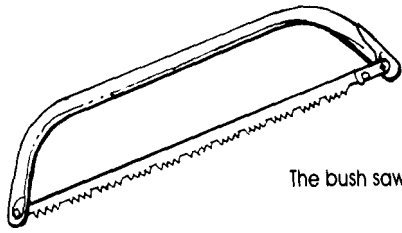


Saws



A bush saw will produce firewood more quickly with less effort and less waste than an axe. If there is a lot of wood to cut, a Scout on each end will whiz through it with ease.

With a bush saw, you will find it easier to cut firewood than with an axe. You will still need an axe to split it, but a bush saw will cut it to length faster and with less chips.

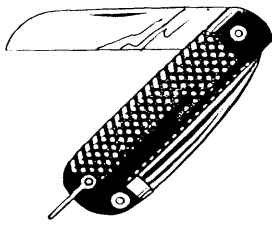
As with every other tool, you have to keep it sharp and look after it. It is fairly difficult to sharpen a bush saw, but new blades are very cheap and easily fitted. Make sure you wipe it dry after using it, and oil it before you put it away.

When using the bush saw, start very slowly, otherwise it may jump out of its groove and may easily cut you. Once the edge of the saw has a firm grip on the wood, you can go as fast as you like.

Because of the very coarse teeth, it can be a dangerous tool unless properly used. Keep your hands well away from the blade. Always make sure you are cutting away from your body, particularly your legs.

Remember also that it is quite an awkward shape, and do not leave it lying around on the ground or someone-even you-is likely to fall over it. When the saw is not being used, protect the blade (and yourself) by sliding a length of split hose over the teeth.

Knives



If knives are to be of any use at all, they must be kept sharp. Knives are needed to cut cords and lashings and wedges, and for various other purposes.

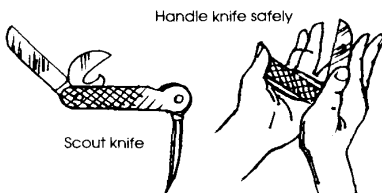
Keep it clean, dry and sharp. Do not use it on things that will dull or break it. Keep it off the ground - moisture and dirt will ruin it.

Keep it out of the fire - the heat draws the temper of the steel and makes the edge soft and useless. Wipe the blade clean after using it, then close the knife. Oil the joints and springs occasionally. Keep knives folded when not in use.

Do not throw or fool with knives; this is hard on knives - and people!

Safety rules apply just as much when using a knife as when using an axe. In particular, never cut towards your body when whittling, and always keep the knife in front of your knees when you are seated.

Scouts are not permitted to carry sheath knives.

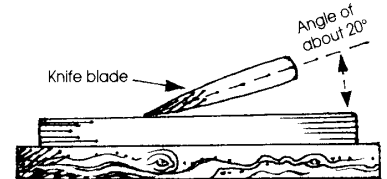
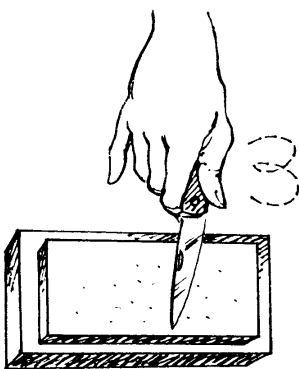


Sharpening your knife

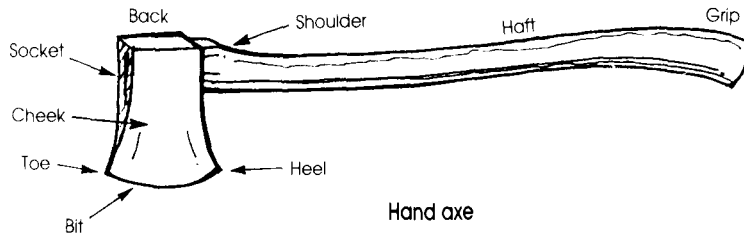
The keener the edge, the safer your knife. A dull knife is always dangerous, because it does not cut into the wood properly and therefore cannot be controlled. Also, a dull knife gives you a lot of extra work even if you do manage to whittle with it. Sharpen your knife on a dry sharpening stone.

When sharpening your knife, hold the blade of knife at an angle of 20° to 25° to the sharpening stone, and draw against the edge from heel to point. Do not lay the blade flat on stone, because this gives an edge too fine for general use.

