

Comparing Scraping and Shear Style Beading Tools

Presentation of the beading tools to the material

1. Scraping (Sorby) style tool
 - a. First scoring cut
 - i. Tool rest at centerline
 - ii. Tool held horizontal
 - b. Second pass cut
 - i. Raise tool rest $\frac{1}{2}$ " above center
 - ii. Aim tool downward, cutting on centerline
 - c. Final beading cut
 - i. Tool rest 1" above centerline
 - ii. Aim tool downward, cutting on centerline
2. Shearing style beading tool
 - a. First scoring cut
 - i. Tool rest below centerline
 - ii. Tool angled upward to cut on centerline
 - b. Second pass cut
 - i. Tool rest remains in original position
 - ii. Tool held in original position, but manipulate to facilitate cut
 - c. Final beading cut
 - i. Tool rest stays in original position
 - ii. Tool held in original manner, but wiggle tool to help cut

Safety aspects and concerns

1. Scraping style tools
 - a. Tool pointing downward
 - i. Minimal opportunity to grab or catch
 - ii. Less chance of tool being thrown from grasp
 - iii. Tip will get hot from friction
2. Shearing style tools
 - a. Tool pointing upward
 - i. Huge opportunity for tool to grab or catch
 - ii. Tool can be thrown from grasp if it catches on spinning wood
 - iii. Tool tip runs cooler, but will eventually get hot

Sharpening the Beading Tool

1. Scraping style beading tools
 - a. Use 600 grit diamond hone
 - b. Hone top surface of beading tool
 - c. Very rarely sharpen interior curve on tool

2. Shearing style beading tool
 - a. Use fine, 180+ grit, CBN wheel
 - b. Occasionally use diamond hone on inside flute

Both styles of beading tools work well. There are certainly differences in how they are presented to the wood, and how they are held by the turner. My techniques are methods that I have developed and used over time. They work well for me, but they might not be the only way to use these tools. Find out a method that works well for you.

Here are some factors that may influence which style of beading tools you might use on your basket illusion projects

1. Experience level of turner
 - a. Scraping tools are easier to control
 - b. Scraping tools are less likely to grab or catch
2. Species of wood being beaded
 - a. Scraping tools work better with tighter grained woods than with coarse grain
 - b. Shearing tools seem a little more versatile with various wood species
3. Type of tool rest being used matters
 - a. Thick cast iron and steel tool rests work best with scraping style tools
 - b. Thin profile, hardened rod style rests work best with shear style tools
4. Financial concerns
 - a. Beading tools cost money. Can you buy additional tools at this time?
5. Availability of product
 - a. Do you shop brick and mortar, or do you shop online?
6. Past experience of turner
 - a. If one style of tool has worked for you in the past, say with it