

ARS AC-SS240 Whet Stone Sharpening Instructions

1. **Clean the blades.** All dirt, sap, and rust should be removed from the blades prior to sharpening. The ARS cleaner, AC-GO1, is excellent for removing dirt and sap. A wire brush or steel wool can be used to remove rust. Be sure to dry the blades.
2. **Sharpening.**
 - a. Be sure to use water or oil to wet the stone. Use enough to change the color of the stone (it will darken slightly). The stone works much better when wet, so make sure it does not dry during sharpening. Water and oil don't mix, so don't switch half way through. Some people recommend vegetable oil for the best performance. Water works just fine.
 - b. The key to good sharpening is matching the bevel angle of the cutting blade. Start with the stone at the back of the blade flat as flat as possible against the bevel. The stone is shaped to help this process. Thumb on the flat side, larger side next to the index finger for a curved pruner. Make confident, steady strokes towards the tip of the blade with the focus being to match the bevel angle during the whole stroke. The key is to find a way that allows you to match the bevel angle consistently. As the blade is sharpened, the bevel will change from dull to shiny. You may also notice any burrs or nicks being removed. The goal is to make the entire bevel of the blades shiny, usually about 5 to 10 strokes, depending on the motion used.
 - c. Flip the blades and remove any burrs that have built up on the flat side of the blade. Apply lighter strokes and do not attempt to put another edge on the back side of the blade. Try a practice cut, it should be a smooth clean cut without any stops or resistance during the cut. Also take a look at the counter blade to make sure there are not any chips or burrs that could be damaging the cutting blade (for bypass blades). If there are, use the same process above to remove them.
3. **Lubrication.** Apply machine oil to the entire blade area, especially any pivot areas. Wipe away any excess. Liquid Wrench and 3 in 1 both supply a basic machine oil that is available at a hardware store. Machine oil acts as a lubricate and rust preventative, which can help extend the life of the tool and improve operation.

Notes on disassembly. If you are working on ARS blade sets, you should only disassemble the blade sets if necessary. ARS uses much sharper bevel angles than competitors and hence maintaining proper torque is more important (i.e. overtorqued blade sets will cut into the counter blade and vice versa, destroying the blade sets). If the pivot bolt becomes loose or if dirt builds up, you should disassemble the blade sets, clean, sharpen, and then reassemble. Be careful on setting the torque to match the original smooth operation. If you have access to a torque wrench, call the manufacturer's agent for the recommended torque for the tool. 800-204-4769.