

Bow Saws

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Hand Tools

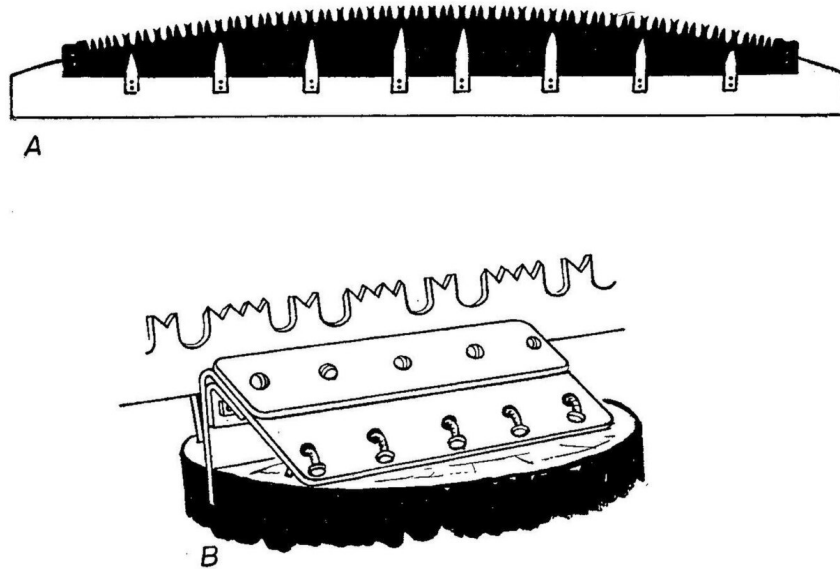


FIGURE 7.—Saw-filing clamps: A, For crosscut saw; B, for bow saw.

Photo via Wikimedia Commons (Saw-filing_clamps_for_crosscut_and_bow_saws_(1949).jpg)

A bow saw is a frame saw with a thin, tensioned blade stretched in a wooden or steel bow, cutting curves and arcs in green wood, firewood and outdoor work. The blade can be rotated for different cut directions.

Key Features

- Frame widths 600-900 mm
- Replaceable blades in TPI ranges
- Wing-nut tensioning
- Rotating blade holders
- Light frames for control

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut firewood and green wood
- Work in outdoor and garden projects
- Make curves in larger stock
- Portable cutting on site

Safe Operation

1. Select the blade for the wood
2. Tension the blade firmly
3. Cut with long, even strokes
4. Rotate the blade for direction changes
5. Count the teeth engage as you saw

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep fingers clear of the blade path
- Check the tension before use
- Do not force the blade through knots
- Keep the saw away from people
- Store with the blade released

Maintenance & Consumables

- Release the blade tension after use
- Clean and oil the blade
- Check the frame and tensioning
- Replace worn blades
- Store in a dry place

Specification & Buying Notes

A bow saw with a couple of spare blades in different TPI covers wood and garden work. Quality frames keep tension; cheap ones bend out of line.