

Kit & Tools

Veritas detail rabbit plane

A fine little tool with lots of functional applications

If you thought the miniature shoulder plane in *GW224:17* was maybe a little too twee to be taken seriously, then this plane is the real deal. It's based on an old Preston design, and is used to shoot shoulders and clean or tweak the floor of a housing.

Unlike a shoulder plane where you have a fine adjuster for blade advance, this model is hand-set for the projection, but with the thumbscrew applying pressure to the lever cap, it's easy enough to do, sliding it along to get the setting required.

Removing the iron for honing is equally effortless; you simply slacken the cap and slide the iron out sideways, eliminating the chances of contact between the cutting edge and the plane body when you reassemble.

The 01 iron is as diminutive as the plane



itself, with only 13mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) of iron, so it would be wise to stick with the recommendation of maintaining the primary angle of 30° to prolong the lifespan.

Being so small it can be a little tricky to

hone, but it's not a workhorse plane, so unlikely to need the stone as often as a standard bench plane. I found it easier to hone by running the iron sideways rather than along the stone as I normally do.

The plane is designed to be pulled or pushed as dictated by the need, either in a vertical or horizontal position. There is a black area at the rear of the plane which is scalloped to provide a gripping point if needed.

Unlike the Preston/Clifton version that this plane is loosely based on, the iron sits inside the body, so there's no projecting 'tail' on the iron that digs into the palm. Instead you have a beautifully sculpted brass lever cap that nestles in the palm without discomfort, providing a smooth ride. The brass cap also gives it additional heft – although you shouldn't be reliant on planes such as this for big cuts, it does give the plane a substantial feel when you use it, despite the tool's overall size.

Comprising just four components, the plane is superbly made and works perfectly. Tools such as this may be too specialist for some, but if you make smaller items, boxes, or pigeon hole inserts for cabinets and the like – finer work, in other words – you occasionally need to make fine adjustments to shoulders. This model in particular is impossible to fault for such work. 🛠️



▲ The plane is available in five widths so you can match to a particular housing



▲ The plane can be used in a variety of ways such as a pull stroke...



▲ ...or on its side for shoulder trimming on the push stroke



▲ Again, you can pull the plane to prevent breakout on a shoulder

Good The Woodworking Verdict

+ Beautifully engineered, fine control
- Specialist; expensive if you buy the set

Rating ★★★★★

Typical price: £58.95

Made in: Canada

Blade widths: $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{5}{16}$, $\frac{3}{8}$ in; 6 and 10mm

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