

The Plane Truth

Mr. Hoagy Carmichael's response to my article ("Scrapers for Cane," Season Opener 1980) states that the use of the plane in handcrafting bamboo fly rods is the best way to "index" the final dimensions. I can only agree with one whom I greatly respect for his contributions to the making of split-cane rods, and if my article led Mr. Carmichael, or anyone else, to the erroneous idea that making bamboo rods with a scraper alone was the way to go, I can only apologize.

The use of scrapers for cane is limited and impractical for shaping rod sections; the use of scrapers for cane is, on the other hand, of value in removing small irregularities and the outer rind of the cane. The use of scrapers is not new and is an integral part of the technique many rod makers have developed. It may be of interest to your readers and Mr. Carmichael as well to note the photograph in the September issue of *Sports Afield* (page 49) which shows some of the tools used by Hiram Hawes. Pictured there is a scraper of the same design as those I recommended in my article.

A good block plane, along with an accurate planing form, is the most essential tool of the rodmaker, but don't sell the scraper short.

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