

**Sawing – Course: Manual woodworking techniques. Trainees'
handbook of lessons**

Table of Contents

<u>Sawing – Course: Manual woodworking techniques. Trainees' handbook of lessons</u>	1
1. <u>The Purpose of Sawing</u>	1
2. <u>The Basic Construction of Sawing Tools</u>	1
3. <u>Types of Saws</u>	4
4. <u>Sharpening of Sawing Tools</u>	7
5. <u>Working Rules for Sawing of Wooden Materials</u>	10

Sawing – Course: Manual woodworking techniques. Trainees' handbook of lessons

Institut für berufliche Entwicklung e.V.
Berlin

Original title:
Arbeitsmaterial für den Lernenden
“Sägen”

Author: Fritz Dienemann

First edition © IBE

Institut für berufliche Entwicklung e.V.
Parkstraße 23
13187 Berlin

Order No.: 93–35–3302/2

1. The Purpose of Sawing

Sawing means to separate wood and wood-based materials by cutting in a thin saw kerf.

We distinguish between

- sawing across the grain (cross cutting)
- sawing with the grain (ripping)
- curving and
- sawing for making wood joints.

2. The Basic Construction of Sawing Tools

During sawing particles are removed by the sawing teeth in a saw kerf.

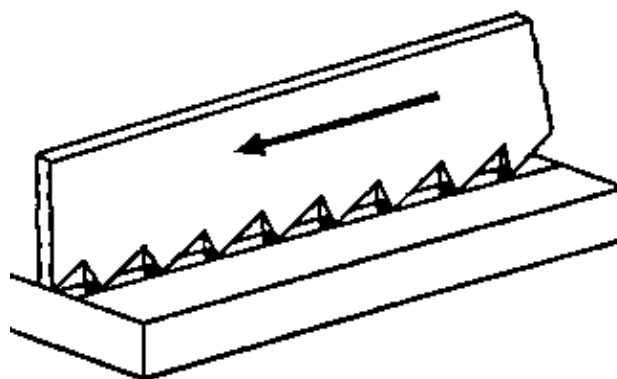


Figure 1 Cutting by saw teeth

Many triangular sawing teeth placed one after the other cut the wooden material.

Which parts does the sawing blade consist of?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

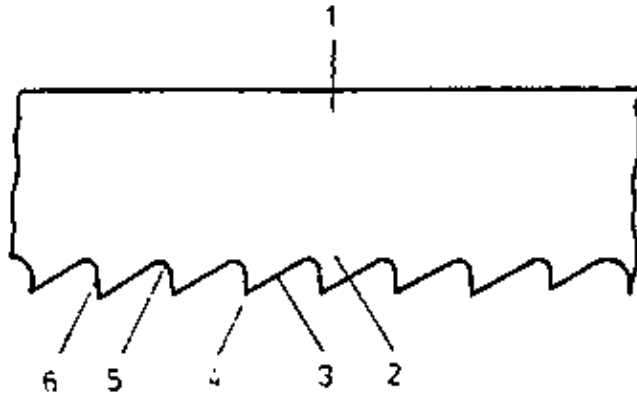


Figure 2 Parts of the saw blade

1 saw blade, 2 saw tooth, 3 tooth space, 4 tooth point, 5 tooth gullet, 6 tooth face

The angle between

- the tooth face and
- the top line of teeth (breast) is responsible for the cutting efficiency of the different types of saws. This angle is called
- cutting angle.

