

# Veritas®

## Mortise Chisels

 **Caution:** Always wear safety glasses when using a chisel. Blade is **extremely sharp**. Handle with care. Cover blade when not in use.

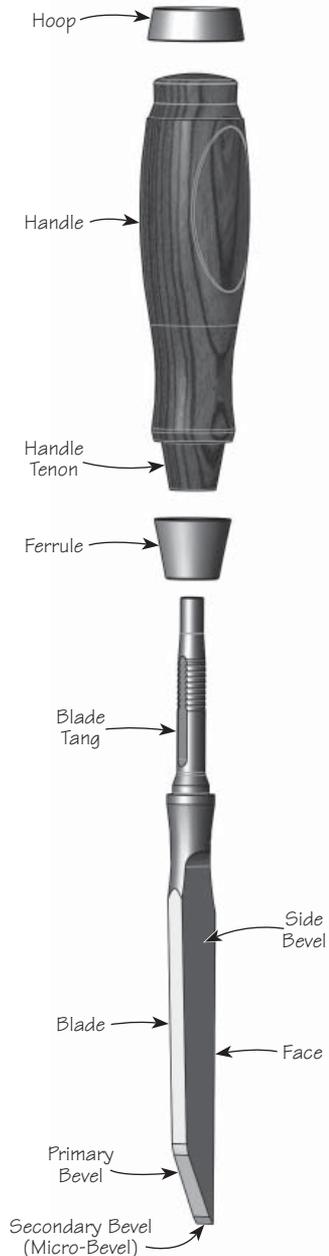
Mortise chisels are specialized chisels for chopping out a mortise. They are designed to withstand heavy blows with a mallet, and can be used for cutting directly across the grain, as well as for levering out waste material.

The Veritas® mortise chisels are robustly designed and manufactured to sustain the rigorous demands of cutting deep, narrow mortises. The sides are slightly bevelled, and the heel of the primary bevel is radiused to facilitate levering out waste. The face of the chisel blade is lapped flat to ensure it is smooth and true.

The blade is available in A2 or PM-V11® tool steel. Hardened to Rc60-62, A2 tool steel has good edge-holding characteristics when used with the high bevel angles that are suitable for high-impact use. Hardened to Rc60-63, PM-V11 tool steel offers superior edge retention, even when used on dense, abrasive woods, yet sharpens as easily as A2 tool steel.

### Construction

The blade-to-handle connection is made with a tang and a socket-like ferrule. The tang creates a solid connection that will not come loose in storage, while the tapered stainless-steel ferrule progressively tightens the joint as force is applied. The caramelized hard maple handle is capped with a stainless-steel hoop to withstand mallet work.



**Figure 1: Chisel construction.**

## Blade Bevels

Our mortise chisels have a 25° primary bevel for good wedging action when cutting deep mortises. The 35° secondary bevel provides good edge retention while withstanding the extreme stresses involved when cutting across the grain.

The bevel angle can (and should) be changed to suit the wood being worked.

All Veritas mortise chisels include a 1½" radius at the heel of the primary bevel, offering a fulcrum for levering out waste material. This radius should be maintained when grinding the primary bevel.

Please refer to references, such as *The Complete Guide to Sharpening* by Leonard Lee (The Taunton Press, Inc.), for more information regarding sharpening chisels.

As noted above, the faces of the mortise chisels are factory lapped to be flat within 0.0005". As such, no lapping is required by the user. At most, a fine polishing is all that should be done to this surface. Note that the flatness of these chisels is well within the tolerance of most commercially available straightedges.

## Breaking the Side Edges

The lapped face of the chisel blade is perfectly smooth and, as a result, the side edges of the chisel blade will be fairly sharp. For a mortise chisel, this is desirable as the sides of the chisel will clean up the side surfaces of the mortise in the process of cutting and levering out the waste.

That being said, you may want to lightly break the edges with a file or fine stone. However, **do not** ease the side edge all the way to the cutting edge. It is important to leave about 1" from the cutting edge as is, not only to preserve the full width of the cutting edge, but also to ensure a sharp corner on the chisel.

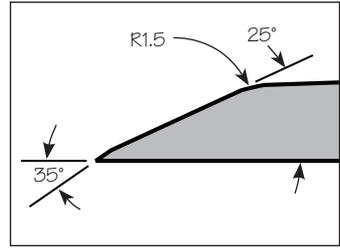


Figure 2: Bevel angles.

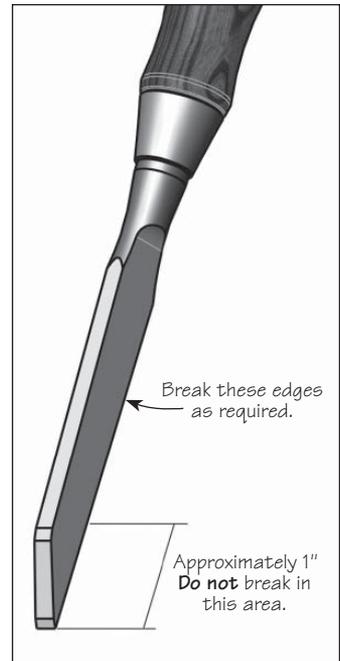


Figure 3: Breaking the side edges.

## Care and Maintenance

Chisels should always be properly stored to protect the blade edge from damage, as well as to protect the user.

While PM-V11 has excellent corrosion resistance, it is still a good idea to protect the blade from rust with a coat of silicone-free paste wax or other corrosion inhibitor.

## Accessories

- 05S31.02** 1/8" PM-V11® Mortise Chisel
- 05S31.04** 1/4" PM-V11® Mortise Chisel
- 05S31.05** 5/16" PM-V11® Mortise Chisel
- 05S31.06** 3/8" PM-V11® Mortise Chisel
- 05S31.08** 1/2" PM-V11® Mortise Chisel
- 05S32.02** 1/8" A2 Mortise Chisel
- 05S32.04** 1/4" A2 Mortise Chisel
- 05S32.05** 5/16" A2 Mortise Chisel
- 05S32.06** 3/8" A2 Mortise Chisel
- 05S32.08** 1/2" A2 Mortise Chisel

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