

rdg “U.S.A.” GOUGING MACHINE



DIRECTIONS FOR USE AND ADJUSTMENT

Note: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE THE MACHINE UNTIL THESE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTOOD.

GOUGING

Pull back clamp lever “A” and place cane, which has been thoroughly soaked, pre-gouged and cut to the proper length, in the gouging bed. Slip cane under the front cane clamp. Raise lever “A” so that the cane stop is against the cane. Soft and pulpy cane gouges a little thicker than hard, compressed cane. Gouge until the knife blade no longer takes off any wood, then turn the cane around and gouge again. Most players turn the cane around two or three times in the process of gouging.



A

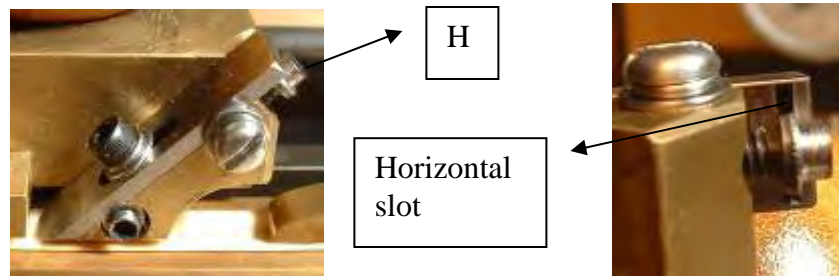
ADJUSTMENTS

1. To set the gouge, the most important thing to remember is that any time you change the position of the blade, BE SURE TO GENTLY RUN THE BLADE CARRIAGE IN THE BED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE BLADE WILL NOT STRIKE EITHER THE SIDES OF THE BED OR THE CANE STOPS!!!!

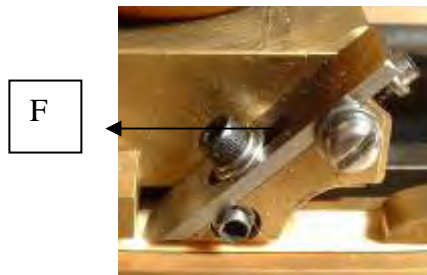


The blade is very hard and it will chip easily. Also it can be very costly to frequently replace the blade. For that reason, it is best to use a pre-gouger in order to preserve the blade sharpness.

2. To move the blade up or down in the carriage, in order to get a thicker or thinner shaving (and not for the purpose of changing the thickness of the gouge), do the following:
 - a. Turn screw “H” gently (clockwise) to the bottom of the horizontal slot in the blade.



- b. Then loosen “F” very slightly (counter-clockwise) so that it is still snug, but so that the blade can slide.

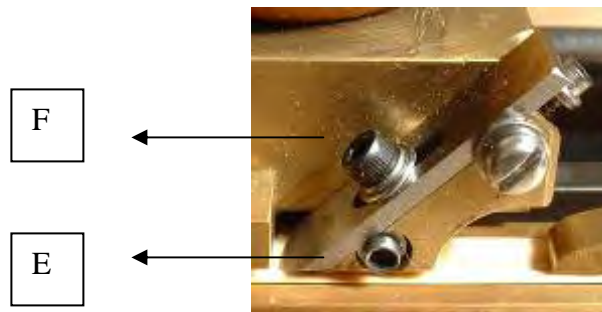


- c. Now screw in “H” very gently—about 1/32 of a turn; then tighten “F”.

If you wish to raise the blade, follow the same procedure but start by turning “H” counter clockwise, so that the screw head is at the top of the horizontal slot in the blade. In every case, **MOST IMPORTANTLY, BE SURE TO TEST THE BLADE POSITION BY RUNNING THE CARRIAGE VERY GENTLY IN THE BED WITHOUT CANE, TO SEE IF IT STRIKES ANY METAL.**

3. To move the blade from side to side in the carriage (it should not be necessary until you either install a re-sharpened blade or a new one) do the following:
 - a. To move screw “E”, follow the same procedure as above. First move the screw to the top or bottom of its slot before loosening screw “F”. Loosen the screw marked “F” just enough so that it holds the blade snugly, but still allows the blade to be moved.

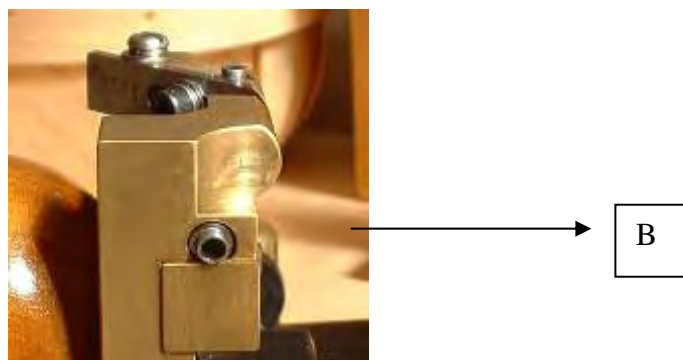
- b. “E” is turned clockwise to move the blade in (away from you). “E” is moved counter-clockwise to move the blade out (towards you).



- c. When the setting is achieved, tighten screw “F” to lock the blade in place.
- d. Test the setting by moving the carriage back and forth, without any cane in the bed, to see if the it strikes metal.
4. To change the thickness of the gouge use screws “B” and “C”.
After adjusting the shaving thickness and centering the blade in the carriage, you can adjust the gouge. It is best to do this adjustment in small increments, checking the gouge often.
- a. First loosen screw “C”. Turn it counter-clockwise $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 full turn.



- b. For a thicker gouge, turn screw “B” in, or clockwise.



- c. For a thinner gouge, turn screw “B” out, or counterclockwise.
- d. Before test gouging a piece of cane, be sure to tighten screw “C”.
- e. Test the setting in order to ensure that the blade will not strike any metal.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

All other screws on the machine that have not been mentioned are used in its assembly and should never be touched, as the machine has been aligned with these screws. This is a precision machine capable of gouging to accuracy thinner than a human hair—Treat it with care at all times!!

MAINTENANCE:

Items you’ll need to properly maintain your gouger:

1. a brush with long bristles, such as a soft, ½ inch paint brush
2. oil (needle oiler works best)
3. cotton swabs (Q-tips)
4. cotton

Tips for using your gouger:

1. As you are gouging, it is helpful to brush shavings off the machine and the blade intermittently to ensure a continuous smooth gouge. This will also help prevent cane shavings from building up inside the bed of the machine.
2. It can be helpful to stabilize the machine by putting it on a wooden pallet board. However using a c-clamp to keep the machine in place can eventually warp the base.

To clean and maintain your gouger after use:

1. When you are finished gouging, use the brush to clean cane off the machine. Be sure to brush off the blade and the area under the clips that hold the cane in the bed.
2. Take a swab and put a small amount of oil on it. Clean off the blade, both underneath and on top. Also, it’s a good idea to take an oiled swab and run it along the top and sides of the silver bar that the carriage bearing runs on and the bed.
3. When you are finished cleaning, make sure that all parts of the gouger are dry, including the guillotine blade and mechanism. Using the needle oiler, lightly oil the blade.

4. Occasionally, you might want to put a drop or two of oil on the bearing and the shaft to keep them running smoothly as well.

In general we would suggest not oiling too heavily. Cane shavings tend to stick to the oil and create a big mess!

To store your gouger:

1. Put a dry piece of cane in the bed, underneath the clips. This will keep the clips from digging into the soft brass.
2. Rest the carriage on a piece of cotton. The cotton will cushion and protect the blade.