Sharpening Chisels

Sharpening chisels is similar to sharpening plane irons. First flatten the back to a near mirror finish. Once this is done, then only use fine abrasives on this surface during the re-sharpening process and removal of the wire edge.

Many chisels have a tapered edge as viewed from the side. Measure the desired bevel angle (usually from 20° to 35°) from the surface of the abrasive to the back of the chisel. This will establish the correct bevel angle.

The chisel may be held by hand, in the tool guide bar clamp, in a honing guide, or in a custom made saddle (as shown in the Lap-Sharp Operation Manual).

The bevel is shaped using coarse abrasives and honed using fine abrasives. The fine abrasives can be used for the final polish and wire edge removal by alternating between the bevel honing and back honing.

Japanese Chisel – Flattening the Back  Large Chisel – Honing the Bevel

Medium Chisel – Honing Bevel  Narrow Chisel held in Saddle on Tool Bar