

How to use the peening anvil

1) Assembly

- 1-- Figure 1.1 shows the five parts of the anvil: supporting table with nut, supporting arm, anvil, guide plate (for beginners) and an allen screw.
- 2-- Fix the table to the supporting arm and tighten the nut below.
- 3-- Fit the guide plate around the anvil, as shown in dir picture at the bottom of page 4.
- 4-- Secure the components together, by screwing the Allen bolt into the arm, as shown in figure 1.2.



Figure 1.1



Figure 1.2

2) Fixing onto a wood trestle

- 1-- You will need to fix in a secure wooden block, or a "peening horse": a solid trestle consisting of a place to sit and a raised plinth to hold the anvil. The tapered leg of the anvil should be inserted into a hole drilled with a diameter of about 11mm and a depth of about 50mm.
- 2-- Position the anvil so that it is leaning slightly towards the seat (figure 2.1) Sitting an the wood trestle in peening position the extension of the hammer guiding arm should make up a right angle to the anvil head (= anvil peen).
- 3-- Gently hammer the anvil into the hole holding a piece of wood to protect the anvil head (figure 2.2). If you strike the anvil directly with the hammer, the surface of the anvil may be damaged.
- 4-- The top of the anvil head should be approximately level with your knees. This means you can use your knees or thighs as additional support for longer scythe blades.



Figure 2.1



Figure 2.2

3) Preparing the blade for penning

- 1-- File away any cracks and roughness from the cutting edge with a fine file for metal. The prepared edge should be even and smooth, with no jagged angles or protrusions (figure 3.1).
- 2-- The beveled area which tapers down to the cutting edge is called peening zone; it can vary from 1mm to 6mm wide. Clean a strip along the edge, at least 6mm wide. Both sides of the blade should be cleaned (figure 3.2 and figure 3.3).
- 3-- The cleaner and more even you can make the peening zone, the easier it will be to see where your hammer is striking when you are peening. You may detect minor cracks in the cutting edge, which you should file away before peening.



Figure 3.1



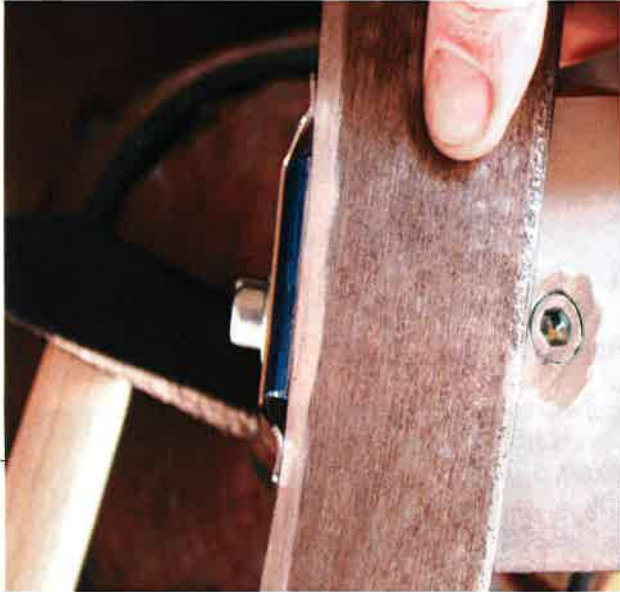
Figure 3.2



Figure 3.3

4) How to hold the blade on the anvil

- 1-- When peening, the cutting edge of the blade must sit exactly in the centre of the highest point of the anvil. Adjust the position of the table so that the blade can be held at 90 degrees to the vertical axis of the anvil, then tighten the nut to hold it firmly in place.



- 2-- The guide Plate has to be adjusted to accommodate the curve of the scythe blade. This is carried out by bending it slightly with pliers.
- 3-- The guide plate is an additional aid for beginners. It restricts the peening zone to about 1-2 mm maximum. With practice, the plate can be removed and the blade guide freehand, allowing a wider peening zone.



- 4-- The following pictures illustrate incorrect positioning of the scythe on the anvil.

Supporting Table too high.

Supporting Table too low.



Cutting edge extends too far beyond the middle of the anvil.

Cutting edge falls short of the middle of the anvil.



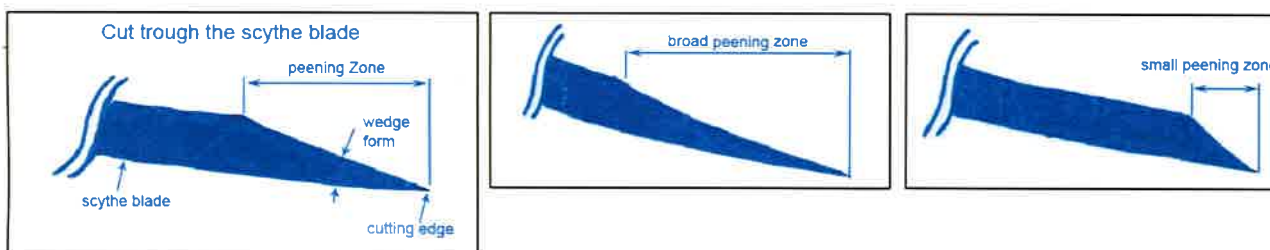
5) The hammer

- 1-- The hammer should weigh 500 – 800 grams.
- 2-- The faces of the hammer and the anvil must be slightly cambered and polished.
- 3-- To achieve good peening results they should be free from grooves, dents and irregularities.
- 4-- From time to time the faces of the hammer and the anvil should be cleaned with the abrasive pad. Grinding or heavy sanding may be necessary if the camber has been flattened or damaged.

