



How To Use A Jack Plane

Because the plane is made of many parts, we suggest, for openers, that you check closely with the illustrations (Fig. 10) as we describe this tool.

A plane is primarily a shaving instrument, and its blade must be kept sharp and clean at all times to insure precision work. You will notice that it has two handles, one at the front of the tool, and one at the rear. Never, never use the plane with one hand! It is dangerous.

Knowing how to adjust the plane blade for varying cutting depths is essential, and it is easy to learn. Simply turn the adjusting nut clockwise until the blade protrudes to your specifications. The more the blade protrudes, the deeper the cut it will make, so be careful! You must also be certain that the blade is extending evenly from the mouth of the plane. The adjustment is made by moving the lateral adjusting lever to the right or left as needed. If the blade itself is loose, remove the cam lever cap and tighten lever cap screw with screwdriver, turning in a clockwise direction.

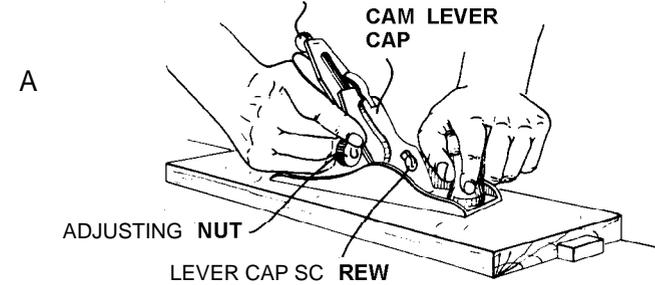
Utensils
Table vise
Jack plane

Ingredients
Block(s) of wood

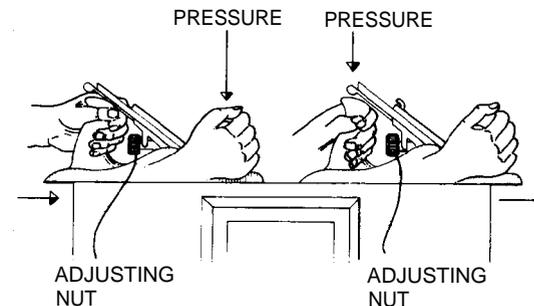
1. Insert piece of wood in vise and clamp tightly.
2. Grasp the rear handle of the plane in one hand, with the index finger pointing forward as shown in Figure 10A. Grasp the front handle with the thumb and forefinger of the other hand, or you may lay the palm of that hand firmly over the handle.
3. Position yourself firmly at the back of the wood in the vise.
4. Lay the toe of the blade on the wood and slide the plane forward, exerting pressure on both the toe and heel. If the blade is protruding too far, readjust depth by turning adjusting nut in a counterclockwise direction (Fig. 10B).
5. Once you have reached the end of the wood, remove pressure from the toe and return plane to starting position.
6. Repeat stroke, making sure that you are planing the edge of the wood, not its corners.
7. If the wood begins to chip apart, remove it from the vise and turn it around. You have been planing against the grain (Fig. 10C).

8. Repeat planing strokes several times until you can make one long, clean shaving, which should be paper thin (Fig. 10D). Then pat yourself on the back.
9. Planing the end grain of the wood is a little trickier. First, turn wood over so end-grain is up, and tighten vise securely.
10. Grasp the plane as before, but do not attempt a single-length cut. Plane halfway on the edge, and then turn the piece of wood around in the vise, and plane in from that end to the center.
11. Repeat these steps on several pieces of wood until you are really in control of the tool.

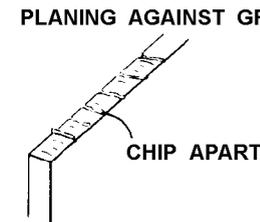
LATERAL ADJUSTING LEVEL



B



C



D

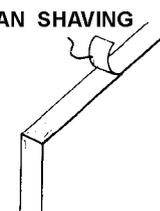


Figure 10.
Jack Plane Techniques