

Clean & Sharpen
your Hand Pruners

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You'll be amazed
at the difference it makes

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(Please:

Be careful of your fingers!)

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What you need

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Lubricating oil: WD-40 is good

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Scotch-brite pad or steel wool

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Honing oil

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Elbow grease

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Bandages?

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Small screwdriver, perhaps

Pocket honing stone

Honing oil

Elbow grease

~~(Bandages?~~ **Be careful!**)

Wh
Lubricatin
Scotch-br

Small so
Pock



rolling on

Elbow grease

(~~Bandages?~~ **Be careful!**)



AND....

your pruners







these are very
dirty, much in need
of sharpening!

Simple steps:

Simple steps:
Clean the blade

Simple steps:

Clean the blade

Clean the spring/mechanism

Simple steps:

Clean the blade

Clean the spring/mechanism

Sharpen the outer edge of the blade



For cleaning the metal parts,
oil will help.

Coat the metal with WD-40



ATTILAS
TOMAS
MUCHA



Now use the Scotch-brite pad
or steel wool
to clean the metal surfaces



This is where
the elbow grease
comes in to play.

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the elbow grease
comes in to play.

Work at it!

This is where
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comes in to play.

Work at it!

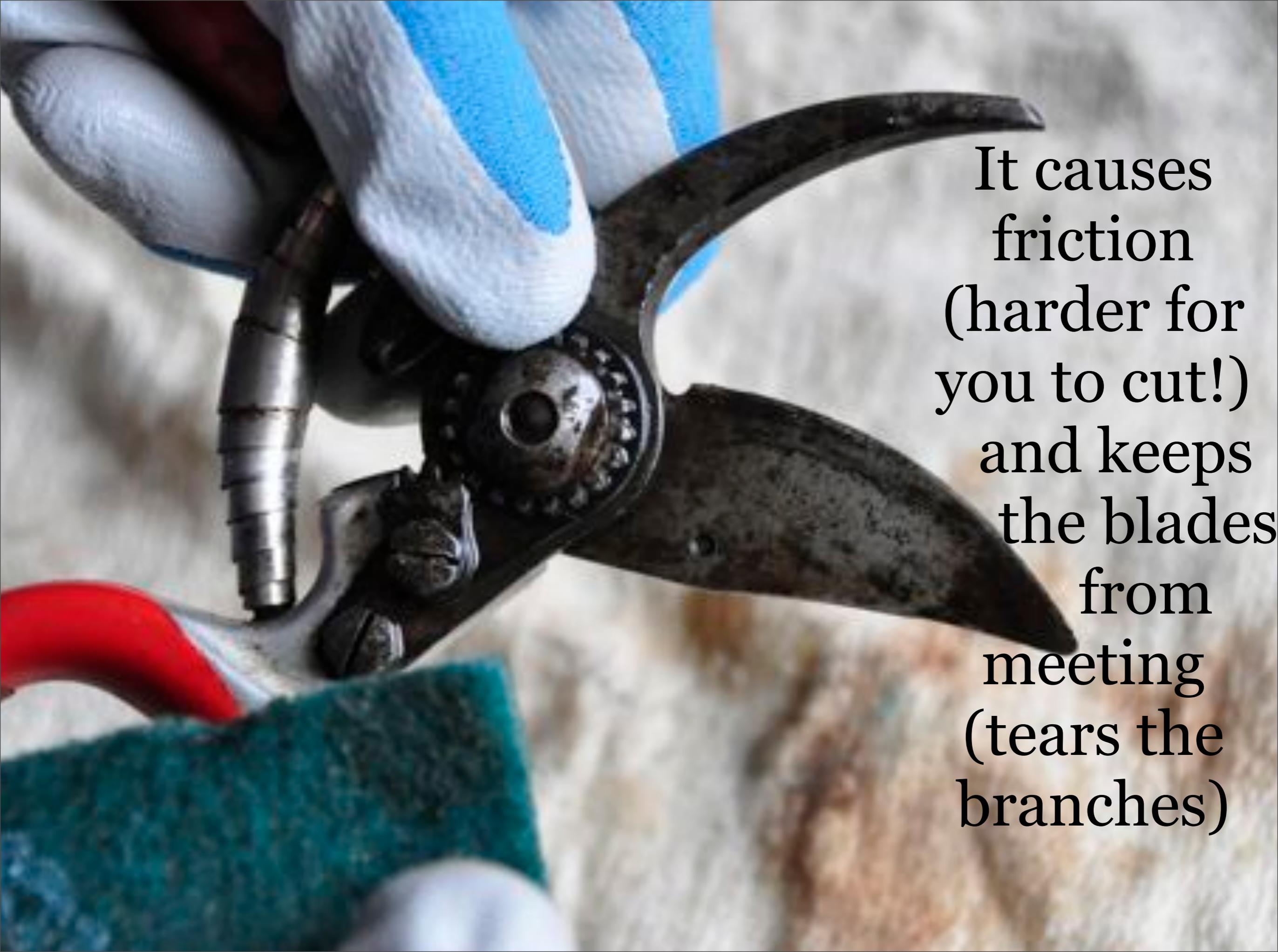
Add more oil as needed.







That's
hardened sap
and rust
you're
removing



It causes friction (harder for you to cut!) and keeps the blades from meeting (tears the branches)

See sap just beginning to build up on these we've kept cleaned?



See sap just beginning to build up on these we've kept cleaned?





Sometimes
we resort to
turpentine.











Clean all surfaces









You CAN get
it off.



You do NOT want to sharpen a dirty, rusty edge because dirt will scratch the blade. Meanwhile, tiny bits of rust will be dragged out and pressed into the new edge, “seeding” more rust













771
FOSSIL
MUSEUM
MICHIGAN







A close-up photograph shows a person's hands, wearing blue and red work gloves, using a multi-tool to clean the inside edge of a blade. The multi-tool is held in the right hand, and the left hand is positioned to hold the blade steady. The blade is being cleaned against a piece of light-colored, textured fabric. The multi-tool has several tools extended, including a pair of pliers and a blade. The blade is held in a way that its inner edge is being cleaned. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

Phew! That's
the *inside*
edge of the
blade cleaned.

Now we've
flipped the
pruners to
clean the
outside edge.





Same
procedure:
Oil and scour.













The oil is softening all that crud



The oil is softening all that crud
but it may still be tough
to clean it out of all the crevices.

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but it may still be tough
to clean it out of all the crevices.

This is where a screwdriver tip
may help, to press the scouring pad
into tight places.







Yes, they ARE
the same
pruners we
started with!



Yes, they ARE
the same
pruners we
started with!



Another spot to clean before we
sharpen the blade:





Another spot to clean before we
sharpen the blade:
The spring area

Another spot to clean before we
sharpen the blade:

