

# 2



## Adjustable block plane

**Best at:** Shaping curves and chamfers, smoothing small surfaces, trimming dovetails, and cutting end grain

**Model shown:** Lie-Nielsen No. 60½

**Also available new:** Veritas makes a nice version of this low-angle, adjustable-throat plane. Stanley continues to make the classic 60½.



**A champ at profiling.** The block plane's small size gives it great flexibility in cutting chamfers or custom rounded profiles.

**T**his plane, patterned after the Stanley No. 60½, is another tool to keep within easy reach. Like the No. 4, it can be adjusted for rough or fine work, and it does a multitude of things well.

I like this plane for the precise trimming of small surfaces, such as where stile and rail meet on a frame. In similar fashion, I keep the No. 60½ handy when sizing small parts because it can take fine shavings from edges too narrow for larger planes.

For these reasons, the 60½ is perfect for the very exact business of sizing inlays and trimming them flush after glue-up, where the grain might be going in many

directions. For the smoothest cutting in these situations, you need a plane with a throat that can be adjusted to the thickness of a piece of thin paper.

The block plane is also the best tool for trimming dovetail pins flush after glue-up. Because the plane cuts at a low angle, much like a paring chisel, it is ideal for cutting end grain smoothly.

This plane is also excellent for shaping wood, giving you great flexibility when cutting tapered chamfers or rounded edges. In contrast to a router setup, the block plane lets you refine or alter a profile easily as you go.



**Trim dovetails perfectly flush.** A low-angle block plane can bring the end grain of the pins flush with the surface of a drawer side.