

To Scrape or . . .

I have just read Ralph Moon's article about "Scrapers for Cane" (Season Opener 1980) with interest, but feel that there is little doubt that the flat surface of the sole of a plane is the point from which one can best "index" when planing bamboo, and in that way remove long .001-inch shavings (and less if desired) or high spots if there are any. If one grinds the blade to a 32-degree angle and sets the gap of the plane's throat carefully, the 6-inch sole of a good plane will not let the user remove more bamboo from the planing forms than the setting of the blade. Those familiar with veneering and the tools used in that exacting craft know that fine, even cuts are the product of the length of the sole of the plane and the depth of the protruding cutting edge. Fine-tuning the plane and the cutting edge itself is the key to accuracy and, with all due respect, I suggest that Mr. Moon give the cast-iron plane one more try.

HOAGY B. CARMICHAEL
Bedford, N.Y.