

## Use and Care of the Lamp Standard Shell Auger

Unlike regular augur bits which have a screw nose which pulls itself through the wood, Lamp Standard Shell Augers have a lip and flat cutting face to ensure that they cut straight and true. As a result it has to be pushed into the wood by the turner. The curve of the lip ensures that the auger runs centrally and is unaffected by either the grain or texture of the wood being turned. The leading edge of the shell serves to start the hole and is relieved on the outside to prevent binding. The form of the nose then allows the Augur to cut into the wood under steady pressure.

Great care should be taken when using a Lamp Standard Shell Auger. It is particularly important to avoid running the Auger through the wood and into the drive centre. You should avoid potential damage to the nose by preventing contact between the Auger and the long hole boring attachment in the tailstock.

You should frequently withdraw the Auger and remove waste wood. Failure to do so will lead to a build-up of wood in the hole which prevents the Auger from cutting and causes the wood to burn. This may in turn lead to drawing the temper in the nose of the Auger thereby causing permanent damage.

Sharpening of the Auger should be carried out with a degree of care to avoid removing too much metal from the nose. You only have a small amount of material to work with. Therefore you should never sharpen your Auger on a bench grinder.

With the Auger held vertically, use a flat diamond hone on the bevel of the nose. A few strokes should suffice. For the inside of the flute use a suitable slip stone or diamond hone. When sharpening move the slipstone to the left so that the leading edge is honed. Do not try to sharpen the outside of the Auger as clearance may be lost causing the Auger to bind in your wood.