

Amateur Gardening

September 25 2010 £1.99

Weekly

Britain's best-selling weekly gardening magazine

Tool sharpeners

Tried & tested



Tool sharpeners are a vital bit of kit to keep cutting blades in tip-top condition. Consumer editor **Julia Heaton** looks at six on the market

WHEN IT comes to sharpening tools a lot of gardeners shy away because they don't know which side of the blade should be sharpened and what angle it should be sharpened to.

Four of the six sharpeners tested here have the sharpening stones pre-angled to about 25 degrees, which is what the majority of blades

should be. None of them are designed for chainsaws, which require a specialised file and clamp to get the 25 degree angle on the saw teeth.

If you can get your angles right with the non-angled sharpeners you will end up with a more efficient finish than the pre angled types. So, stay sharp and find out which one is a clear cut winner.

BUILD ★★★★★

A simple, lightweight sharpener. The plastic body has a neat diamond head. The packaging gives very clear and precise instructions on how to sharpen all kinds of tools.

FEATURES ★★★★★

52 billion diamond particles per sq. inch. The head is attached to a slightly flexible plastic body. Easy to keep in a pocket whilst you carry on working.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

This fine head type is suitable for pruners and knives and was excellent at reaching parts of tools that some of the others just couldn't reach

VALUE ★★

Not cheap considering that you would need the other two head grades to sharpen all your tools. It did however work extremely well on my secateurs and knives and was the simplest and quickest to work with.



Gardening
BEST BUY

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/ 20

DIAMOND SHARPENER
(FINE)
DARLAC

