

Cold chisel modified for Sheet metal.

I learnt this tip many years ago and have forgotten its origin. I tried to find the information on the internet but all my searches drew a blank.

So here it is for those who may find it useful.

Starting with a standard cold chisel the first step is to grind away the wedge shaped surfaces on each side of the cutting edge so that the end of the chisel has a section rather like that of a lathe parting off tool, see the photo below.



Then grind away the cutting edge at the middle of the chisel to form a half moon shape as shown below.



The half moon recess should have a flat end face with sharp corners.

To use the chisel, working from one side of a sheet of metal the chisel is held with the flat end face perpendicular to the plane of the sheet and with the longitudinal axis at an acute angle so that when struck with a hammer firstly the corner of the chisel penetrates the sheet, and then the half moon shaped end punches a strip of metal out of the sheet leaving clean opposite edges. The strip removed from the sheet is curled into a spiral due to the curve of the recess in the chisel.

I used the chisel shown in the photographs for cutting car bodywork, but for thinner sheet a smaller chisel with a thinner blade should be suitable, especially if the sheet is supported in the region of the cut, for example by the jaws of a bench vice.