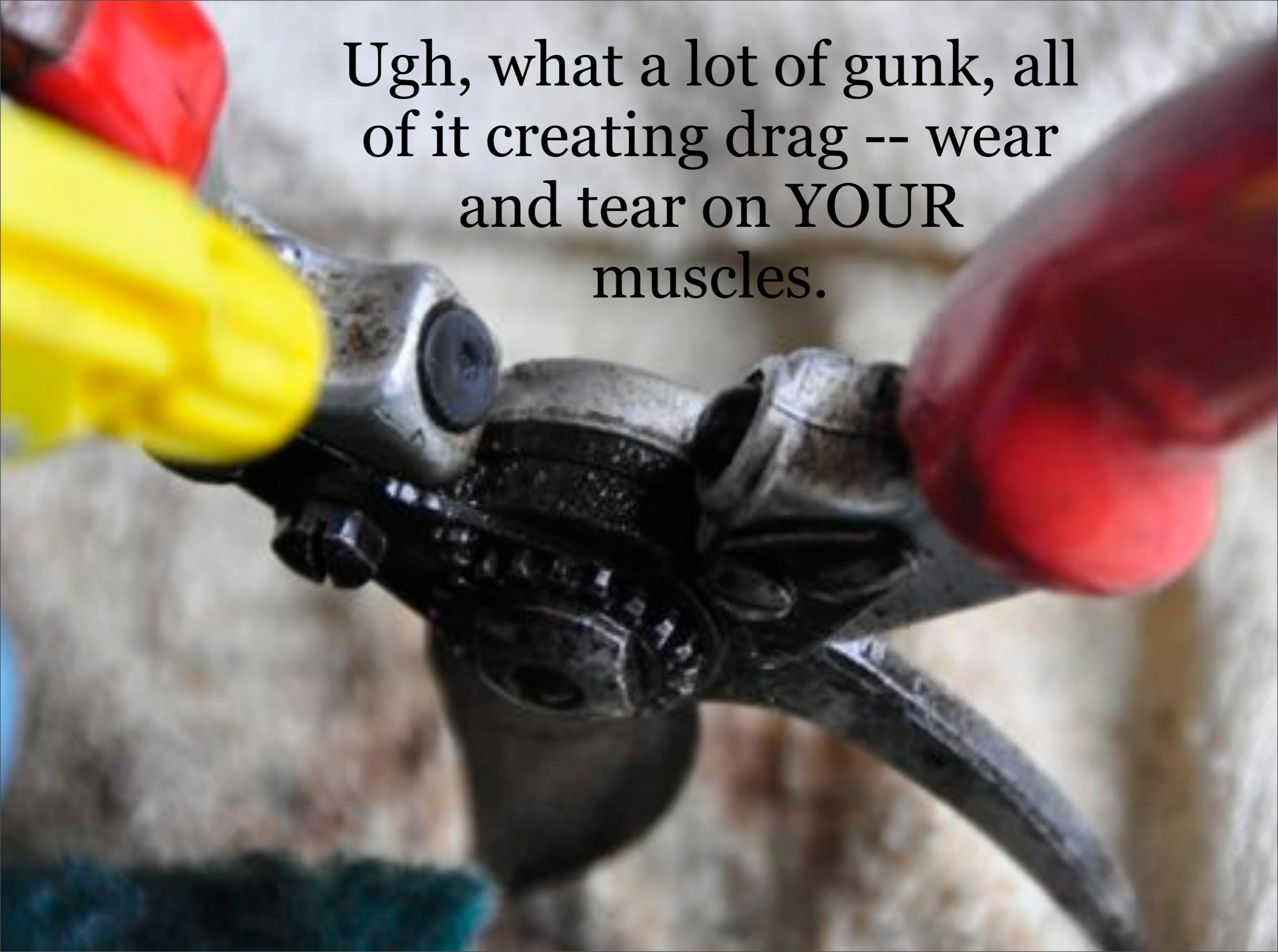
The spring area.

Same deal: Oil, scrub, wipe.





Ugh, what a lot of gunk, all
of it creating drag -- wear
and tear on YOUR
muscles.











ATLAS
TOUCH













Normally, it isn't necessary to disassemble your pruners.

Normally, it isn't necessary to
disassemble your pruners.
But when they're this bad.....!









If you take them apart, re-set the tension when you put them back together.

This step differs for each pruner model.









Now wipe them off and
you're ready to sharpen!











Before cleaning



after, ready to sharpen

But you're looking at
the *inside* surface of the
blade.



*Don't ever sharpen the
inside of the blade.*





*Don't ever sharpen the
inside of the blade.*

To do that would be to
remove metal there. That
creates a gap between the
cutting blade and the jaw.



You want
a clean cut.



Blades that don't meet
mangle rather than cut.
A bad cut (above) will
take longer to close over
and be prone to fungal
and insect trouble.



Sharpen
only the
beveled edge



Sharpen
only the
beveled edge
It's the *outer*
surface of
the blade.



