Kelton Hook Tool

Guide for Use

Kelton hook tools consist of a clamping shank and a hook tip. Typically they are purchased together. Replacement hook tips may be separately purchased.

Kelton Hook tips are made from premium HSS. These 16mm [5/8"] diameter tools fit either of the 16mm [5/8"] or 19mm [3/ 4"] dedicated Kelton shanks.

While the Kelton Hook tool may be used for the rapid removal of wood, its capacity for premium fine light cutting make it best suited for fine clean finishing cuts where only minimal sanding will be required or where light thin walled turnings are being produced, e.g. lamp shades and hats.

The tool allows for delicate and controlled cuts and to this end, where the size of the vessel does not require the longer length of the 19mm shank, the 16mm shank will typically offer more control.

Kelton ER and KH handles accept both shank sizes.

Hooks are held in either shank by a unique design feature that allows the hook to be presented to the work in either elevated or lowered positions and not simply in a mode in which the hook is a straight extension of the shank. This allows for easier cutting access to difficult cutting areas, e.g., cutting up the sides of long narrow vases.

The ability of the hook to pivot in the shank offers a unique safety advantage. The hook, being clamped in a slot, is, in the event of a catch, able to swing out of the wood contact area without breaking and thus while serving to protect the integrity of the turned piece also serves to save the tip and avoid the possibility of a disengaged broken tip being a danger to the turner.

Note: the tip, especially when one is first learning to use the tool, should not be over tightened. It is important that, should a catch situation arise, the tip should be able to self-release from a cut. When the user becomes more familiar with the tool, the clamping set screw may be tightened to a much greater degree to allow for more aggressive cuts.

Hook tips have both upper (wider), and a bottom (narrower) cutting faces.

Typically the upper surface is used for cutting wide open faced turnings, dishes, trays etc. The bottom cutting surface is more suited for steeper walled pieces.

The tool works best with the tip being dragged, i.e., trailed behind the shank.

Initial presentation of the tip to the work is critically important. Neither cutting faces should be presented in a vertical mode. Rather cutting must always be initiated with the cutting face being at right angles to the tool rest. Cutting is commenced by gently rolling the cutting edge into the cut. The tip is designed to cut in a shear cutting mode. Optimal control and results are obtained with the bevel riding on the freshly cut surface.