

Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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Vortex Tool – 1/4"



The Vortex Tool is a cutting tool, not a scraper. It is "A gouge with no flute, and a skew with no heel". It cuts like a gouge, cutting only with the very tip, to make the "Vortex" shape. It also arcs into the work like a skew to slice endgrain or cut vee grooves. The Vortex can cut very precise fine vee grooves, and cleans up the bottoms of vees and between beads.

With the Vortex, you can cleanly slice into endgrain, undercutting past a square edge, without a heel to rub and damage the corners. This is a delicate tool for making light cuts. It is best to remove the bulk of the material with other tools before making a last pass with the Vortex.

The Vortex Tool is shipped to you sharpened and ready to use. When it needs sharpening, a light honing with a diamond hone is all that is needed to renew the edge. The flat top of the tool's tip is the surface to hone. The polished cutting bevel should not be honed as a routine sharpening.



With the flat top of the tool's cutting tip pressed firmly flat onto the hone, move the tool back and forth along the stone.



After repeated honing, the cutting bevel will need to be re-ground. It is ground with a 25° angle at the tip and the wings.



This can be done by grinding "free hand", rotating the tool as if sharpening a pencil. The flat top of the cutting tip can also be re-flattened on a belt sander.

The Vortex's hexagonal tool handle can be used as a holder for re-grinding. Push the tool into the handle so that only a couple of inches of steel are sticking out and orient the flat tip parallel (for re-flattening), or at 90° (for re-grinding the cutting bevel), to one of the flat sides of the hex handle.