inner edge

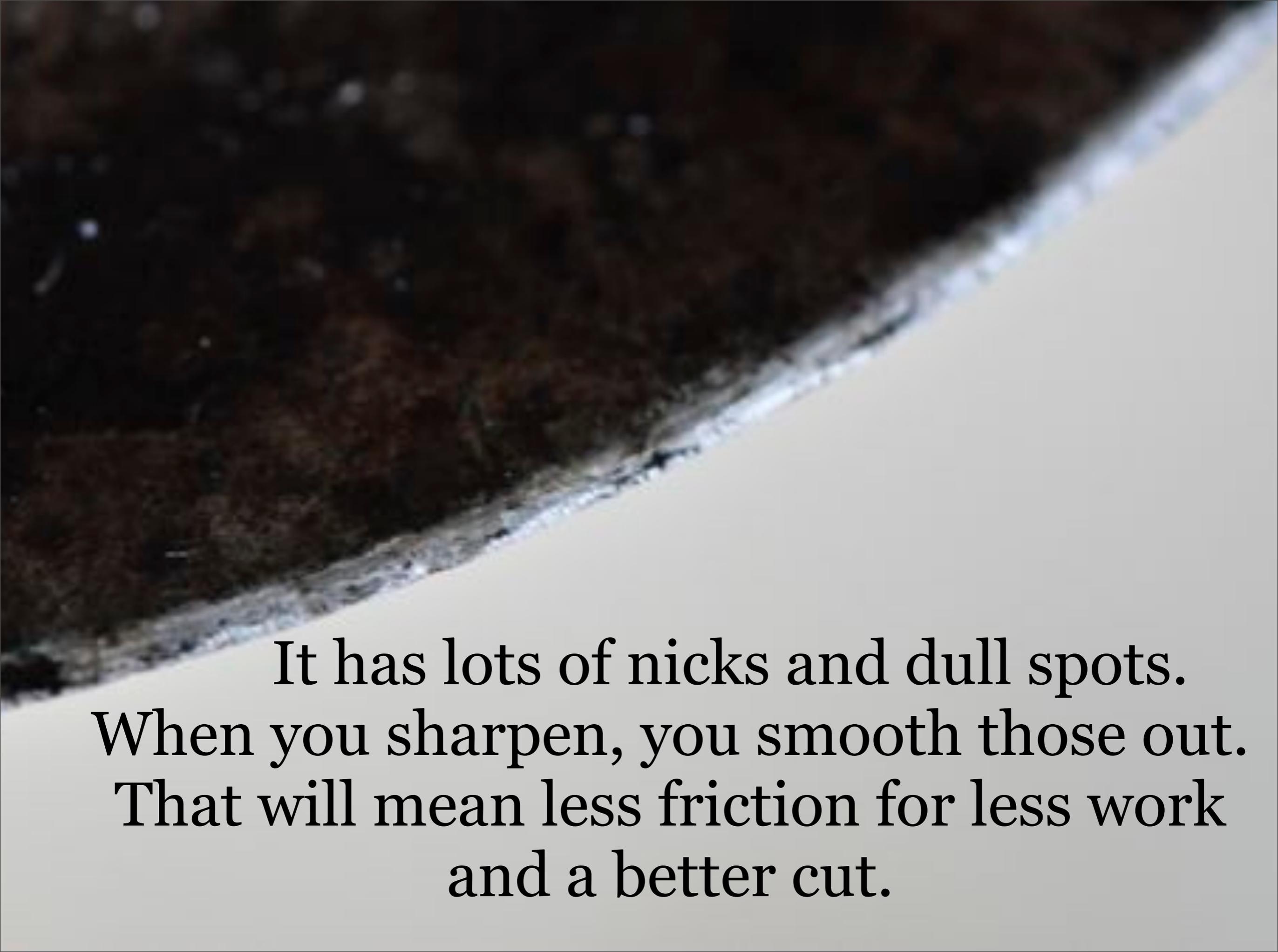


outer edge



When this
blade was
dirty its
beveled edge
was quite
visible



A close-up photograph showing a dark, rough, and textured surface on the left, which transitions into a much smoother and lighter-colored surface on the right. The boundary between the two surfaces is a sharp, diagonal line, illustrating the concept of sharpening a tool. The dark surface has many small nicks and dull spots, while the light surface is smooth and reflective.

It has lots of nicks and dull spots.
When you sharpen, you smooth those out.
That will mean less friction for less work
and a better cut.





NORTON

SHARPENING STONE OIL
HUILE À AFFÛTER
ACETTE PARA PIEDRA
DE AFILAR

SPECIALLY FORMULATED

FORM

TE FORMADO

Put some honing oil on your stone



NORTON

SHARPENING STONE OIL
HUILE A AFFÛTER
ACEITE PARA PIEDRA
DE AFILAR

SPECIALLY FORMULATED • FORM

ADDO • FORMULAMENTE FORM



The oil soaks in. Tiny bits of metal that come off as you hone will float away in an oil film.





Now stroke the honing stone firmly
along the beveled edge.

