



## 1a Woodpeckers Honing Plate System – Features and Use

**The System.** The Woodpeckers Honing Plate system is comprised of 3 anodised aluminium plates measuring a whopping 356mm long by 67mm wide. This increased length allows for increasing the honing stroke by up to 45%. Fewer strokes means faster, more consistent sharpening. The system is supplied with 3 separate honing films, 15 microns (0.00059055”), 5 microns (0.00019685”) and 0.3 microns (0.00001181”) or 3.75 thousandths of the width of a human hair. In short the films range from moderately fine, through to extremely fine, to take your sharpening as close as possible to that elusive zero radius edge. The plates typically have a flatness of .0015” flatter than most glass based systems.



**Safety Precautions.** This system will produce incredibly sharp hence dangerous edges, the following precautions are recommended;

- Ensure that you have a flat, stable and clear work surface.
- Make sure that children cannot reach the blades.
- Mount the plates so that they will not slip during the sharpening process.
- Return the sharpened blades to their planes or safe storage place.
- Wear sturdy footwear, accidents can happen!

**Mounting the Film.** The film is supplied with a self adhesive back, this can be used if desired, but the film can also be mounted using a small amount of water on the plate, placing the film backing side down on the plate and excluding any trapped air.

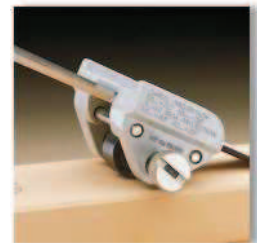
**The Honing Process.** The 3 individual plates allow you to progress through the sharpening process with ease, starting with the 15 micron to flatten and prepare the blade, 5 micron to achieve a fine edge and 0.3 micron to take you to a ultra or *Scary Sharp* edge. Additional films are available individually.

**Maintaining a Sharp Tool.** Frequent honing equals quicker sharpening, waiting until a blade is completely dull is asking for both poor work and accidents. A few strokes over each of the 3 films regularly will keep you blades in tip top condition.

**Honing Guides.** There are numerous honing guides on the market we sell and recommend a simple yet effective guide, the key features being;

- The ability to hone both wide plane irons up to 67mm and narrow chisels down to 2.0mm
- Having the required blade setting (protrusion) distances clearly visible on the guide body.
- Having a wide guide wheel to run evenly on the plate.

**Blades & Steels** Quality steels in blades will sharpen better than cheaper steels and more importantly hold their edge for longer. Replacement blades sometimes a necessity when the original steel was inferior or incorrect grinding has destroyed the heat treatment or temper.



Our Hock Blades are available in either Hi Carbon or A2 (Cryogenic Teated) steels to suit a wide selection of planes and spokeshaves.

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