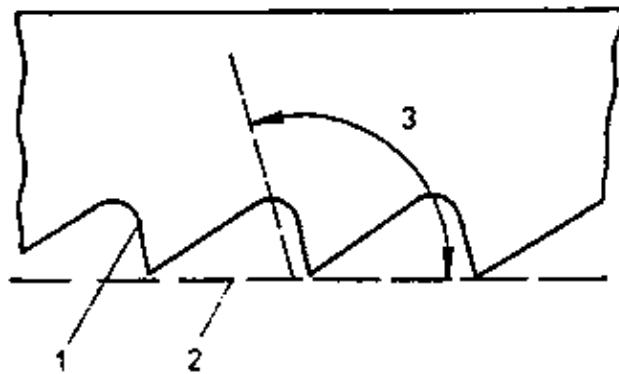


Figure 3 Cutting angle

1 tooth face, 2 tooth top line, 3 cutting angle

For manual sawing the following types of teeth are used:

- The teeth are arranged for push-type cutting
 - the cutting angle is 90°
 - cutting is effected in pushing direction only
 - high effort is necessary
 - *well* suitable for sawing of wood *with* the grain
 - *not* suitable for sawing of wood *across* the grain and of chipboards.

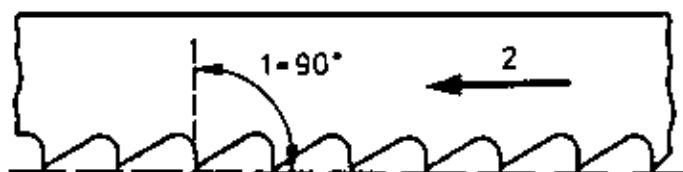


Figure 4 Push-type cutting teeth

1 cutting angle at 90° , 2 cutting is effected in pushing direction

- The teeth are arranged for push-and-pull type cutting
 - the cutting angle is larger than 90°
 - cutting is effected in pushing direction and scraping in the opposite direction
 - low effort is necessary
 - well suitable for sawing of wood *across* the grain
 - when sawing wood *with* the grain there is a low cutting efficiency

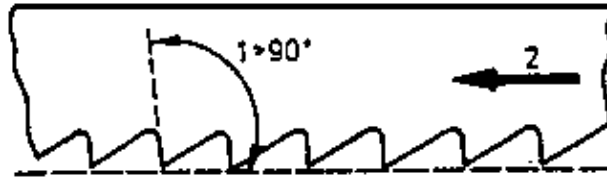


Figure 5 Push-and-pull type cutting teeth

1 cutting angle larger than 90° , 2 cutting is effected in pushing direction

How do hand saws work?

The teeth of the saw blade are bent alternately to the left and to the right of the saw teeth top line to avoid jamming of the saw in the wood during sawing.

- This bending of the teeth is called setting.
- Set saws make it possible for the saw blade to move freely in the kerf.



Figure 6 Set teeth

- The kerf is wider than the saw blade's thickness.

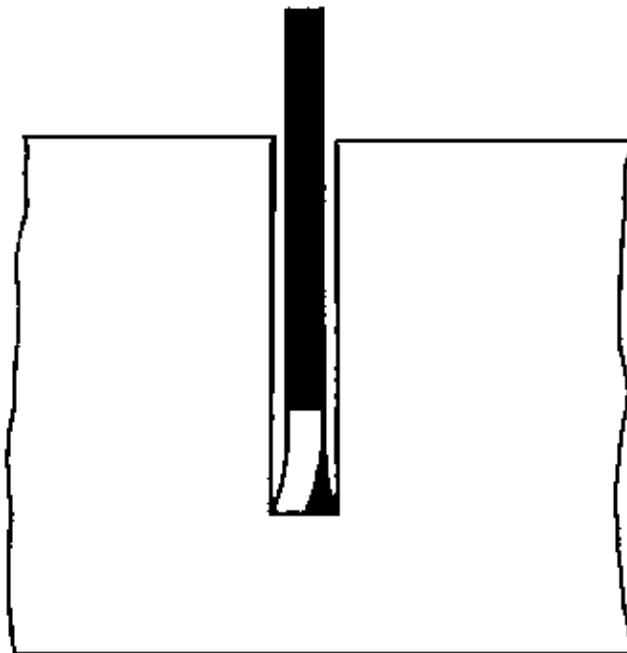


Figure 7 Saw blade with kerf

What are the reasons for jamming of saws in the wood?

3. Types of Saws

Different sawing tools are applied for the different requirements in manual woodworking and are divided into the groups of frame saws and frameless saws.

