Tips on Sharpening: "Don't **grind** the tool…**dress** the bevel."

a – Save the life of the tool: Once the tip shape has been formed, you never have to "grind" the tool again. Instead, "dress the bevel" with smooth, delicate sweeps of the tool on the wheel.

b – Dress wheel frequently with a diamond dresser! Dark marks on wheel mean the surface is clogged and it can't do its job. Over-grinding on a clogged wheel will over-heat the tool and shorten tool life by 4-10 times!

c – 100-120 grit, aluminum oxide wheels are recommended to produce a very fine burr.

Trouble-Shooting: See drawings below for what the gouge tip should look like.

a– Do not over-grind the sides of the gouge's tip. This will cause the edge to 'drop' from a gentle convex arc into a straight or concave line that is less efficient when cutting. Solution: Spend more time sharpening the end of the tool than the sides.

b – Be careful not to develop high 'wings' to the left or right of the end of the tip. These will be sharper than the rest of the edge and will cause the gouge to grab or 'bite' the wood. Solution: Grind the wings down, then use less pressure against the wheel when sharpening the end of the tip.

c – A 60-degree angle on the end of the tip is best. A 55-degree angle will create a slightly sharper edge and a 65-degree edge a bit less sharp.

Here's what you're after: