

fine tools

# wood and brass Spokeshave

I've always admired the look and feel of the old-style, wood-body spokeshaves that I come across at tool swaps. The design of these spokeshaves is about as simple as can be — often nothing more than a narrow, contoured, wood body holding a small, U-shaped blade.

The upshot of this tool envy is the handsome, wood-body spoke

shave you see in the photo above. It follows the old design but adds a few nice improvements.

**The Anatomy.** Take a look at the drawings and photo below to see how the spokeshave is put together. The underside of the contoured body is where the action is.

Here, you'll find a narrow

wear plate mortised into the body over a beveled clearance throat.

The high-carbon steel blade I used is at the heart of the upgrades to the traditional design. A threaded post at either end of the blade allows it to be firmly tightened down, and just as importantly, easily adjusted. The wings of the blade rest on a pair of adjustment screws in the blade mortise. So fine-tuning the depth of cut is as simple as a slight turn of the screw.

Next, the brass wear plate in front of the blade isn't just for looks. It creates a durable sole that will stand up to a lifetime of use. Throw in a pair of shop-made brass nuts to tighten down the blade, and you have a tool that looks, feels, and works like a dream.

