

AUGER BIT SHARPENING

Like most cutting tools, your auger bits will benefit from the occasional sharpening. Below are some steps you can take to increase the effectiveness and life of the tool.

Step 1 - The Lead Screw



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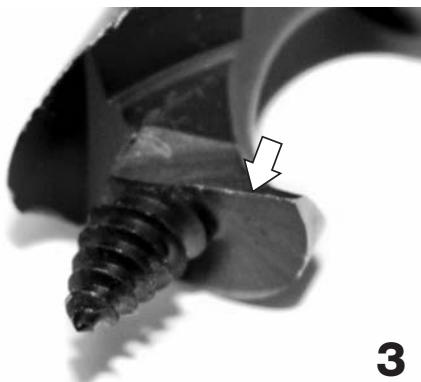


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An auger bit feeds into the wood with its lead screw. (Fig. 1) Damaged or unevenly worn screw threads can become clogged, stopping the screw from effectively pulling the bit through. If the threads aren't too far gone, a bit of light filing can even out these damaged threads. (Fig. 2)

NOTE: Polishing the threads with diamond or automotive valve grinding paste, chromium oxide, or loose abrasive lapping powder can also be helpful. Simply put a little in a started hole and run the lead screw through it a few times.

Step 2 - The Cutting Lip



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The cutting lip can be sharpened. (Fig. 3) Remove nicks or burrs with an auger file end that has the teeth on the wide sides. (Fig. 4) File ONLY on the inside of the lip, removing as little material as possible. Filing the outside edge will change the diameter of the hole that the bit cuts. The hole will be smaller than the flutes above, and the bit will jam in the hole when the bit gets past the cutting spurs. A diamond hone (shown) or sandpaper can be used lightly to polish the cutting lip. (Fig. 5)

Step 3 - The Spur



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The bit's spur or spurs may also be sharpened. (Fig. 6) Remove nicks or burrs with the auger file end that has the teeth on the thin edge and no teeth on the wide sides. (Fig. 7) File ONLY on the inside of the lip, removing as little material as possible. A diamond hone (shown) or sandpaper can be used lightly to polish the spur. (Fig. 8)

ICS **Cutting Tools, Inc.**

511 Main Street • P.O. Box 125
Casco, WI 54205-0125 USA

920-837-2526
FAX 920-837-2530

www.icscuttingtools.com



info@icscuttingtools.com