

## **TROW & HOLDEN - BUSHING TOOL BASICS**

Congratulations on purchasing a Trow & Holden Bushing Tool! Used for both roughing-out and for achieving a fine, even finish, we are sure you will soon wonder how you managed without this versatile, hardworking tool. Trow & Holden bushing tools are manufactured using an excellent grade of carbide for the blades. This means they will hold their edge for a long time, require much less sharpening and generally last longer than steel chisels. Like many of your other best tools, your chisel will need to be “broken in.” Please take a moment to find out how.

Carbide is much more brittle than steel, salt can break more easily. The main causes of carbide breakage are rough carving when the carbide has a very sharp edge and “tossing” the tool when finished with it.

When you receive your new tool, use it gently for a little while to take the sharp edge off it before you start to work it hard. Its time of greatest productivity may not be at the “brand new” stage, but rather after it has adjusted to your stone and your style of working. The carbide is much more liable to break if it has a very sharp edge than if it is slightly rounded from use.

When you are ready to use another chisel, don't toss your bushing chisel- or any carbide chisel- down on top of your pile of tools. Set it down carefully and always try to avoid knocking two carbide tips together.

Bushing tools are a little harder to grind than straight chisels. When the time comes for re-sharpening your tool, you can send it in to us and we will do it for a nominal fee. It is better to send it in before it gets too worn down.

If you do try to sharpen your tool, remember always to air cool when grinding, never dip carbide to cool it quickly or tiny cracks may develop.

A 4-point is an excellent roughing out tool for granite. Some carvers like to use one for roughing out marble and softer stone as well. If you choose to do this, leave more material on rather than getting down closer to your final surface, as a 4-point may leave tiny cracks or “bruises” in the stone that do not appear until it is polished. It is always a good idea to try it on a sample of stone before beginning your work.

4-Points, 9-Points, Cup Chisels. Frosting tools and 3-Blade chisels should all be held perpendicular to the stone and allowed to “dance” upon it. Often, they do not require a great deal of control on the part of the operator. These chisels will produce a different texture when used on different stone types. In order to achieve certain textures, or when working within confined spaces (such as a border) you might want to hold the chisel still or experiment with other ways of controlling the chisel rather than letting it dance.