Frame saws

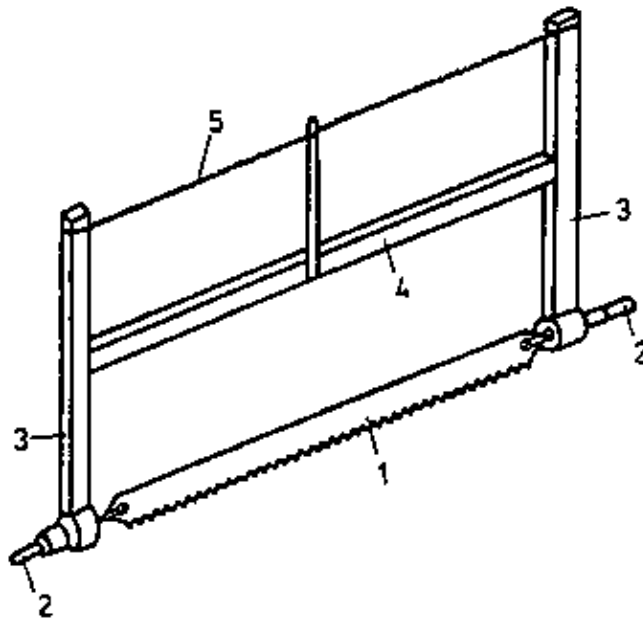


Figure 8 Frame saw

1 saw blade, 2 saw knobs, 3 saw arms, 4 stretcher, 5 tensioning device

The parts of a frame saw are called:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- Frame saws are applicable for nearly all processes in manual woodworking.
- The necessary tension of the saw blade in the frame is reached with the help of the saw arms, the saw knobs, the stretcher and the tensioning device.
- The saw blade can be fixed in any position to the arms.

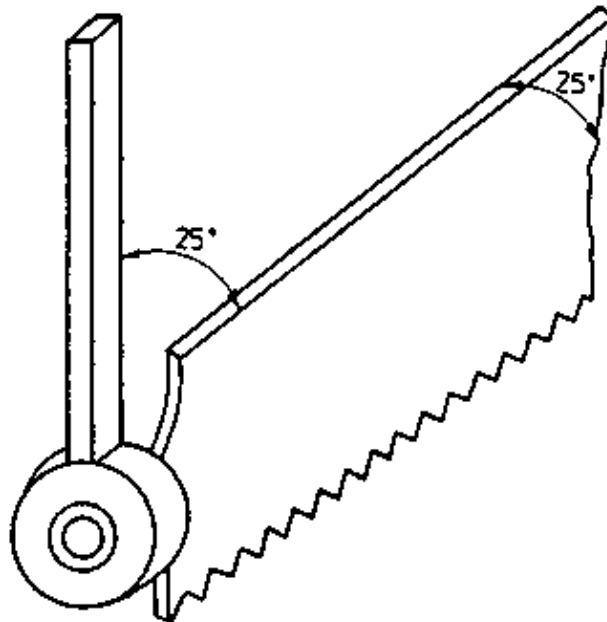


Figure 9 Adjustable saw blade

– In frame saws there can be clamped saw blades with *push-type* or *push-and-pull type* cutting teeth.

List 1 shows frame saws with their features and application.

Table 1: Frame saws with their features and application

Designation	Features	Application
Ripping saw	– cutting angle – 90°	– cuts with the grain
	– tooth depth = 5 mm	– edging and dividing of boards
	– coarse cuts	
	– works fast	
Cross-cut saw	– cutting angle = 120°	– cuts across the grain
	– tooth depth = 5 mm	– cutting to length
	– coarse cuts	
	– works fast	
Slitting saw	– cutting angle = 100°	– short and precise cuts with the grain
	– tooth depth = 3 mm	
	– precise cuts with the grain	– slitting
Fine tooth wood saw	– cutting angle = 110°	– fine cross cuts
	– tooth depth – 2 mm	– cutting of steps
	– precise cuts	
Fret saw (turning saw)	– cutting angle = 110°	– cuts in all directions
	– tooth depth = 2 mm	– cutting of bends
	– blade width = 10 mm	– cutting of curves

– the saw blade can be unhinged

What kind of cuts in wood are saws with *push-and-pull* type teeth especially suitable for?