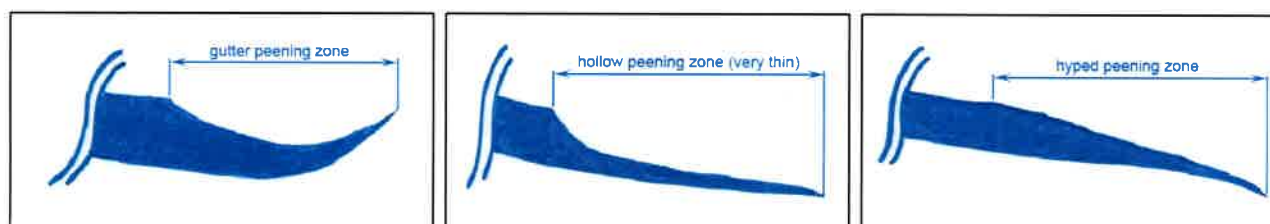


6) The peening zone

- 1-- The peening zone can vary in width, from as little as 1mm to as much as 6mm of the scythe's cutting edge.
- 2-- The cross section of the peening zone is tapered from scythe thickness down to about 0.15mm at the cutting edge.



- 3-- A typical peening zone has a width of about 2.5mm, a wide one approximately 5.0mm and a narrow one about 1.5mm.
- 4-- The following 3 figures show cross- sections of peening zones which have been poorly peened, making mowing difficult.



7) Peening the scythe

- 1-- Hold the edge of the blade firmly on the middle of the anvil.
- 2-- Tap the scythe blade with the hammer in the middle of the anvil with moderate force. Use a wrist action with a bit of spring in it.
- 3-- The hammer face should not be tilted but always hit the blade square on.





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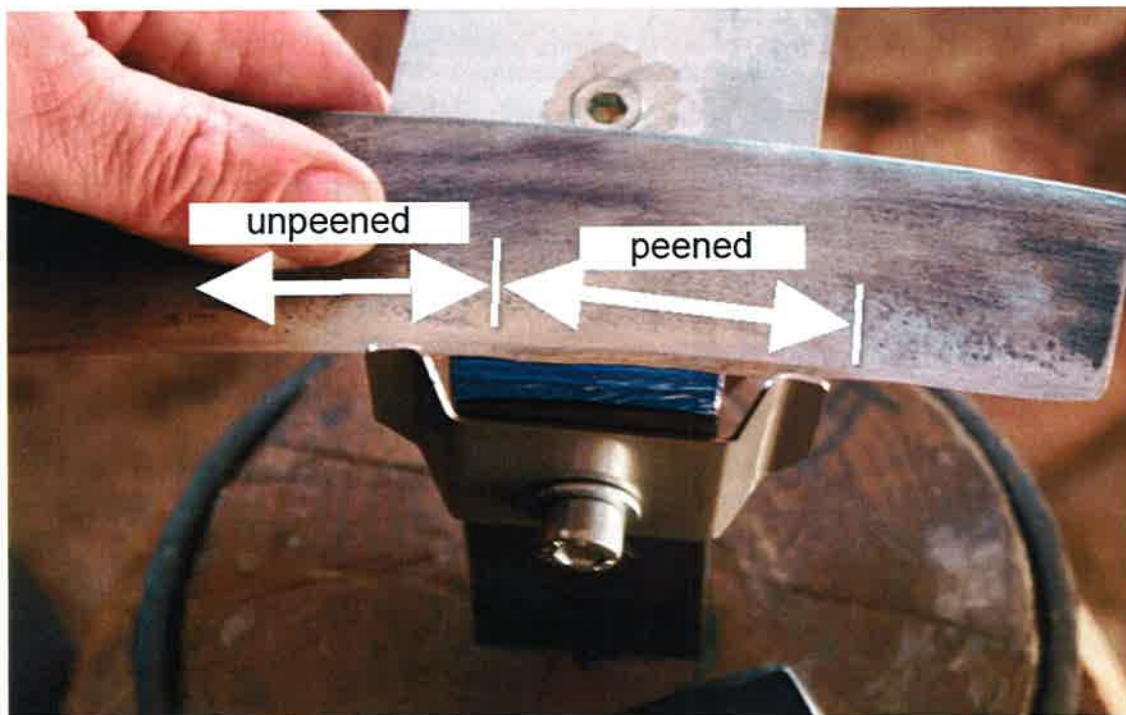
Franz de Paul Schröckenfux Gesellschaft m.b.H. Roßleithen
Sensen- und Mähmesserwerk, A-4575 Roßleithen 72

Telefon 07562/6111-0 • Telefax 07562/6111-57
e-mail: rossleithen@schroeckenfux.at • www.schroeckenfux.at

4-- The following figures show wrong hammer positions!



- 5-- Strike only within the narrow zone close to the cutting edge. If you peen too far back into the scythe blade, it can cause it to buckle and the scythe will become unusable!
- 6-- Work along the blade edging it forward a millimeter or two at a time with each hammer blow. Every blow should slightly overlap the previous one, progressively squeezing out the metal and making it thinner.
- 7-- It is better to peen lightly the full length of the scythe blade, and then return to do another or several more passes. If you completely peen one short section of the blade before moving on the next, high tensions can occur within this zone, and cause cracks..
- 8-- If the hammer face (and peening zone) is well sanded and polished you should be able to so see the marks made by each hammer blow. In the figure below you can see an length of the blade that has just been peened.



Schröckenfux wishes you a keen edge, a clean cut, and many hours of enjoyable scything!