Now stroke the honing stone firmly
along the beveled edge.
Stroke in one direction,

Now stroke the honing stone firmly
along the beveled edge.
Stroke in one direction,
from base to tip.

Now stroke the honing stone firmly
along the beveled edge.
Stroke in one direction,
from base to tip.

We aim for 50 strokes, then check it.











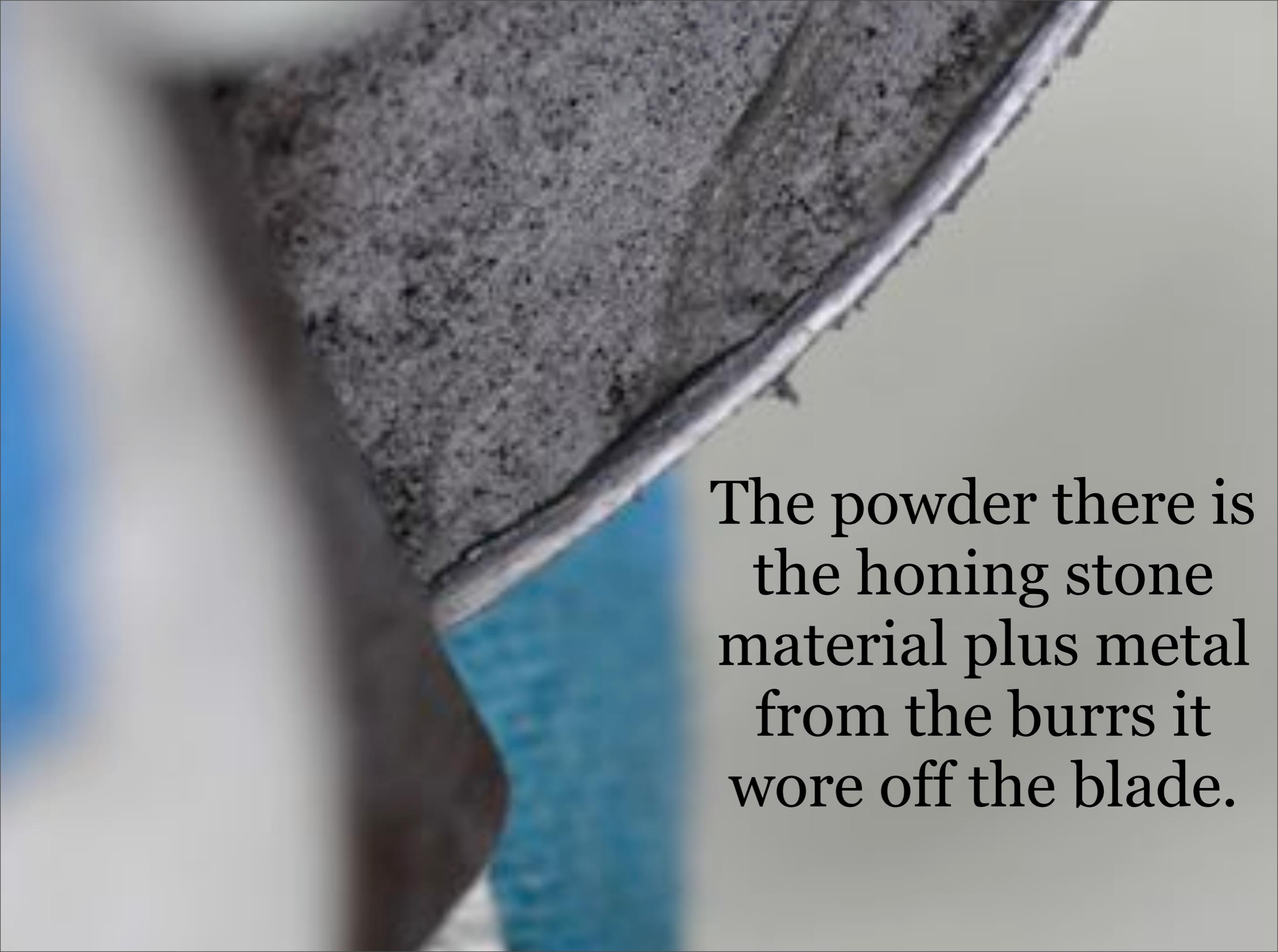










