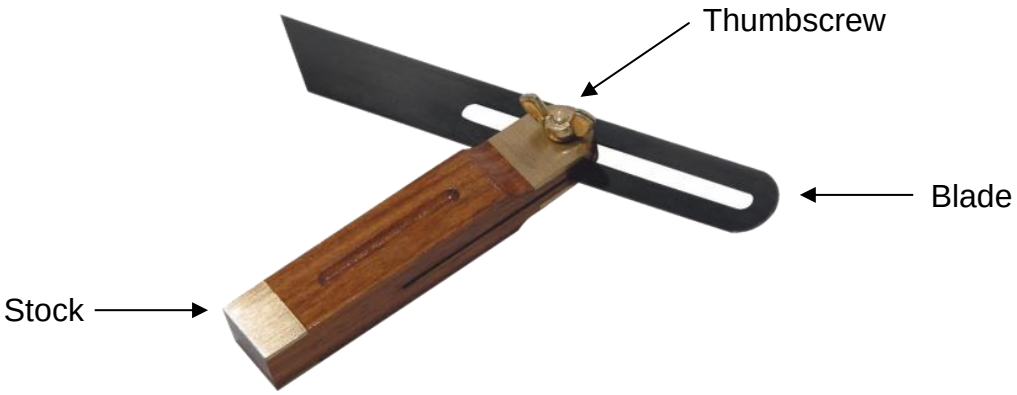
Sliding Bevel

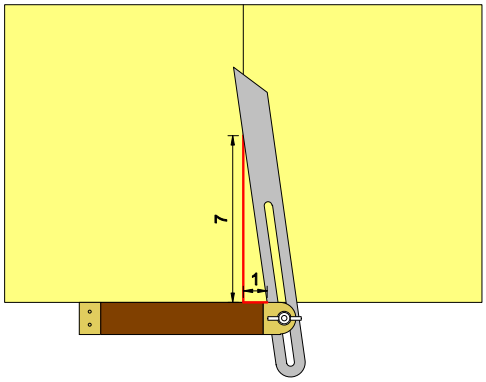


Function

A sliding bevel is used to check or set any angle, it can also be used to transfer an existing angle from one location to another. The stock must be held tight against the timber when checking or marking angles.

Description

A good quality sliding bevel will have a steel blade, attached to a rosewood or ebony stock with a wingnut or thumb screw. It includes brass plates to avoid wear. There are some with a complete metal stock and numerous variations of the brass and wood design. Some complain[1] that the blade does not lock properly with thumb screw types, personally I have never experience this with the simple winged nut version as shown above.



The blade can be swivelled to any angle and locked in place with the wingnut. It can be set to a particular angle using a protractor. It can also be set to any ratio, which can be done by marking the ratio out as shown. The ratio of 1:7, shown in the example, was marked out using 20mm (1 unit) and 140mm (7 units).

[1] Sliding Bevel Gauges – The impossible tool? – Lance's Workbench (conryclan.com)

History

J. Robinson's patented the first sliding bevel in April 1870. This became the pattern for all future models, even to this day. It was about 140 years later that Patrick Leach introduced a new model[2] that could be locked at 90^0 (far right), however, at over £200 when it was first introduced, it was rare to find in the average tradesman's toolbox, especially as the standard try square does the same, or better job, at a fraction of the price.

Health & Safety

Essentially, the only thing to note is to take care with the pointed end, which can be quite sharp, although they are often rounded off, either during manufacture or through wear and tear. Following research, it has not been possible to conclude why the pointed end is included; some suggest it is to get into a tight corner when transferring an acute angle, others say it is to locate the blade in the handle when locked 'shut'. The former of these would make logical sense.

[22] New Sliding T-Bevel Locks At 90-Degrees - Tool-Rank.com