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# TeMPeR Plough

## Use and Care

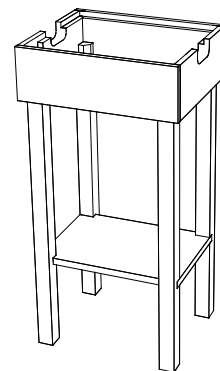
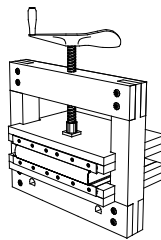
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The TeMPeR Plough comes with the parts shown above:

- the plough
- one short board with a slotted edge
- one full size board with a plain edge
- two hey keys for removing and adjusting the blade

.....And is designed for use with the TeMPeR Casing Press and Casing Press Stand.



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## TeMPeR Productions

*"Equipment handcrafted for your pressing needs!"*

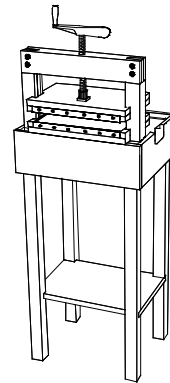
# Using the Plough

## Things to remember

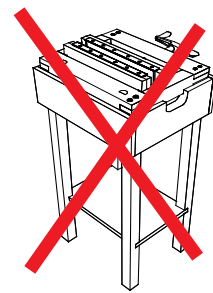
- **The blade is sharp**, handle it with care
- Like any tool the plough is as good as the skill of its user. Be patient. Start with a throw-away book that will allow you to get the feel of the tool.

## Getting Started

Start with the Casing Press in the stand in the up-right position. It is much easier to place the book in the press in this position as gravity is not working against you.



Right



Wrong

The short board with the grooved slot goes in the top platen of the Casing Press.

The full size board goes in the bottom platen.

Place the book on the bottom platen.



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Align the book with the front edge using a square. A combination square is shown in the illustration, but any type of squaring device should be useable.



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When the book is aligned in the press add a piece of scrap binder's board to the top of the book. The scrap board should exceed the length of the edge to be cut and should be at least as deep as the depth of the press board. Loosely snug the top platen. Make any final adjustments and then tightly secure the top platen in place.

**Note:** The purpose of the binder's board is to support the edge of the book and to provide a backing material for the plough to cut into when the final pages are cut. Without the backing provided by the binder's board, the final edge will cut ragged and the plough knife may damage the top plough board.



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With the book secured in the press, turn the press to the finishing position, such that the book is now facing edge up.



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Place the plough with the guide in the groove. The plough should sit flat on the boards.



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Adjust the plough so the blade is just touching the first leave of the book. This is your starting point. Move the plough back and forth along the length of the book. At the end of each pass, tighten the screw in very small increments .

When the last leave is cut, stop! Do not cut all the way through the scrap backing board.



## Things to Remember

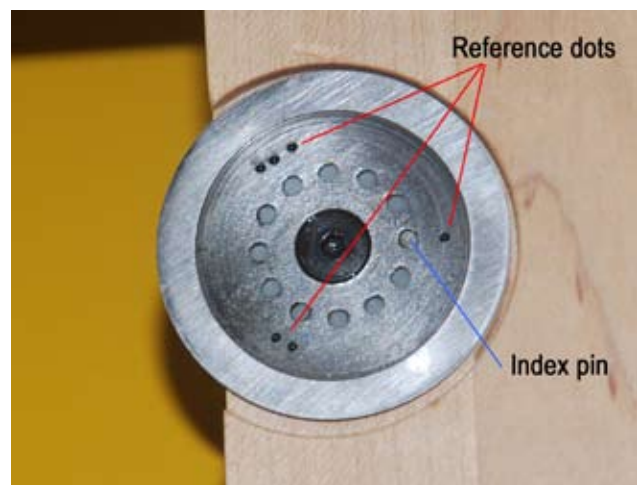
- The smoothest edges are the result of many fine cuts. Ideally each pass should cut a single leaf (maybe two).
- Keep the plough flat on the edges of the plough boards.
- The press should not be bucking or walking away from you. If this is happening you are trying to cut too much off with each pass.
- The cutting process should be smooth, rhythmic and relatively effortless. If it isn't, you are probably trying to cut too much on each pass.
- A regular application of furniture wax to the top of the plough boards and the bottom of the plough will decrease friction and improve the plough's glide.