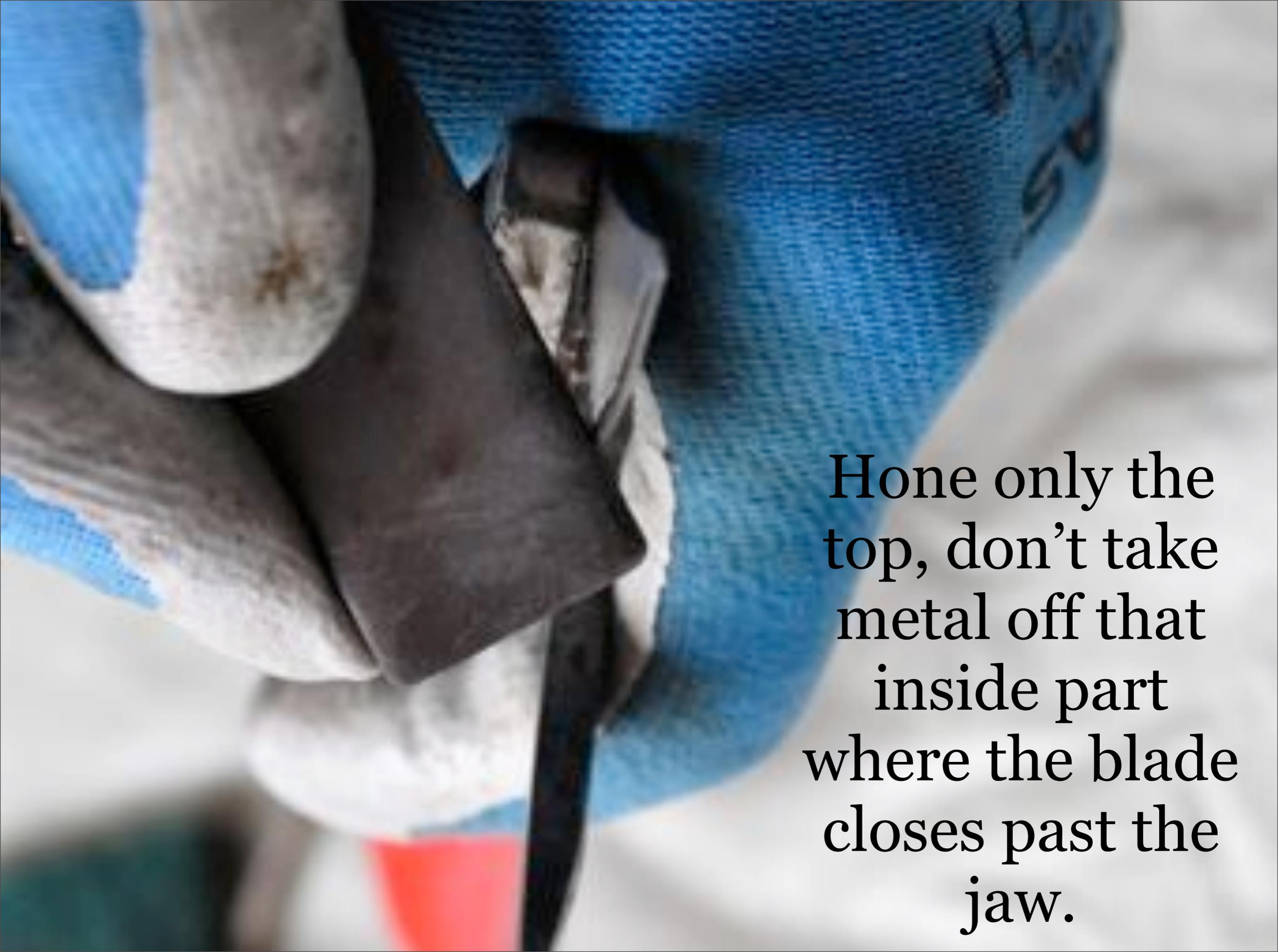
A close-up photograph showing a metal blade being honed against a grey, granular abrasive stone. The blade is held at an angle, and a thin layer of blue liquid is visible between the blade and the stone. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white gradient.

The powder there is
the honing stone
material plus metal
from the burrs it
wore off the blade.



