

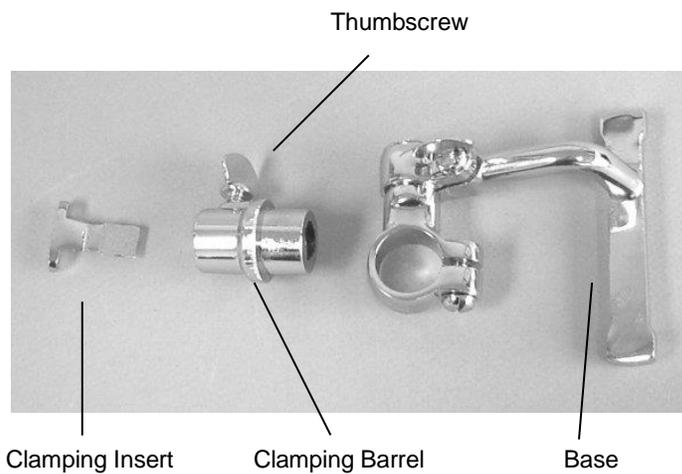
Using a Crocker Sharpener



Crocker Sharpeners are used to hold wood engraving tools at a consistent angle against a sharpening stone. The base slides back and forth parallel to the stone as the tool point is being sharpened.

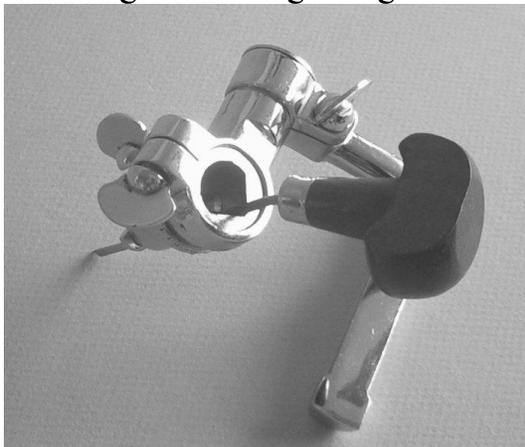
This is a side view of an engraving tool installed in a Crocker Sharpener and ready for sharpening.

Crocker Sharpener Parts



This Crocker Sharpener has been disassembled.

Installing a Small Engraving Tool



Engraving burin inserted into the Clamping Barrel

This view from above shows the Clamping Barrel installed in the Base with the tool in place.

A large V groove is clearly visible in the back of the Clamping Barrel. The top of the tool rests in this V groove on the inside of the Clamping Barrel. The Clamping Insert is placed on the tool so that its small V groove rests on the tool shank. This prevents the tool from rotating when the thumb screw is tightened.



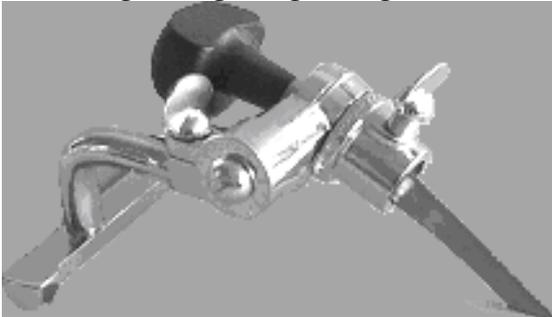
To insert the tool:

1. Loosen the thumb screw allowing the Clamping Insert to come out.
2. Place the top edge of the engraving tool into the large V groove of the clamping barrel.
3. Place the Clamping Insert into the barrel with its small V groove on the tool with the tool tip protruding 1" to 1 1/2".
4. Carefully tighten the thumb screw until the tool is firmly held in place.

Note how the Clamping Insert is placed just above the tool shank capturing the tool shank between the two V grooves in the photo on the left.

