

TALKING SHOP

HOW TO BUY PLYWOOD

Plywood is one of the handiest materials for a handy man to have around the workshop. It comes in large sheets, fast and relatively easy to handle. It is very strong, of uniform thickness, and gives smooth results even when it is used by an unskilled man.

There are two general types - interior plywood, which is highly moisture resistant, and exterior plywood, which is so waterproof you can boil it without making it separate. Both types are made mainly of fir, although they are also available in redwood and a wide variety of hardwood veneers.

The higher grades of plywood are made in widths of 30, 36, 42, and 48 inches and in lengths from 5 to 12 feet at 1-foot intervals. Lower grades are made in fewer sizes, but all include the standard 4 x 8 panel. Special panels are available in widths to 6 feet sanded or 8 feet unsanded. Long lengths of 14, 16, 20 and 24 feet can be obtained for porch decking and exterior use. You can use plywood for a wide range of construction jobs, from renovation of shops to shelters on the golf course.

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AERIFIER MAINTENANCE

Satisfactory operation of any machine depends upon the condition of the machine as well as the skill of the operator. Sensible routine care also prolongs the useful life of equipment. Most greenkeeping superintendents are aware of these facts and strive to have an orderly, well-equipped shop for maintenance and repairs, instead of just a barn or shed for equipment storage.

The Aerifier was designed to provide for easy maintenance as well as easy operation. Nevertheless, some care is required to keep the implement in A-1 condition. One of the most important things to insure good operation, whether your Aerifier is the F-G or the G-L model, is prompt replacement of broken or bent spoons. When a spoon strikes a rock and is broken off, then undue strain is placed upon spoons near it which will cause them to bend or break, also. It's an economy to replace broken spoons immediately. Results of using the machine are not as satisfactory if it is operated with badly bent spoons, as the bent spoons will not allow other spoons to penetrate the soil properly. When replacing spoons, the special lock nuts should be fastened securely with a wrench, but avoid taking up on the nut so much that the spoon is flattened.

When using the Aerifier for the first time after a period of storage, run

several trial strips to clean off the spoons before taking the machine on a green. Rusty spoons don't give best results. Some superintendents grease the spoons before putting the aerifier into storage for the winter.

Keep the disc assembly well-greased. This applies to both the F-G and the self-powered G-L model Aerifier. Soil is gritty, and regular greasing is necessary to prevent damage to the Oilite bearings. Greasing should be done after about eight hours operation. The G-L Aerifier has an extra long Oilite pressed-in bearing at each end of the disc assembly. There is a standard pressure type grease fitting in the center of the reel. Enough grease should be pumped in to flush out dust and grime from the bearings. On the F-G model Aerifier each disc is mounted on its own Oilite bearing. There are individual grease fittings, instead of just one fitting in the center of the reel.

F-G model Aerifier wheel bearings should be packed with grease twice a year. This also applies to G-L model Aerifiers which are not equipped with Alemite bearings.

"I've Got A Million Tricks to show you Fellows."



TOM MASCARO

G-L Aerifier Only

The drive chain of the G-L model Aerifier can be run without lubrication. However, it should be washed with kerosene after eight hours running time.

The pillow block assembly should be greased once a month.

Engine maintenance should be done in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

F-G Aerifier Only

The trunnion assembly--screw, chanel and screw block- should be greased adequately to afford easy operation.

Never use brake fluid in the hydraulic unit on the F-G Aerifier. Its use will deteriorate parts of the unit, thereby causing the cylinders to leak. Obtain the proper oil for this unit. For

greater operating convenience, the hydraulic pump can be mounted on the tractor within easy reach of the tractor driver. Flexible hose and double-seal couplings for this installation are available.

Yours for better aerifying,
TOM MASCARO

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HOW TO BE HANDY WITH A HACK SAW

For hard cutting, your No. 1 tool is the hack saw. Start to repair a child's wagon, weatherstrip the front door, or get out a rusted bolt, and soon you need a hack saw to cut iron, brass, lead, rope, or plastic.

You can get a hack saw for 80 cents, or you can pay up to \$3.00 for the best of heat-treated spring steel.

Get one adjustable for the three standard blade lengths - 8, 10 and 12 inches and one with two blade positions so you can cut up or down, right or left. Look for a pistol-grip handle; it's easier to control and less tiring to use. In the long run, you'll find it worthwhile to get one with chromium plating to eliminate rust.

To cut anything and be brighter than a lot of people are about it, always put the blade in the frame with the teeth pointing away from the handle.

Tighten the wing-nut adjustment until the blade is rigid in the frame. Insufficient tension will let the blade twist, bend, jam, cut crooked, and break. Too much tension will break the blade at end holes. As your blade grows duller, increase the pressure to keep it cutting rather than rubbing,

You don't have to oil the blade, but don't make more than 40 or 50 strokes a minute. If you work too fast, you may generate heat enough to draw the temper out of the blade and ruin it. The harder the metal, the slower you should make your stroke. Hack saws won't cut the hardest of tempered steels. Before you ruin a blade, if you think the metal may be too hard, test it with the very front or rear teeth.

If you break the blade and have to finish a cut with a new blade, don't insert the new blade in the old cut. Turn the metal over and start a new cut that will come out through the old one. New blades cut a wider slot than old ones; hence new blades in old slots will jam, may break.

After a cut is started, saw with both hands. Bear down enough to keep saw cutting. Too little pressure lets teeth slide and dulls them; too much strips teeth, hastens wear, makes for crooked cuts, may break blade. Make stroke steady, straight, long enough to use

all the teeth. Blade doesn't cut on backstroke; lift it slightly to avoid dulling.

To start a cut accurately, nick the surface to be cut with a file, then start the blade in the nick. Or use your thumb to guide blade until it's cutting where you want it. Bear down enough so saw bites into metal immediately. The teeth are dulled by riding over the metal without cutting.

Don't start a cut on a sharp or narrow edge of metal. You'll have too few teeth in contact with metal, may strip them off. So never mount a flat metal strip vertically in your vise and start sawing straight across the thinnest part, it is one sure way to ruin the blade. Instead, start with the blade at a slight angle to a flat surface. Continue to cut slantwise across the flat of the metal. That lets more saw teeth engage the metal, and makes it easier to follow a straight line. And you won't ruin the blade of the saw.

Blades have 14, 18, 24 or 32 teeth per inch. Best blade for general use is the 18-tooth one. For thin material, use the 32-tooth blade, so at least three consecutive teeth touch at all times. If only one or two teeth touch, they catch and shear off. On the otherhand, a blade that's too fine for the job cuts slowly and may clog up with chips. A blade with a soft back and hardened teeth is best for a handy man; it's low cost and durable.

To cut a thin sheet of metal, clamp it between two pieces of wood and cut through the wood and all; you can cut clean without bending the metal.

Thin metal tubing is easier to cut if you insert a round stick in it. For any work that is polished and mustn't be marred, or that is round and thus hard to hold, make two clamps of soft-wall-board or strips of heavy cardboard.

By D. Hough.

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"MUGGING YOU FELLOWS IS
A RELIGION TO ME."

