Sharpening an Auger Bit

Step	Description
Inspection • Lead-Screw • Straightness • Cutting Edges	Lead-screw must be straight, complete and pointed. Threads on lead screw pull the auger through the wood, so a damaged lead screw renders an otherwise good auger useless. Straightness is critical for safety, efficiency and control. Roll the auger on a flat surface to verify it is straight. Scrap warped augers. Augers with dull edges can usually be sharpened, but damaged edges (notches, cracks, missing spurs) cannot be saved. Scrap damaged augers.
Spurs	If your auger has lead spurs, never file them on the outer surface. You'll reduce their cutting radius, resulting in the body of the auger forcing its way through the smaller radius and binding in the bore. Only file the interior surface of spur edges.
File	Most professional quality augers are made of high-carbon alloy steel, hardened to Rockwell R56 or higher. That means they'll stand up to lots of use, but also means a file has to be much harder than the auger to be able to dress a fresh edge on the cutters.

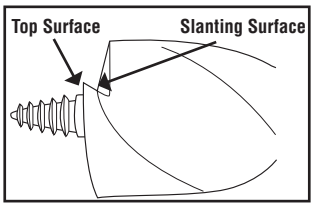
Nailbiter™ Auger Re-Sharpening

It is common practice in the field to re-sharpen augers between jobs. The NailBiter™ can be easily and repeatedly re-sharpened. The time it takes to re-sharpen a good auger equals a fraction of the cost to replace one.

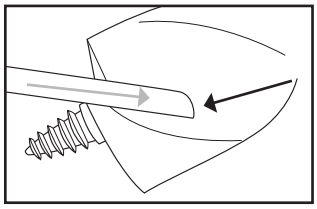
NailBiters™ are full body hardened (steel is completely hardened through the entire bit) to take numerous re-sharpenings. Competitors' surface hardened augers quickly lose the hardened outer steel and can't be kept sharp.

Sharpening Preparation:

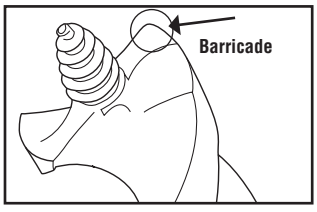
- Select a small, smooth feather edged flat file. A file that is too large will limit your range of motion and may cause accidental filing on surfaces that should not be contacted
- Set the screw point of the auger down on a piece of wood with the other end pointing up at approximately 45°. The wood protects the screw point from being damaged while the bit is being sharpened.



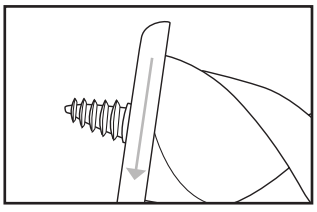
1. Top surface and slanting surface create primary cutting edge.



2. Grind the slanting surface until cutting edge becomes smooth.



3. Step creates barricade on top surface.



4. Remove barricade by grinding top surface to only one direction.

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