Frameless saws

Frameless saws consist of a saw blade and a handy grip. The saw blade has a sufficient stability or it is provided with a back support. Form and size of the saw blade as well as the tooth form are determined by its application. Table 2 shows frameless saws with their features and application.

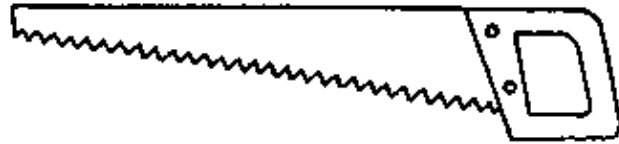


Figure 10 Cross-cut saw

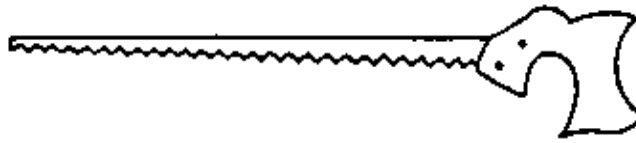


Figure 11 Compass saw

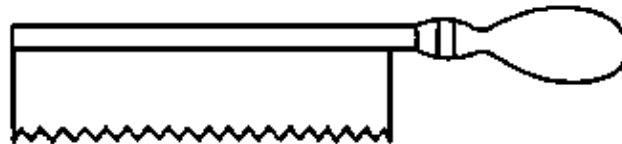


Figure 12 Fine saw

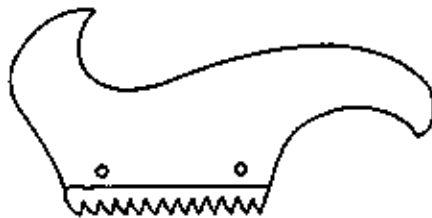


Figure 13 Arris saw

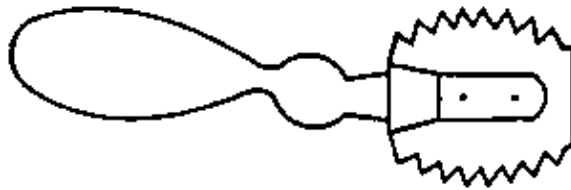


Figure 14 Veneer saw

Table 2 Frameless saws with their features and application

Designation	Features	Application
Cross-cut saw	– trapezoidal saw blade	– for smaller sawing cuts
	– tooth depth = 3...5 mm	– for cutting of panels
Compass saw	– narrow, pointed saw blade	– cutting out openings
Fine saw	– right-angled saw blade	– cutting of strips (fillets)
	– tooth depth = 1.5 mm	– bevel cuts (mitre cuts)

Arris saw (Grooving hand saw)	– the blade's back is tightly screwed in the wooden grip	– cutting in grooves
	– pull-type cutting	
Veneer saw	– saw blade with double tooth shape	– sawing of veneer

4. Sharpening of Sawing Tools

Only with perfect and sharp saws you can cut quickly, easily and precisely. Blunt saws make the job more difficult and cause a bad cutting quality.

The sharpening of saws is to be divided into the following steps:

- fasten the saw blade in the clamping device (hand vice)
- check the tooth top line and, if necessary, adjust it
- thereafter file out ground teeth
- set the teeth, i.e. the teeth are bent alternately
- sharpen the saw (file the teeth)

First set the teeth and then file!

Sequence of operations

- Check the tooth top line; examine the tooth top line for straightness or standing out tooth points.

