Lee Valley

Panel Gauge 15N06.01

A panel gauge is essentially a large marking gauge that is primarily used for marking the width of large panels prior to ripping and jointing. Used with two hands, this panel gauge can make a deep cut, capable of going completely through thin materials.

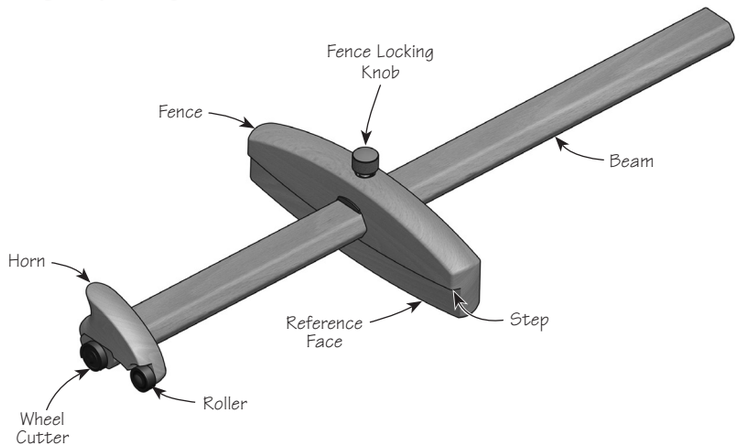

Figure 1: Panel gauge components.

Caution: *Be aware that the wheel cutter is sharp; careless handling can result in serious injury.*

Assembly

To assemble the panel gauge, first position the fence shoe in the beam hole in the fence, as shown in **Figure 2**, and insert the fence locking knob into the fence in order to capture the fence shoe.

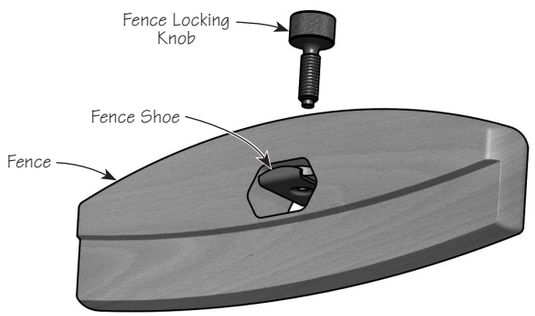

Figure 2: Capturing the fence shoe in the fence.

Slide the fence onto the beam with the stepped side facing the horn. Install the fence stop screw in the hole in the bottom of the end of the beam.

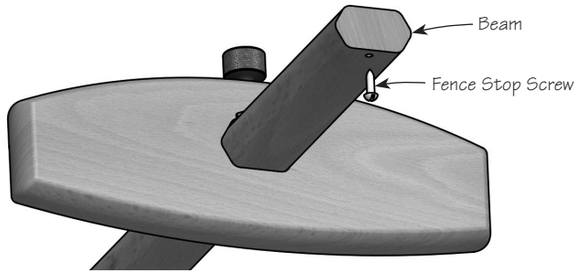

Figure 3: Install the fence stop screw.

Setting the Panel Gauge

Loosen the fence locking knob and adjust the fence to the desired location (making sure to measure from the reference face to the wheel cutter) then tighten the fence locking knob to lock the setting.

Using the Panel Gauge

With the workpiece securely clamped in position, place the panel gauge on the workpiece such that the reference face abuts against the edge of the workpiece and the step sits on top of it. When starting a cut, first set the roller on the workpiece, then tilt the gauge until the wheel cutter makes contact with the workpiece.

Hold the fence securely against the reference edge of the workpiece and score the line in a trailing manner. Use the horn to moderate the cutting action, slightly tilting the fence in the direction of travel. Multiple, lighter cuts will yield better results than one heavy cut.

Tip: *For clean cuts when slicing through workpieces up to 1/4" thick, take several passes until the cut is halfway through the wood, then flip the workpiece upside down and score the line from the opposite face.*

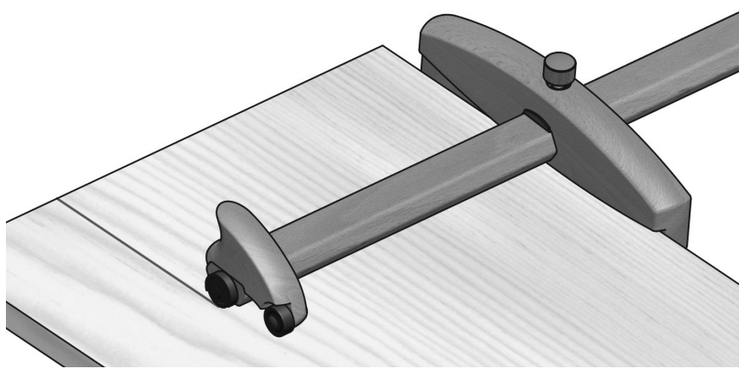

Figure 4: Holding the fence securely against the reference edge of the workpiece.

Sharpening

Despite being round, the wheel cutter does not rotate. When the edge dulls, loosen the securing screw and rotate the wheel cutter to present a fresh edge.

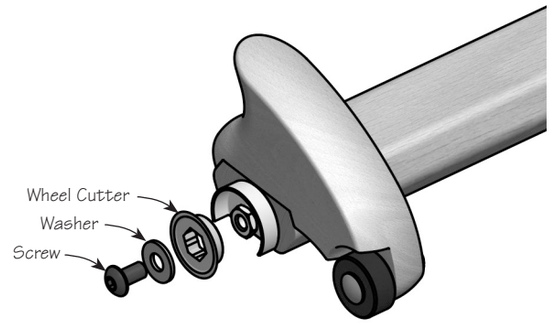

Figure 5: Resetting the wheel cutter.

Although the wheel cutter is hardened, over time it may need to be resharpened. Remove the securing screw, the washer and the wheel cutter, and then lap the face of the wheel cutter on a stone.

Configuration

Some users prefer to pull the gauge, while others find that a configuration opposite to their handedness works better. To reconfigure the panel gauge to suit your preferences, remove the two screws holding the horn to the end of the beam and re-assemble with the horn facing the other way.

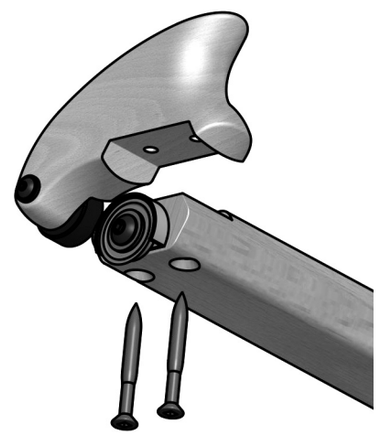

Figure 6: Reconfiguring the horn.