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# The Plough Blade

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The blade is made such that it has twelve distinct positions to which it can be turned. As the blade dulls at one position it can be moved on to the next position. When all twelve positions are used the blade will require sharpening. The positions of the blade are referenced by three dot patterns with one to three dots. These reference the rotation of the blade. The rotation should move from the first dot (as shipped) toward the second dot and then on to the third and finally ending with the twelfth indexed position before the first dot. When the blade is sharpened it should always be placed with the indexing pin in the hole marked by the one dot.



## Adjusting the Blade

To adjust or sharpen the blades, turn the handscrews counter-clockwise until the two halves of the plough are separate.



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Before removing the blade turn the plough over and note the position of the blade on the indexing pin.

Set the plough on a flat surface. Using the smaller of the two hex keys that came with the plough, loosen the two set screws on the face of the plough. Lift the plough. The blade with its post should drop out.



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To re-install the blade, turn the plough upside down. Insert the post and blade into the hole and align the indexing pin with the proper hole in the blade. Snug one set screw to temporarily hold the blade when the plough is placed right side up.

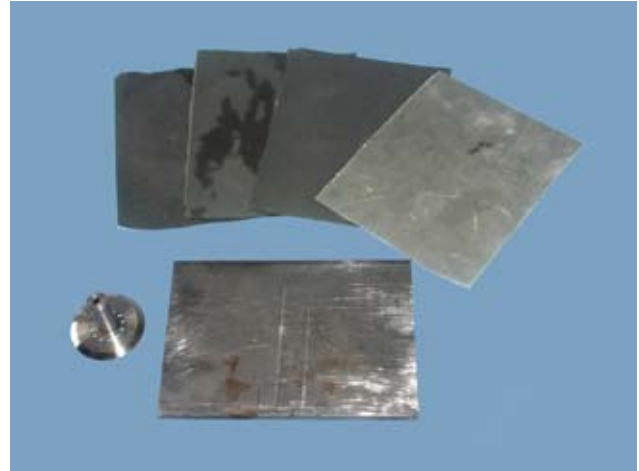
Set the plow squarely down on a flat surface. Loosen the set screw you just tightened. The blade should drop even with the surface the plough is placed on. This properly aligns the blade. Snug up both set screws while keeping the plough firmly on the flat surface. You should be able to get it as tight as need be with the long end of the hex key inserted in the set screw. **Do not over-tighten.** Overtightening can damage the threads or the screw post.



## Sharpening the Blade

When the blade requires sharpening, it needs only be sharpened from the bottom side. This can be done with a very flat surface and wet/dry sandpaper. The surface can be a steel plate, a piece of plate glass or flat, surfaced stone (surfaced granite, lithographers stone, etc). You will probably need sandpaper ranging from about 220 grit to 1200 grit.

Remove the blade from the plough with the post attached. If the blade is loose on the post it should be tightened (with the hex key provided with the plough) while it is still in the plough. It is both safer and easier to leverage the screw while it is secured in the plough.



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Use either water or oil as a lubricant on the sandpaper. Work with only a single piece of sandpaper on the flat surface. Working from the coarsest to the finest grit, hold the blade by the post, keep the blade pressed flat against the sandpaper and work it in circles on the sandpaper.

NOTE: The coarsest grit is the most important. The other grits merely polish out the scratches and refine the edge. If the blade is not sharpening with a 220 grit then step down to a coarser grit. Ideally you should feel a very, slight bead raised around the edge. Once that bead is formed you can move on to the finer sandpapers. Removing the slight bead requires working from the top beveled edge. Since you are no longer working with a flat surface this is more difficult. You can simply ignore the bead and let it wear away from the cutting surface with the first cut, or, being very careful not to cut your fingers, you can run your finest sandpaper along the beveled edge.