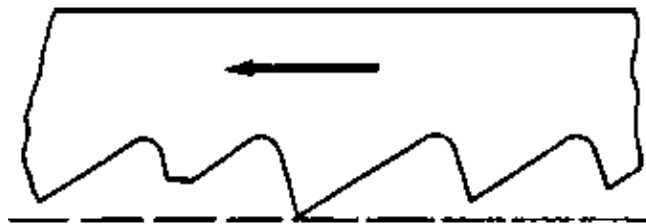


Figure 15 Unequal tooth points

- If there are standing out tooth points adjust them with a flat file.

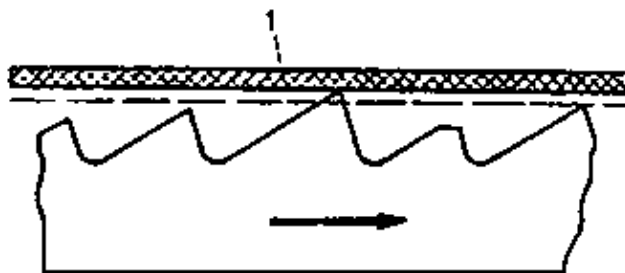


Figure 16 Adjusting the tooth points

1 flat file

- When adjusting smaller teeth file out with a three-square file.

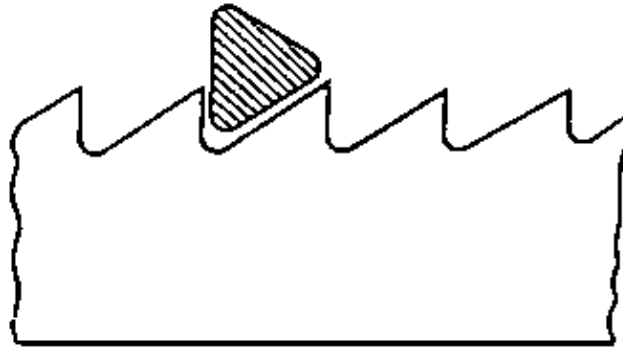


Figure 17 Filing out the tooth spaces

– Setting of the teeth

With an alternately lateral bending of the saw teeth out of the tooth top line a free cutting action of the saw is achieved.

Saws can be set with

- a saw set or
- a saw set plier.

With a saw set you set by bending off the upper part of the tooth.

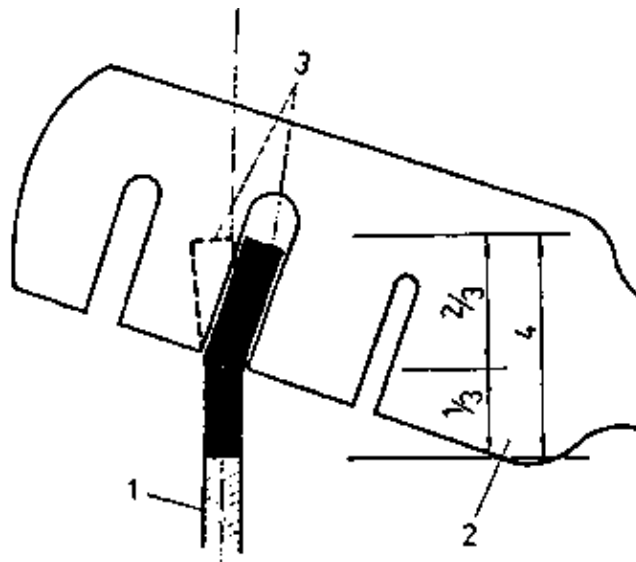


Figure 18 Saw set

1 saw blade, 2 saw set, 3 bent saw teeth, 4 saw tooth length

With a saw set plier saws are set more uniformly. The width of set can be adjusted with an adjusting screw on the plier.

