

1. Sharpening - intact method



Step 1. Open the secateurs wide. Grip the secateurs in your right hand (or left hand if using left-handed secateurs). Rest your thumb on the pivot screw. Use your index finger and palm to prop open the handles. Use your 2 middle fingers to hold the secateurs firm.

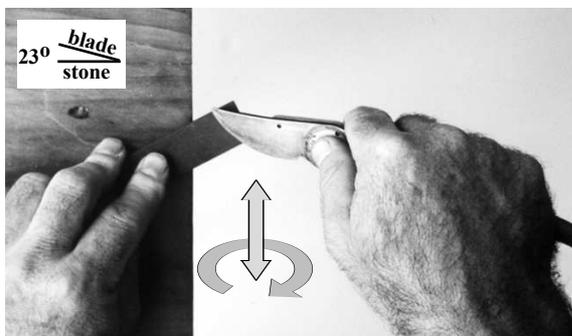


Step 3. Hold the stone firmly. Rotate the secateurs clockwise (or anti-clockwise) lifting your elbow to sharpen the tip of the blade and lowering again to sharpen near the pivot. This action sharpens the whole blade evenly without creating any flat spots. A smooth even action is important. Be careful when near the pivot not to damage the anvil.

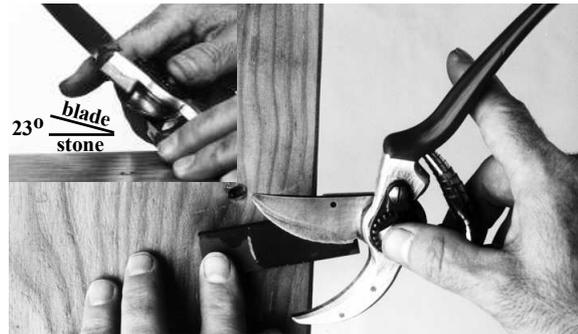
2. Sharpening - dismantle method



Step 1. Remove the spring and pivot screw. Clean all parts before you sharpen the blade.



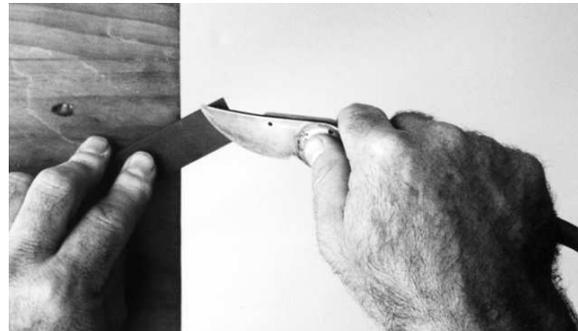
Step 3. Grind the bevelled edge with a circular motion. Hold the blade at 23 degrees raising and lowering your elbow to ensure that the curved part of the blade is evenly sharpened. Continue this circular motion until a fine burr forms on the edge of the flat side. Use a leather strop to remove the burr.



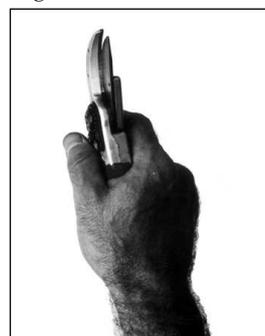
Step 2. Place the stone on the edge of a bench or table with some hanging over. Add 3-4 drops of oil to the stone. Place the bevelled edge of the blade in contact with the stone so that the blade is at about 23 degrees on the bevelled edge with the stone nearest the pivot.



Step 4. A fine burr will develop on the edge of the flat side of the blade. When it does, stop sharpening. Remove the burr by using the stone in light, slow careful circles. About 5-6 circles should be sufficient. Make sure you do this with the blade at a shallow angle of about 5 degrees. Alternatively, use a narrow leather strop (an old belt) to remove the burr.



Step 2. Place 3-4 drops of oil on the stone. Place the blade in your right hand with your thumb on the pivot hole. Make sure that the flat edge is facing you, and that the bevelled edge is in contact with the stone.



Step 4. Oil and assemble all the parts. Adjust the tension on the pivot screw so that the blade and the anvil slide past each other with no gaps and without jamming. You can easily hear the blade and anvil slide past each other *without* putting them anywhere near your ear. (Don't become a Van Gogh!)