



Thank you for purchasing this Scott Meek Woodworks plane. I strive for beauty and function in every plane I make. My hope is that it inspires you to craft your finest work.

How to use this wood bodied plane

- **True the sole.** Due to differences in moisture levels locationally and seasonally, the sole may need to be flattened periodically. Let the plane acclimate to your shop for at least one week before flattening. Check the sole with a straight edge. Doing this against a backing light helps to exaggerate high and low spots. (Be sure to retreat the blade back into the body before checking or flattening the sole.) If the sole is out of true, adhere 180 grit sandpaper to a flat surface and push the plane across it, keeping even pressure down on it as you do. This must be done with the blade wedged in place and the edge retreated into the body! Be sure to only remove enough material to get the sole flat. Check the sole regularly after seasonal changes. After truing, apply paste wax (my preference) or shellac to the sole.
- **Set the blade.** Setting the blade to take a useful shaving takes practice. Set the plane on a flat piece of wood. Insert the blade, centered and squared in the body, and flat against the bed. Insert the wedge, pushing it in place with the palm of your hand. Set the wedge with 2-3 light to medium raps with a small mallet. (A small brass headed mallet will save the blade from mushrooming. Leather applied to one face will protect the plane body. Check out my website for wood head mallets I sell for plane adjusting.) Use the same force as you would when tapping dovetails together. Hitting too hard or too much may damage the crosspin! Very lightly and cautiously drag your finger perpendicular to the blade edge to get a feel for the depth of cut. Practice will tell you when this feels right. If the blade is set too deep, lightly hit the back curved surface of the plane body with your mallet. This retracts the blade. The blade can be retracted in large or small increments purely on how hard you hit the body. Every wood plane is different in this and the amount you need hit the plane body will come with practice. To advance the blade, hit the back edge with your mallet. To square the edge with the mouth and allow for even shavings, tap the blade on the sides. ALWAYS reset the wedge after adjusting the blade! Take test shavings as you go to determine how you need to adjust things. If the shavings clog the mouth, you are probably taking too thick of a shaving.
- **The mouth.** Depending on the plane you bought, the ideal mouth opening size will change. If you bought a smoother, you want as tightly closed mouth as possible to help reduce tearout. On a jack plane, the mouth size can vary depending on what you want to use it for. Be careful not to go too far when doing this. A jointer will usually require a mouth that is more open to allow for heavy shavings. If you aren't able to take a shaving as thick as you want, use a mill file and open the mouth up a bit. Note that every time you re-flatten the sole, it will remove a little of the mouth. If you get to a point in a few years (should be years before the mouth will get this big) where you don't like how open the mouth is, you can send it back to me to have me insert a new mouth piece into the plane in front of the blade, or get instructions from me on how to do it yourself. Again, if you are using the plane correctly, it should be many years before you will need to do this.
- **Troubleshooting** For troubleshooting info, go to my website: www.scottmeekwoodworks.com/troubleshoot
- **Contact me:** scott@scottmeekwoodworks.com
- **Details for your plane**
Plane: Highland Woodworking Special Edition Flame Birch and Teak Smoother
Body: Flame Birch
Sole, crosspin, and wedge: Teak
Bed angle: 50°
Year made: 2013