

Kit & Tools

A collection of press releases and tests showing the latest tools and products on the market

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Boxmaster Tools

Mark Baker and Andy Coates put some of the Boxmaster Tools to the test

Boxmaster's tools are made from M42HSS and there is a range of 13 negative rake scrapers. Eight are available as double-ended blades, four of which are made from 13mm-wide bar and four from 16mm-wide bar and all are 7mm thick. The others are heavy-duty scrapers all of which are made from 10mm thick bar. The range comprises: a 20mm wide, long and strong scraper; a 32mm wide round-nose; curved spear point; straight spear point; and curved scraper. Each blade is 250mm long and the corners are softened to allow the blade to be easily moved along the toolrest.

All of these are designed to fit into interchangeable handles with 13mm and 16mm holes respectively, depending on the blade chosen. Boxmaster Tools offer either 200 or 300mm long handles, but other makes can be used with suitable-sized bores.

In use

The tools come ready sharpened – and when I say sharp, the edges really are very sharp and look like



1 PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK BAKER/GMC PUBLICATIONS

a work of art. The top bevel on each cutting edge is perfectly formed along and intersects crisply with the lower bevel. The tools feel nice and smooth and the corners of the blade are 'soft' to touch, meaning there are no burrs or sharpness to them. The blades themselves have a nice satin finish.

Both the 13 and 16mm-wide scrapers feel substantive and I like the fact that the cutting edge shapes suit a wide range of profiles to fulfil turners' needs. The larger scrapers are more substantive still and again feature cutting edge profiles to suit most needs.

I use the scrapers sent on side and end grain boxes and containers of all sorts and also, where the tip shape was suitable, used them on bowls and vases. I found the negative-rake grind geometry to be excellent and easy to sharpen using an adjustable tilting sharpening platform. You can use the blade with the handle

high and tip low for the most gentle of whisker-like cuts, or have the blade horizontal to the work too if you wish to make heavier cuts or gentler cuts with an excellent amount of control.

Conclusion

The tools do exactly what they are intended to do and the steel holds its edge for a very long time. The quality of the tool, the steel and the negative-rake geometry is excellent and I am sure that anyone buying one of the suitably sized tools with the right cutting edge profile will be very happy indeed.

Comments from Andy Coates

I am a quite recent convert to the negative rake tools, having managed to avoid them for a long time, imagining them to be a little of a fad. However, a few years ago I began to experiment with the negative rake idea and very

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soon I was convinced of their efficacy, particularly where conventional tools were unable to achieve a satisfactory finish, and had 'neg-raked' a selection of differently shaped scrapers which I use often. If you struggle to get a suitable final finish on work with conventional scrapers then a negative rake version will certainly help you to achieve one.

I am aware, though, that many specialist tools fall down when the buyer first comes to put a fresh edge on the tool and finds that it is difficult to reproduce the factory edge. I am certain that many turners have such tools sitting unused

in the tool rack simply because they never cut the same after the initial re-sharpening. So how does the Boxmaster I was sent to try fare? I found that Boxmaster Tools has an excellent video guide on its website. I followed the instructions there to put a fresh edge on the tool and it worked just as well as it did fresh from the packaging. I cannot imagine anybody having too much difficulty in keeping this tool sharp and ready for use.

I was so impressed with this Boxmaster tool that I have recently taken it to a few demonstrations at clubs to show just

how effective a negative rake tool can be and, perhaps more importantly, how safe it can be compared to conventional scrapers. Interest from the audience was notable. A few cups of coffee went cold while I showed it at close quarters. I am now totally converted to this type of tool – it does exactly what it is claimed to do and does it perfectly. So how would I score the Boxmaster tool out of 10? 10. Without reservation.

Prices from \$50-90
Contact: Boxmaster Tools
Web: www.boxmastertools.com