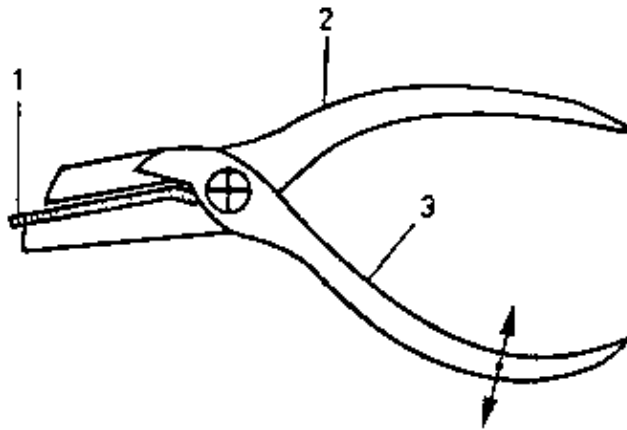


Figure 19 Saw set plier

1 saw blade, 2 stationary lever of the plier, 3 movable lever which bends the saw tooth to the desired set width

What tools are saws set with before being filed?

– Sharpening of the saw (filing of the teeth)

- Select a three–square file with a cross–section that is equal to the form of the tooth space.
- Guide the file at right angles to the saw blade and file the tooth face and the tooth back at the same time.
- Sharpen all teeth with the same number of file strokes.. Badly filed teeth are sharpened again with a few file strokes.

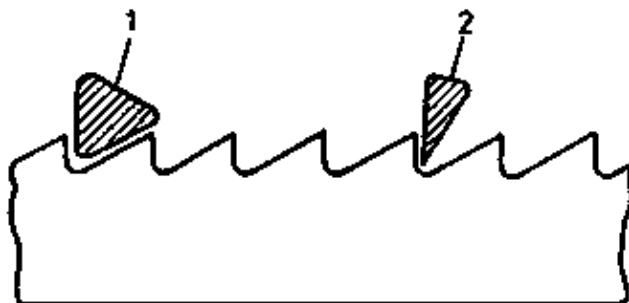


Figure 20 Cross–section of a file

1 correct cross–section, 2 wrong cross–section

Why must the file always fill out the whole tooth space?

Files must have a tight–fitting handle in order to avoid injuries. Sticking dirt has to be removed with a solvent from the file.

What mistakes have been made with this useless and badly filed saw?

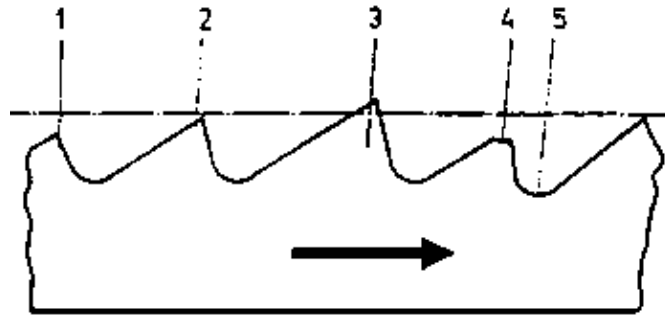


Figure 21 Badly filed saw teeth

1 correct tooth form, 2 tooth point too low, 3 tooth point too high, 4 broken-off tooth, 5 tooth space distance too much

1. Correct tooth form _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

5. Working Rules for Sawing of Wooden Materials

- Selection of the appropriate saw.
- Checking the saw for serviceability.
- The thumb of the left hand supports the correct placing of the saw close to the scribed line.
- With the first cut draw back the sawing tool at an acute angle.

Be careful with the first cut, avoid stumbling of the saw – risk of injury!

- Firm stand, body at rest, only arm work out of the shoulder joint.
- Move the sawing tool smoothly, slightly pushing it forward and drawing it back without pressure. Relax the arm and use the total blade length.
- Guide the saw blade vertically along the scribed line when sawing curves and sawing with the grain with the ripping saw, otherwise guide it along the scribed line at an acute angle to the surface of the workpiece.
- Use the full length of the saw blade.
- When the cutting through is nearly finished the left hand grips over the cut so that the falling piece will not break off. Lift both the parts a bit.
- Pay attention to the working data.
- Check the workpieces for wood defects and woodworking errors.

Badly placed cuts can be hardly corrected during sawing. Frame saws are stored unclamped and in hanging position after end of work.

Why must the full saw blade length be used when sawing?

Why must the saws always be placed on the opposite side of the marking?
