

# Cindy Drozda

"The Fine Art of Woodturning"

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## Arc Tool

The Arc Tool is a fine finishing scraper. It looks like a rounded skew, but it is not intended to be used as a bevel-rubbing cutter. The Arc is used for making light scraping cuts to smooth out the surface of the wood after cutting with a gouge. Finishing with this tool allows a turner to start sanding with much finer grit abrasive.

With the sharpening burr up, it makes a clean cut on burls, curly figure, or side grain. When cutting with the burr, keep in mind that the burr doesn't last very long and the tool will need to be sharpened frequently. With the burr down, or honed off, it cuts cleaner and less aggressively. Using the tool with the burr down is good for cleaning up endgrain.

The "Bull Nose" edge shape of the Arc makes it ideal for final shaping and cleaning up concave surfaces such as the inside of a bowl, box or lid.

The Arc Tool is ground with a 25° bevel angle on each side, giving it an included angle of 50° at the cutting edge. This scraper is intended to be used with the handle held level (or slightly raised), with the edge cutting on (or slightly above) center.



### Sharpening the Arc:

The Arc Tool 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.

Arc is very easy to sharpen. With a platform set to grind a 25° angle, the tool is held down firmly on the platform. Swinging the tool handle in an arc maintains the edge profile and sharpens the cutting edge.



One hand holds the tool against the platform. The other hand holds the tool at its balance point. The hand on the handle of the tool guides it around to follow the edge profile. The hand on the platform presses the tool down, keeping it parallel with the platform surface.



This symmetrical-beveled tool can be sharpened on either the top or bottom bevel. Only one side needs to be sharpened each time the tool gets dull.

Honing is another effective way to sharpen the edge. Honing creates a less aggressive cutting edge with no burr.

Grinding can also be done free-hand by contacting the heel of the bevel to the wheel, raising the handle until the sparks come over the cutting edge, and then guiding the tool around with the bevel in contact with the wheel to sharpen the cutting edge and maintain the tool's edge profile.