

Start today, not tomorrow.
If anything, you should
have started yesterday.
– Emil Motycka

SETTING THINGS STRAIGHT

By Josh Freund

I was very excited to be asked to do a presentation on the topic of hammering set in shears at the Wolff/Edge Pro show in Columbus, Indiana this April. The topic of hammering set in shears, in my opinion, is very important because no matter how sharp you make those blades if the set in the shear is not properly addressed, the shear will not cut efficiently!

I think that the topic of addressing set in shears is still controversial amongst sharpeners. In my conversations with sharpeners across the U.S., I find that a lot of sharpeners are too timid to take on the issue of the set because they may not be well versed on the topic of addressing the set in shears and how important it is to the cutting action of the shear. Or they don't want to take the risk of potentially breaking a shear while trying to put the set back into it.

Let's talk about the function of the
Continued in the sidebar on
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tank in these shots or the quality testing room where Wolff houses their industrial rockwell tester and other tools so the Wolff Indiana Plant can produce the finest quality shears possible. This isn't everything, but it does give a good feel of the majority of the tour. Wolff and the Edge Pro plan to do this again in the future, so if you missed out on coming this time you'll have

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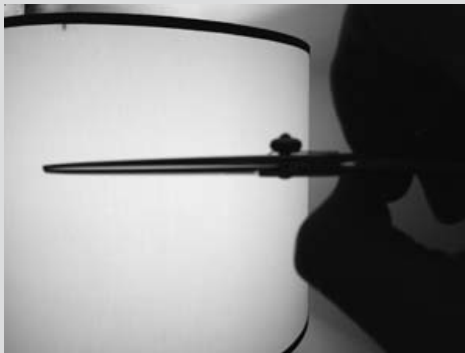
Frank Hall, Master Sharpener in New England, says "Sharpeners Camaraderie @ it's Finest , "Come To Vegas to Learn go home to Earn"

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He who begins many things finishes but few.
– German Proverb

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set and its importance in the cutting action of the shear. The set of the blades when looking at a shear on its side (fully closed in front of a light source) will be slightly apart and bowed where they only touch just behind the pivot area and at the very tips of the shear. As the shears are opened and closed, the blades touch and travel across each other. The bow of each blade acts as a spring causing downward compression to properly cut through the hair.



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another chance sometime soon. There was one other thing I wanted to share with you that Wolff is working on in Indiana. It's a new CNC Knife Sharpening Machine.



The picture above shows the reading process where the knife is Continued on Page 8 . . .

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A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business.
 – Henry Ford

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The set of shears can get fatigued after long term use. At this point, the set of both blades will need to be restored. A shear that is out of set can cause the shear not to cut in specific areas of the blades, and it can also cause bending or pulling of the hair. There are many reasons why a shear can lose its set. (1) The stylist does a lot of point cutting on their clients' hair. This cutting technique wears out the set of the tips of the shear, which are the weakest part of the blade. (2) The stylist is cutting hair with a dull shear. This causes the stylist to "overwork" the shear and thus wear out the set. (3) The shear is dropped on the floor. This action could possibly bend the blade(s) compromising the set of the shear. (4) If a shear is missing a bumper and the stylist keeps using the shear. This action will cause the blades to cross over each other, and that can cause the set to wear out toward the tips of both blades. (5) A left-handed stylist is using a right-handed shear to cut hair. This could cause the stylist to use incorrect thumb pressure putting way too much force on the closure of the shear. (6) Lastly, the stylist is using a swivel shear to cut hair. While us-

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assessed by a computer in preparation for sharpening. Once the knife has been assessed it's sharpened on a belt system, deburred, and then polished. In the picture below you can see the over-



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Face reality as it is,
not as it was or as
you wish it to be.
– Jack Welch

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on Page 8

ing a swivel shear, the stylist is constantly bending and flexing the blades. This action also causes too much force on the blades of the shear.

My preferred method of addressing the set in shears is the hammering method. Most of the shear manufacturers overseas use some form of hammering method to address the set in shears as well. This was the first method of addressing the set that I learned when I was taught to sharpen shears, and I have gained a certain comfort level with this technique over the years. I like it because I get tactile feedback that is felt through the hammer as I am hammering the blades. This gives me more control over the blades as I'm hammering them. Using my method of hammering the set in shears, I personally find it less risky than using a bending block to put the set into shears. Nonetheless, the method of hammering the set in shears can be a difficult skill to master if one is not properly trained on this technique. When I'm training my students or doing a presentation on this topic at sharpeners' conventions, I make sure to go into depth on this

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lapped deburring wheels. This machine is still in the works and will be tested in the poultry industry. More details will come on this machine as the project progresses. In other words, I'll keep you posted.



Once we were done with the tour the group headed back to the host hotel and we started with Jason Strum from The Edge Pro (See their ad on Page 3). To the left is a picture of Jason teaching clipper blade sharpening. He spoke about how to correct improper sharpening, how to sharpen

blades like the Wahl blades that are attached directly to the clipper. These blades have a shallow hollow grind on the comb and regular hollow grind on the cutter and Jason showed how you can achieve both without having to change your plate. He also went over how to sharpen Arco 5 in 1 blades. The man is a

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– Mark Cuban

. . . Continued from the sidebar on Page 9 method.

Being able to properly address a shear fully could be the difference between gaining a new salon, maintaining the current customers you have, or keeping your competitors out of the salons you service.

For more information on hammering set in shears you can go to my website:

www.kutaboveperfection.com to purchase a copy of my DVD "Setting Things Straight with Joshua Freund" or call Joshua Freund of Kut Above Perfection at (708) 254-4209 to inquire about shear sharpening training.

BACK ISSUE CD

I've had many requests for back issues of *On The Edge*. To fill this need, I'm offering this CD filled with all the issues back to 2002! It's on sale for just \$49.95 again this month! If you would like to purchase one, or if you have questions, call me at 864-909-3381.



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wealth of knowledge and our industry is fortunate to have men like him. I'll see if I can get him to do some write ups in future issues on some of these techniques he taught.

Once Jason was done I did a series of scissors sharpening and repair seminars. I bench ground a 35 degree angle on a convexed hollow ground shear and fixed it. I bent the set WAY out of whack on one and bent it back in using the Set Ad-



justing Tool. I hooked tips, gouged throats, and showed how to fix those problems. I also showed how to realign the ride area to create a correct rideline on over-sharpened shears.

Jason also did a series of seminars on clipper repair. He focused again on the

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