After a few strokes on one side, turn the blade over and give it the same number of strokes. Continue back and forth until the edge is



Axes



For most of your requirements in camp, a hand axe or tomahawk is all you will require. A full-size or felling axe is necessary only if you are in heavily timbered country and have to clear an area.

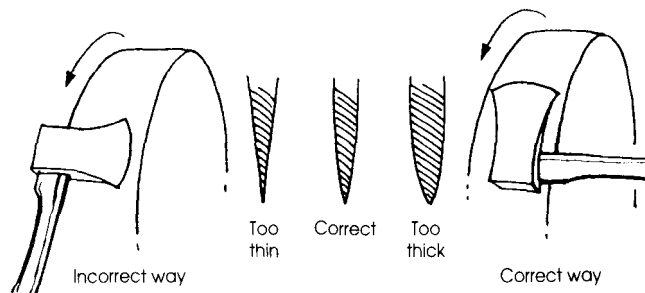
First of all, care must be exercised in the choice of an axe to see that the head is of good steel, and the haft is sound. What is known as the Canadian dog-legged

haft is most suitable, the wood used being ash or hickory. The head should be firm on the haft, the wedge solid and of one piece, and the axe true; that is, the edge of the blade should be in the same straight line as the centre of the haft.

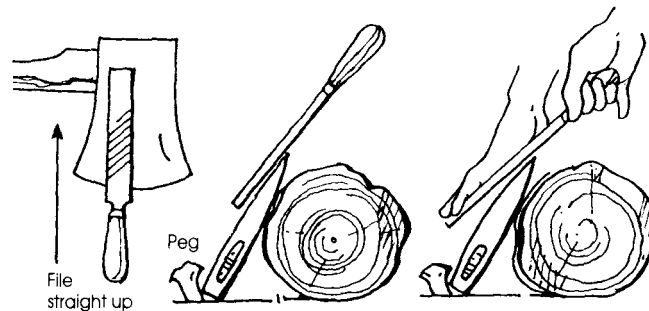
Hafts sometimes break, but spare hafts can always be obtained and inserted in the old head.

The edge of the axe is sharpened by grinding it on a grindstone. Thereafter, unless the axe has been abused, it should not require more than an occasional touching-up with a piece of carborundum stone, which is worked over the cutting edge with a circular motion. If the edge has been nicked, a flat file will have to be used, working from front to back, in order to take out the nick.

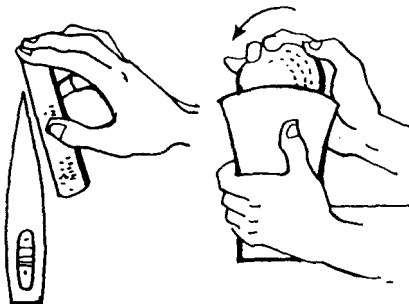
Sharpening an axe



This diagram shows how to use a grindstone to sharpen an axe.



This diagram shows how to use a file for sharpening.



This diagram shows how to use an axe stone for the final keen edge.

Care of an axe

Keep the edge or 'bit' sharp-sharp enough to bite!

Keep the handle tight-if it gets loose, drive the wedge in further. Some axes have a bonded head which is very much less likely to come loose. Do not let your axe touch the ground - driving it into the ground may nick it; leaving it on the ground will rust it.

Always have a chopping block under the wood you are chopping or splitting. When you have finished using your axe for a while, mask it in the chopping block. When you have finished with it for the time being, put it in its sheath.

Rub the head of your axe with oil to stop it rusting, and rub a little raw linseed oil on the handle from time to time.

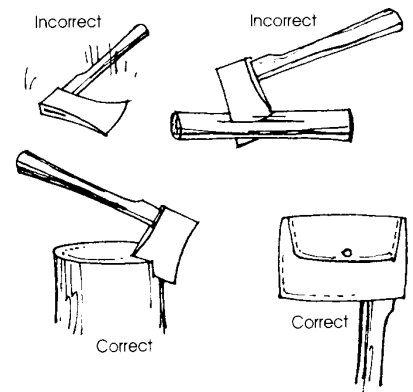
Never touch a living tree with an axe unless you have permission to do so and you have a definite use for its wood.

