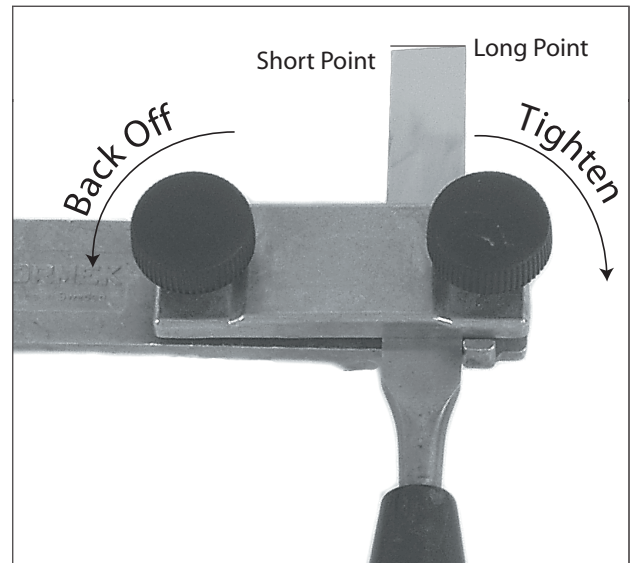


Probably the most common technical support issue we reply to is new TORMEK customers who think they have followed all the instructions, but still grind their chisels out of square. In this tech bulletin, we will graphically show you the problem faced by most folks, and detail the steps necessary to insure a square grind on your chisels and plane irons.

On page 45 of the Owner's Handbook (Edition 7.1), Torgny points out that the Universal Tool Support must be parallel to the grindstone. If it is not, then the ADV-50D Diamond Truing Tool should be used to cut the stone parallel and straight. He continues on page 46 to point out that the clamps have to be tightened so that the clamping bar holds the back of the chisel flat on the jig base and so that the clamping bar and the jig base are parallel to each other. This point is very easily over-looked by new owners, and is particularly critical. Additionally, if it appears that the clamping bar and the jig base are parallel, but the grind is still not square, several factors could be working against you. One is that the tool may not be perfectly parallel itself. Another is that you may be applying too much pressure to one side of the tool compared to the other while grinding. And finally, the amount of extra pressure on one clamp compared to the other may be hard to see with a visual inspection.

All of these problems can be overcome with a simple adjustment during the grinding process. Check the tool for square while it is still in the SVH-60 jig. If it is out of square, you will have a "long point" and a "short point". Release the clamping pressure on the short point side's clamp by 1/8 turn and tighten the clamping pressure on the long point side's clamp by an equal amount. Grind for a few more moments and check again. Re-adjust as necessary. Fine tuning the clamping pressure will compensate for a wide variety of problems.



While the process detailed above is generally the solution for chisels, often on plane irons the problem is less straightforward. The same precautions for clamping pressure are necessary, but with a relatively wide plane iron, it is less likely that excess pressure on one clamp or the other is the problem.

Out of square plane irons can usually be blamed on uneven pressure while grinding. It is best to keep a square handy while grinding plane irons and to check the squareness often. If you find the iron out of square, and you have checked the pressure to insure that the jig base and clamping bar are parallel, then you need to concentrate on keeping the pressure consistent on both sides of the iron. To correct for out of square grinds, slide the short point off the stone and spend more time on the long point. Be careful not to create a ridge, and blend the grind into a smooth cut all the way across the stone once the long point has been ground down to match the short point.