**Common Chiseling Techniques**

**Cutting with the Tool Perpendicular or at an Angle to the Work**

The most important consideration is to position yourself so you can see the profile of the tool and determine if it is indeed at 90° to your work.

**Paring with the Face Flat Against the Work**

When paring, it's typically best to use one hand to steer the blade and the other to push the tool into the cut. This gives you control and power.

**Useful Chisel Sizes**

**First Buy a Set of Five Bevel-Edge Chisels**

- **1/8”** — Invaluable for cleaning out waste in tight spaces between dovetails.
- **1/4”** — Many grooves in frame-and-panel work are 3/8” wide, so this is an ideal size to use to clean them up.
- **3/8”** — Mortises in 5/8” material are typically 5/8” or 7/8” wide, so the 7/8” chisel is useful for cleaning out corners and waste.
- **1/2”** — Good for cleaning out hinge mortises.
- **3/4”** — Good for paring and some scraping.

**Then Buy**

- **5/16” Bevel-Edge** — If your work uses 5/8”-thick material, this will prove useful for cleaning out mortises.
- **5/8”-7/8” Bevel-Edge** — Intermediate sizes for hinge mortises, paring and scraping.
- **1/4”-3/8” Mortising** — If you’re a hand-tool woodworker, these two sizes will handle most of your mortising needs.

**Common Sharpening Angles**

- **20° Bevel** — Paring only.
- **25° Bevel** — General purpose, paring and light chopping.
- **30° to 35° Bevel** — Mortising and heavy chopping.