When an axe is being stored away, the haft should be oiled, and the head greased and wrapped in sacking. It will then be ready for use at any moment after the oil and grease have been wiped off.

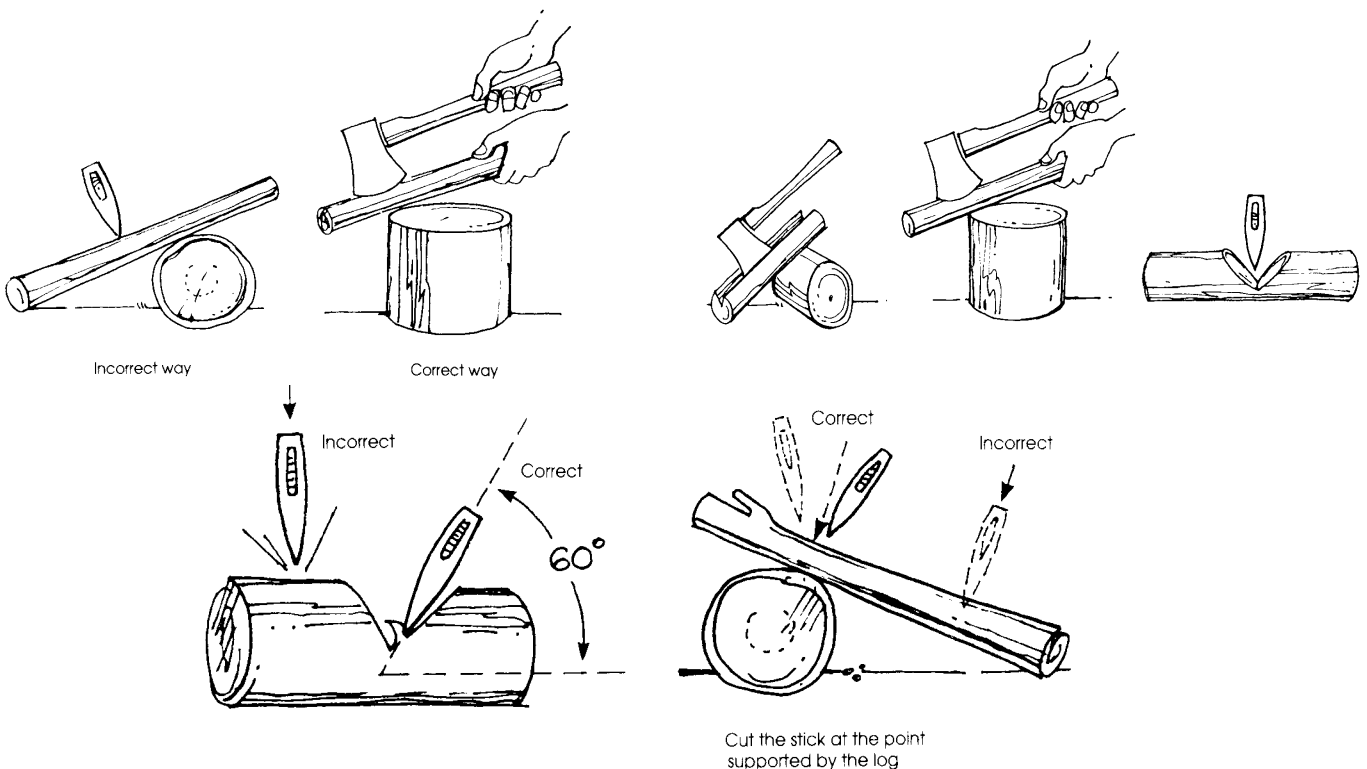
Safety rules

Remember always that an axe improperly used is a very dangerous tool.

- See that the axe head is tight.
- See that the edge of the axe is sharp.
- Sheath the axe when not in use.
- Keep onlookers at a safe distance-at least two axe lengths clear.
- Clear overhanging branches of nearby trees or bushes.
- Secure a firm footing-always wear boots or shoes.
- Remove your scarf and loose clothing.
- Stop and rest when tired.



Using a hand axe



- Always use a chopping block.
- Never cut unsupported wood.
- For thick pieces, cut a 'V' notch. The top of the V should be as wide as the branch is thick.
- Do not use an axe as a mallet for knocking in tent pegs and the like; in particular, using the face of the axe as a mallet is dangerous and bad for the axe.