

Clean cuts

Andy says these shears work well on thin timber



Shears like this, with a solid, thick blade, are normally sold to glaziers to cut pressure gasket to length and mitre the corners. While sharpening a fixed blade with a stone is an option, this design gives you a razor-sharp replaceable blade that can be swapped in seconds.

Utilising a thin blade also helps when making the cut as there's less resistance in the material, especially on a shearing cut such as a mitre.

However, I found that anything of reasonable thickness – and these shears are quoted as being able to cut up to 7.7mm x 35mm – forces the work back slightly as the cut is made. While the top face is clean and at the correct angle, by forcing it back as you apply pressure, the cut becomes angled so that any type of jointing, inlay for example, will have a face that touches on the bottom but is open on the top face where it will be seen.

Thicker timber is problematic, so anything such

as small picture frame mouldings or beadings, even making a guillotine-style trimming cut, has a tendency to get forced back as the cut progresses. Thinner inlay type work is cut cleanly enough, but it's still hard to achieve a bus ticket fit.

Design

The design of the shears should help prevent this as the base of the shears where the workpiece rests is angled back slightly, so that if the work stayed put it would be undercut, while if it slides back, it goes back too much and overcuts so the top face is open.

Even on a 45° cut where it can be held firmly to the fences, it will have a tendency to slide back even with the strongest of grips.

Other angles are etched into the beds of the shears, but the same problem ensues, along with having to hold the work to the etched line, so it becomes doubly difficult.

Conclusion

The shears do a great job of cutting cleanly, and swapping the blades is a breeze, a single screw holding the retaining plate. Having an option to replace rather than hone a fixing blade does ensure you get the best cut possible, but in thicker timber, unless you have a vice-like grip, the results are not ideal for a show joint that relies on its fit for strength.

Good The Woodworking Verdict

- + Replaceable blades
- Difficult to cut thicker stock cut squarely

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £52.95

Max stock size: 7.5mm x 35mm

Blades: Standard Stanley-style trapezoidal

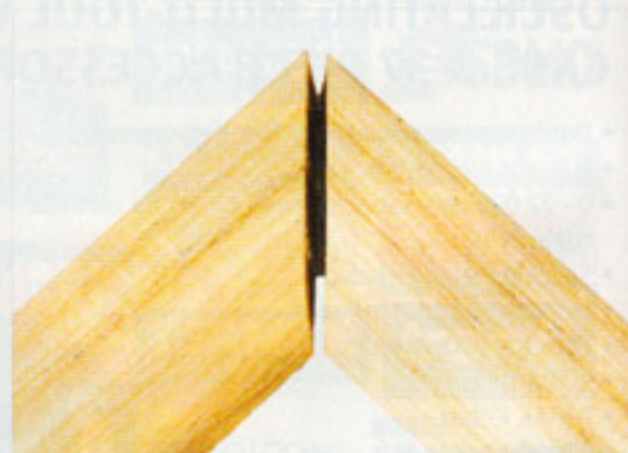
Web: www.trend-uk.com



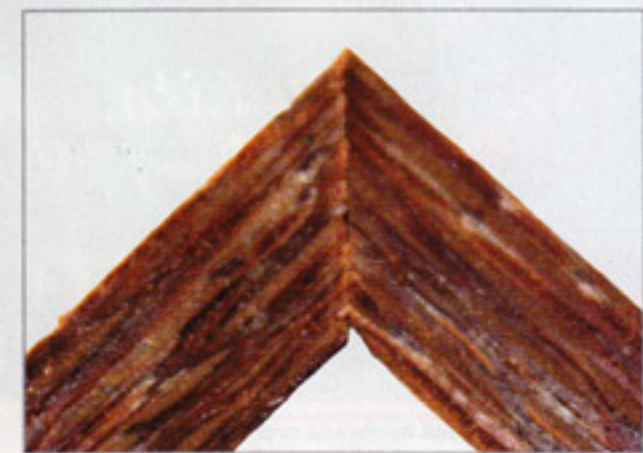
▲ While this cut looks perfect from this angle...



▲ ...from the edge you can see how it has drifted by being forced back



▲ It results in the joint not coming up cleanly



▲ Thinner flat stock works much better as there is less resistance through the cut



▲ You can see the tilt of the beds to try and counteract the work sliding back



▲ Blade swapping is a very easy operation