View from the other end shows the Clamping Insert in place with the tool point protruding

Installing a Large Engraving Tool



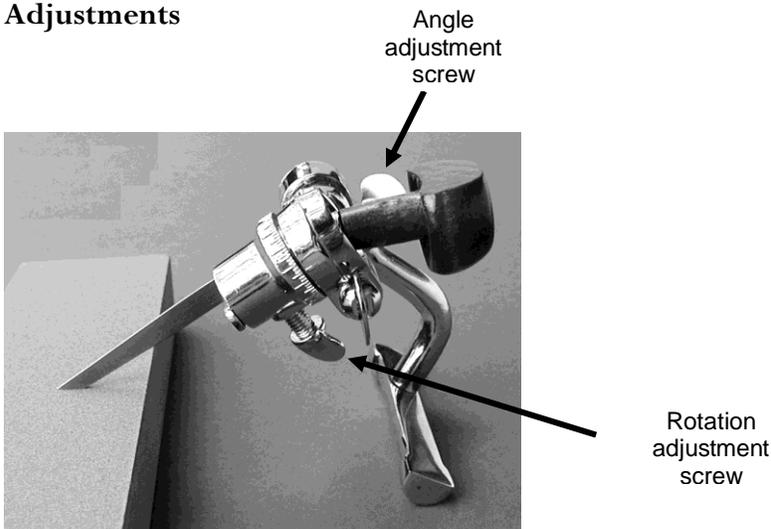
A larger tool, like an elliptic tint, can be held in the Clamping Barrel without the Clamping Insert.

This picture shows an elliptic tint tool held in the Clamping Barrel without using the Clamping Insert. It can be a little tricky to get the thumbscrew to center on the narrow edge of the tool's shank, but with a little patience you will be successful.

Hint: The tool does not have to be precisely aligned with the V groove on the inside of the Clamping Barrel so long as it is being held firmly.

Now the Crocker Sharpener is ready for final adjustments

Adjustments



Use the rotation and angle adjustments to align the flat face of the engraver with the flat plane of the sharpening stone.

There are two thumbscrews that can be loosened to either rotate the tool around the axis of the tool shank or to change the angle at which the tool face contacts the sharpening stone. Look at the tool tip very closely and make these adjustments until the entire face of the tool is resting flat on the surface of the stone. You may also have to loosen the Clamping Barrel thumbscrew to adjust how much the tool sticks out in order to reach a good alignment.

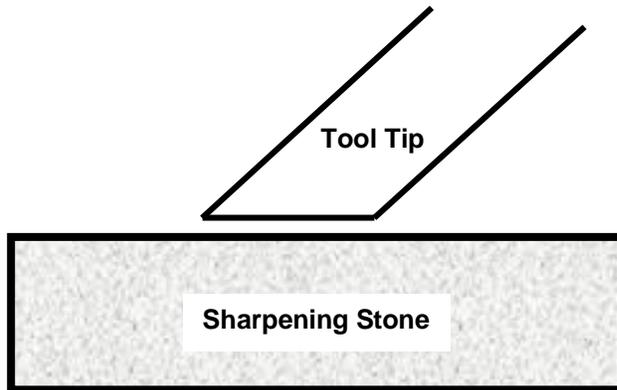


Diagram of the tool tip in alignment with the plane of the sharpening stone.

Sharpening

Tools can be sharpened using a medium stone first, followed by a fine stone. With the Crocker Sharpener on the table and the tool on the stone, slide the tool back and forth across the medium stone. Lift the tool off the stone frequently and check the tip. A magnifying lens is very useful for this.

If the tool tip looks faceted, the angle of the tip is not adjusted properly in the Crocker Sharpener. Re-adjust the tool until you can see that it is totally flat against the stone's surface. Use the medium stone again to reestablish a single facet before proceeding to the fine stone.

Once the tip of the tool has been reestablished and any rounded corners are gone switch to the fine stone. Repeat the back and forth motion with frequent inspections of the tip. Stop when it is flat, smooth and free of scratches. If you can see or feel a burr on the sides of the tip, a quick swipe on a piece of fine sandpaper will remove it. The edges of the tip should appear crisp and sharp.

If a groove begins to appear in the surface of the stone, reposition the tool on the stone, turn it over to sharpen on a fresh, flat surface. Once all usable positions begin to groove, re-flatten the stones by rubbing them together (with lots of water, if they are waterstones) until they are flat again.



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