

## How to use a sharpening stone

1. It's all in the angle. All tools have a distinct working angle. The working angle is the surface angle of the sharp part of the tool as it goes toward a point. Hold the tool at a consistent angle in order to perfect the sharpest edge on it. Sharpening is a difficult process; if problems persist there are apparatus guides that you can buy to hold the tools at an easy adjusted angle. Every individual sharpens to a different angle so practice to find the right angle for you.
2. Stay lubed. Lubrication is important to make the tool glide smoothly across the sharpening stone. Lubrication also helps keep the stone from becoming clogged with stone grit and metal filings called swarf. Diamond sharpening stones are lubricated with water, but oilstones need to be lubricated with a light machine sharpening oil. The most common oil for this job will be 3 in 1 Oil (Code O8690) also known as Honing Oil. This premium quality honing oil helps prevent the stone from clogging and helps hone any tool when using a sharpening stone.
3. Get ready to sharpen. With the stone secured on a firm work surface, grasp the handle or shaft of the tool in your dominant hand with the sharp edge facing away from you. Next, place the fingers of your other hand along the back of the tool. Set the angle of the tool against the face of the sharpening stone.
4. Sharpening once you have the tool at the proper angle, lock your wrists and begin by drawing the tool towards you while maintaining a firm downward pressure. Try to move the tool in a back and forth motion starting with the base of the cutting edge and ending at the tip. After a dozen or so times, flip the tool and repeat the procedure on the other side if necessary.