



Niwaki®

Great stuff from Japan

Caring for your tools

Most of our sharp tools are made from carbon steel - this means they will, through regular use, stain (and eventually rust) and gradually lose their edge. Caring for them involves two things - keeping them clean, and keeping them sharp.

Keeping them clean:

- scrape off leaf resin and gunk
- if necessary use water to rinse off, then dry thoroughly. There's nothing wrong with a scrubbing brush and washing up liquid.
- rub over with a Crean Mate and Camellia Oil to remove any last gunk
- wipe over with Camellia oil and store in a dry place

Keeping them sharp:

New tools won't need sharpening for some time, but after a while you'll notice them gradually lose their edge, especially if you're box clipping (you need REALLY sharp blades to get a good finish with box). Use the Gouken, Shapton or Okatsune Stones for best results, or the Swiss Istor if you find whetstones too daunting. See the video clips on the product pages.

- sharpen Secateurs every couple of weeks
- sharpen Shears and Topiary Clippers EVERY TIME you use them - the difference is amazing

Blade Care:

Smooth blades, whether they be Secateurs, Shears, Pocket Knives, Axes, Hatchets, Loppers, Nata or any other, all have their limits. Japanese steel is hard and sharp, and can be more brittle than some people are used to. It will chip if abused.

Do not cut wire, metal, stone, plastic or any other hard material. Even bamboo fibres and some very hard woods, especially knots and burrs, can damage steel edges.

Do not twist or apply uneven pressure.

Do not blame us if you damage the blade. Blades chip or crack through misuse or bad luck, neither of which are covered under the warranty!

Through regular use, Secateurs and Topiary Clippers can work a bit loose. Tightening them is straightforward but there's a knack.

1. Loosen the hexagonal nut (it's a locking nut, so you don't tighten it to tighten the play of the secateurs).
2. Undo the bolt, clean the separate parts - a great opportunity to sharpen really well.
3. Rescrew the bolt, and tighten to what feels right. This is how you adjust the play, with the bolt, not the nut.
4. Put the locking nut back on.

In theory it's easy but in practice quite tricky, as the nut can seize up - be sure not to slip and scuff it (or your knuckles) with the spanner.

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