



THE PROCESS  
of  
TUNING AND SHARPENING  
A CROSSCUT SAW

The correct method for tuning and sharpening a saw is the one that gets you the best results. Once you have sharpened a few saws and learned from a few other filers and tried to share your skills, you will come up with your best method. Here is the method I use:

- 1: Gather your tools and safety equipment. You will need good lighting, eye and ear protection, gloves, and 'armpit guards' (cover) for the part of the saw you aren't working on.
- 2: Clean your saw by a method that won't damage it.
- 3: Check your saw with straight edges and straighten out the kinks and lumps.
- 4: Evaluate your saw. Look it over with a 'flat edge.' (see Finer Points #1.) Test your saw in wood.
- 5: Dress the raker faces lightly with a file to expose clean smooth metal.
- 6: Joint your saw. Wear gloves. Use a sharp file. Think about the geometry you are working with and don't joint more than you need to.
- 7: Shape your raker teeth. Use a triangular or slim taper file. Preserve the shape of swaged rakers. If there are clues that the metal is hard and brittle, use a propane torch to draw the temper.
- 8: Swage the raker teeth.
- 9: Set the cutter teeth by a method that won't damage them.
- 10: Point up the cutter teeth.
- 11: Do your final precise raker filing
- 12: test and name your saw

Each step listed above requires thorough understanding, suitable tools, and practice. The easiest way to learn is by doing; with someone who can explain, demonstrate, and coach as you practice.



*I want to help folks to enjoy sharp saws. Send an e-mail or give a call if you have questions. I can help you find tools, files and sharp saws. email: dbc96124@yahoo.com*