the blade have been lightly deburred after lapping. Depending on how you grip the plane, you may find these edges uncomfortable. If desired, you can round over the square edges with a file.

To initially set the blade, place the plane on a flat piece of wood (e.g., a scrap of stock) and slide the blade (bevel down) under the fixed ribs until it just touches the wood. Tighten the cogwheel against the blade until the blade is secured.

Sight down the sole of the plane. The blade edge of the flat palm plane should be parallel to the sole, and the blade edge of the curved palm plane should be evenly offset from the sole. Adjust as required.

To advance the blade, hold the plane firmly in one hand and tap the end of the blade with a light mallet or a plane hammer. To adjust the blade for even shaving thickness, tap either side of the blade with the mallet until the blade edge is parallel to the sole (for the flat plane) or evenly offset from the sole (for the curved plane).

Blade Sharpening

The 0.085" thick by 1" wide O1 tool steel blades have the bevel ground at a 30° angle. The working surface* of the blades (and the sole of the flat plane) are lapped to a flatness tolerance of ± 0.0002 " or better. Any subsequent honing can be limited to the bevel, as required.

* The working surface is the 1/2'' section of the blade closest to the cutting edge.

The cutting edge of the curved blade is ground in a curve to match the sole of the plane; this translates into a 1" radius on the face of the blade. The blade may be sharpened by almost any method. Stones (oil or water), abrasive sheets, a belt sander or power sharpening system will all provide satisfactory results.

Care and Maintenance

The body of this plane is cast steel and comes treated with rust preventative. Remove this using a rag dampened with mineral spirits and clean all machined surfaces. We recommend that you initially, then periodically, apply a light coat of paste wax to seal out moisture and prevent rusting. Let wax dry, then buff with a clean soft cloth. To guard against dings and scratches, or if storage conditions are damp or humid, keep the plane wrapped in a cloth or stored in a plane sack.