

Pyramid Point Tool

The Pyramid point tool is used to form beads safely in both spindle and faceplate work. It works well in all woods though the results are better in the close-grained hardwood. In addition, it is especially useful for turning plastics.

Forming a Bead

1. Position the top of the tool rest slightly below the center of the lathe spindle. Place the point tool on the rest at 90 degrees to the work with one bevel upright and parallel to the lathe bed. Push the tool forward to form the v-cut on one side of the bead then repeat on the other side.
2. Starting in the right hand v-cut with the tool in the same position, begin to swing the handle to the left while lowering it gradually and rotating it in a counter-clockwise direction until you arrive at the top of the bead.
3. Move to the left hand v-cut and repeat opposite swing and twist. This will form a perfectly shaped bead and you will find that there is no tendency for the tool to dig-in, making it exceptionally useful in faceplate work.

Dressing End Grain

1. Position the top of the tool rest slightly below the center of the lathe spindle. Place the tool on it with one bevel upright but canted slightly toward the work surface to be cleaned up. Push the tool towards the center using the whole edge on flat surfaces and the middle of the edge on convex surfaces. This will produce a finish that requires little, if any further work.
2. Used in similar fashion to that above, the pyramid point tool can be used along the tool rest to clean up cylindrical spindles.

Sharpening

1. The tool is sharpened on a bench grinder. Eye protection should be used with preference being given to a full-face visor. Place each bevel in turn on the grinding wheel with the tool pointing straight up the middle then swing the handle about 10 degrees to the right and left.
2. Use only a light touch and do not quench high-speed steel.