

Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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Miniature Negative-Rake Box Hollowing Scraper

The Miniature Negative-Rake Box Hollowing Scraper is a hollowing and finishing scraper especially for small boxes and vessels with undercutting at the rim. It will get its best results on hardwoods and exotics.

This scraper is intended to cut on center, flat on the tool rest, and with the handle held level. In order to properly support the cutting edge, the tool rest needs to be behind where the shaping of the tool starts.

The 5° top bevel on this tool makes all the difference in its behavior! You will find this a very tame tool that takes both aggressive cuts and fine finishing cuts. Honing for the final pass results in a very smooth surface.

Though the Negative-Rake Box Hollowing Scraper can take aggressive hollowing cuts, it is sometimes more efficient to remove the bulk of the wood with a spindle gouge, ring tool, or other scraper.

Sharpening the Miniature Negative-Rake Box Hollowing Scraper:



The Miniature Negative-Rake Box Hollowing Scraper is shipped to you with a "factory grind". The edge profile is properly shaped, but the cutting edge will need to be sharpened before use. The best way to sharpen it is to set a grinder platform to the same angle as the bottom bevel (60°). To properly support the entire cutting edge, I have ground a relief notch into the grinding platform, fitting the platform around the grinding wheel.

For best performance, dress the grinding wheel right before sharpening this tool, and choose a good quality fine grit wheel.

Sharpening is done by lightly contacting the bottom bevel to the grinding wheel while holding the tool firmly down onto the grinding platform. The tool is moved around on the platform



Sharpening can also be done free-hand by contacting the heel of the bevel to the wheel and moving the handle until the sparks come over the cutting edge.

Honing the bottom bevel is also an effective way of renewing the edge if it is not too dull. To avoid making the cutting bevel angle more obtuse, it's best to go back to the grinder occasionally to renew the hollow grind on the bottom bevel.

The top bevel is not intended to ever be sharpened or honed. If needed, the top bevel can be renewed freehand.