

DON'T CROSS THE LINES

By Josh Freund

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No-line blending shears are growing in popularity amongst hairstylists due to the wide range of uses they can perform. In addition to reducing bulk in hair while not leaving a noticeable line of demarcation, stylists also find them useful for point cutting, slide cutting, shear over comb blending techniques, and taming cowlicks in hair.

To date, there are two different types of no-line blending shears on the market. The more popular version of the two is the double tooth blending shear. This shear is designed with two opposing teeth blades. Typically, double tooth blending shears have a convex teeth blade that does the cutting while the opposing, bottom teeth blade, holds the hair in place. There are two different grind options of bottom teeth blades for double tooth blenders. 1) The “off-set shark tooth” (which resembles the teeth of a shark) that creates a staggered cut in the hair, which breaks up any formation of line, giving the haircut a more natural look. 2) The traditional “V” notch grind (in which the teeth resembles the letter “V”) that also cuts the hair without leaving a line, but doesn’t stagger the hair as efficiently as the off-set shark tooth blade does.

The second style of a no-line blender would resemble a traditional-looking blending shear that has a teeth blade and an opposing solid cutting blade. However, this blender cuts in reverse by having a very blunt cutting blade that is designed to push the hair, while the bottom teeth blade does the cutting. This cutting action dishevels the hair, breaking up any line of demarcation.

Although these two styles of no-line blenders are designed to perform similar cutting actions. It is important for sharpeners to take note of *all* of the differences in the mechanics of how they are made, so as not to alter the way these shears were originally designed to cut. Take, for example, the 37 tooth no-line blending shear from Sensei. This shear has the traditional look of a blending shear, with a solid cutting blade, and an opposing teeth blade. However, if one was to sharpen it like a traditional blending shear, it would drastically alter the “no-line” cutting ability of this shear. *Potentially*, leaving lines in the hair! If this shear is serviced this way, the hairstylist/groomer will immediately notice the difference between how their shear performed brand new, versus how it performs once it is improperly serviced. *Consequently*, losing the confidence that your customer has in you to service their tools properly.

For these reasons, I have documented my sharpening techniques for how I restored two different types of no-line blending shears that was sent to me to repair. I share my step-by-step techniques in my instructional DVD [Sharpening Between The Lines](#), where I identify the main problem of a no-line blending shear after analyzing, diagnosing, and servicing it in a very specific way. And my [How to Sharpen a 30 Tooth Double Thinner DVD](#), where I restore a 30 tooth double blender that came from the factory with a defect. These DVDs can be purchased at www.kutaboveperfection.com.

Knowing the differences between these styles of no-line blenders and how to service them will save you from customer complaints!