



How To Use A Cold Chisel

A cold chisel (Fig. 9A) is a tool you will use primarily in masonry projects, principally for chipping away at old mortar, concrete, cement, and plaster. Occasionally, however, it may be used on metal for making holes or cutting edges.

Before beginning work with a cold chisel, you should first have some proficiency in the use of a hammer; for without it, your swing will be hesitant-and he who hesitates is lost. You must have no fear when you wield a hammer. If you are uncertain, please reread Recipe 1 on How to Use a Hammer.

Utensils

Cold chisel
Ball peen hammer
Pair of goggles to protect eyes

Ingredients

Piece of broken concrete

1. Put on protective goggles.
2. Grasp chisel in hand firmly, but loose enough so you do not absorb the shock when the hammer strikes the chisel head.
3. Hold chisel at an angle to the concrete so that the lower bevel of the chisel is parallel (Fig. 9B).
4. Grasp the hammer near the end of the handle and tap head of chisel gently until you establish a confident rhythm.
5. Now raise the hammer above the shoulder and strike the head of the chisel with some force. Do this slowly until your rhythm is established. The amount of force used is determined by the nature of the material on which you are working. The heavier the material, the more forceful the striking should be.

Note: To prevent injury, the head of the chisel and the head of the hammer should be kept free of oil or dirt at all times. In addition, watch for "burring" on the chisel head after extensive use (Fig. 9C). When this condition arises, have the head of the chisel reground until smooth (Fig. 9D). This will avoid cuts on the hands and will prevent metal chips from flying about. Use goggles at all times.

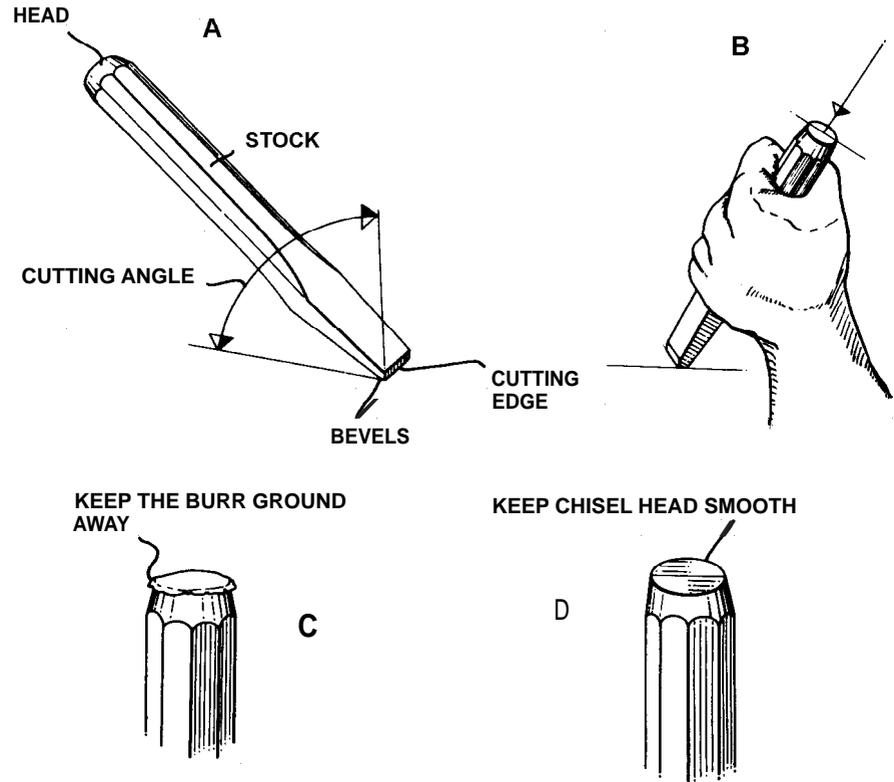


Figure 9.
The Cold Chisel