

Sharpening A Chisel

Key words:

Bevel
Chisel back
Sand paper
Honing
Whetstone

Resources:

Chisel
Sand paper
Whetstone
Grinder

Step One:

Identify a blunt chisel, to do this look at the bevel toward a light source. If you cannot see the edge of the bevel then the chisel is sharp. If you can see an edge then it requires sharpening.

Step Two:

First flatten the back, do this by rubbing the back of the chisel on sandpaper working from 80 grit to 220 grit. Once done there should be no machine lines or marks left on the back of chisel, you can then polish it with a rag.

Step Three:

Honing the bevel

Grind the bevel; you can either grind the bevel on a grindstone, ensuring you keep the bevel at roughly 45 degrees. You need to get an even bevel the whole way across the chisel and there should only be one angle. If you use a whetstone then you need to hold the chisel's bevel at 45 degrees and work (rub) in a figure eight pattern (so that you don't wear the stone incorrectly) continue this until you are happy that you have a even single edge bevel.

Step Four:

Remove any burrs with a piece of leather or a soft bit of timber such as pine.

Step Five:

Now look towards a light source with your chisel and you should not be able to see an edge, once this is achieved you have correctly sharpened your chisel.