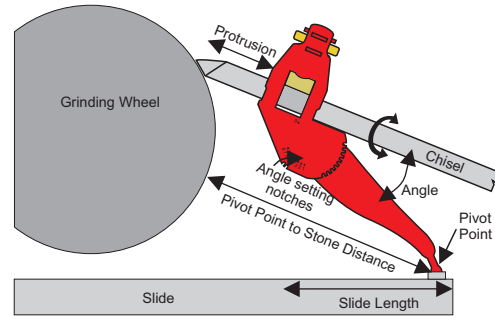
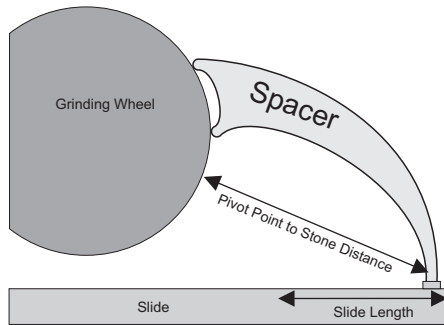




## Sharpening

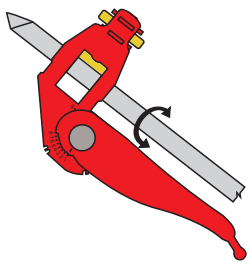
Learning to free-hand sharpen woodturning gouges could be a long process - using a jig is advisable. The objective is always to get a sharp and tidy cutting edge with a smooth bevel. Then to re-sharpen at the same angles. The style of the sharpen e.g. curved or straight edge skew; sweep of the wings on a bowl gouge, and other points, may be your choice or you could follow the angles shown in Beginners Tips in Creative Wood, June 2020. There are many jigs and sharpening systems available. The Woodcut Tru-Grind system shown here is the easiest to purchase in New Zealand and it works well.



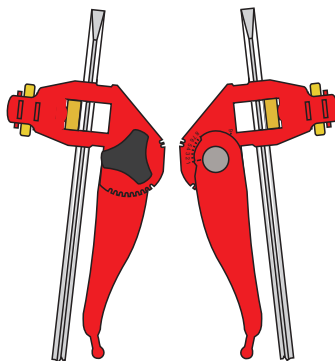
The basic setup of most sharpening systems is shown here. There is a sliding part beneath the stone. The outer end of that slide is where the tool holder will pivot. The size of an aluminium oxide stone will change with use and the distance the pivot point from the stone needs to be set for each use using a spacer which can be purchased or the design downloaded from <https://sawg.org.nz/tipsnjigs/>. For CBN wheels the slide can be set to marked points as the wheel size will not change. There is a need to move the slide to get different grinding angles for different chisels.

There are many sharpening stones available. A 200mm 120grit aluminium oxide or cubic boron nitride (CBN) wheel will be excellent. Many turners use 150mm wheels due to the lower cost but a 200mm does give a better curve to the grind.

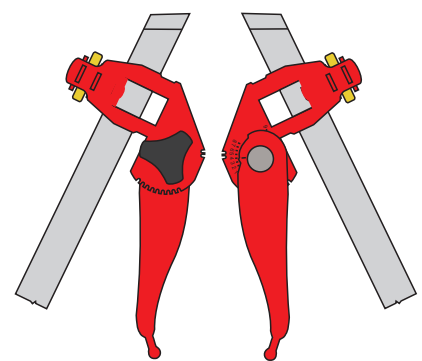
The grinding wheel must be kept clean. A diamond dresser is used on aluminium oxide wheels. CBN wheels should be used only for high speed steel tools and should not need cleaning.



All gouges. Bowl, spindle, and roughing. Rotate on the stone.



Parting chisel. Clamp across the holder and flip flop on stone.



Skew with sharp edge at right angles to the toolholder leg and flip flop on stone.

When the chisel is placed in the tool holder the protrusion is always the same, usually 50mm. The angle of the leg of the tool holder can be changed for different chisels or different grinds.

Stroke the chisel gently on the rotating stone.

On bowl gouges work the flatter side faces first and then move more rapidly around the nose of the chisel. It takes more grinding time to remove metal from the broader sides while the sharper curve of the nose can be quickly reduced.