Finally, hone to remove
any burrs on the jaw

Burrs there
could scratch
the cutting
blade

A close-up photograph showing a hand in a blue textured glove holding a dark knife blade against a grey honing stone. The blade is positioned vertically, and the honing stone is being used to hone the top edge. The background is a light, neutral color.

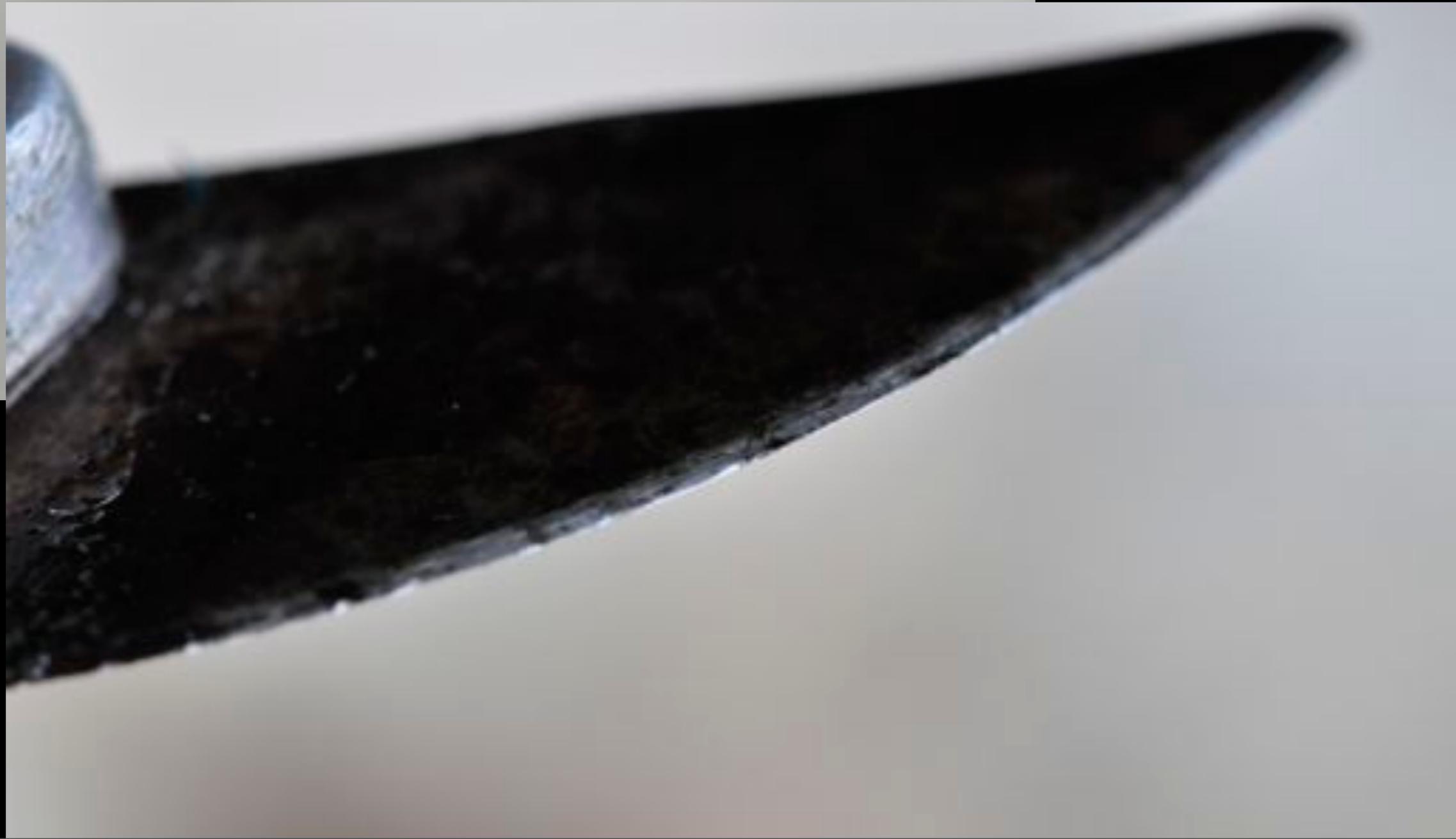
Hone only the
top, don't take
metal off that
inside part
where the blade
closes past the
jaw.

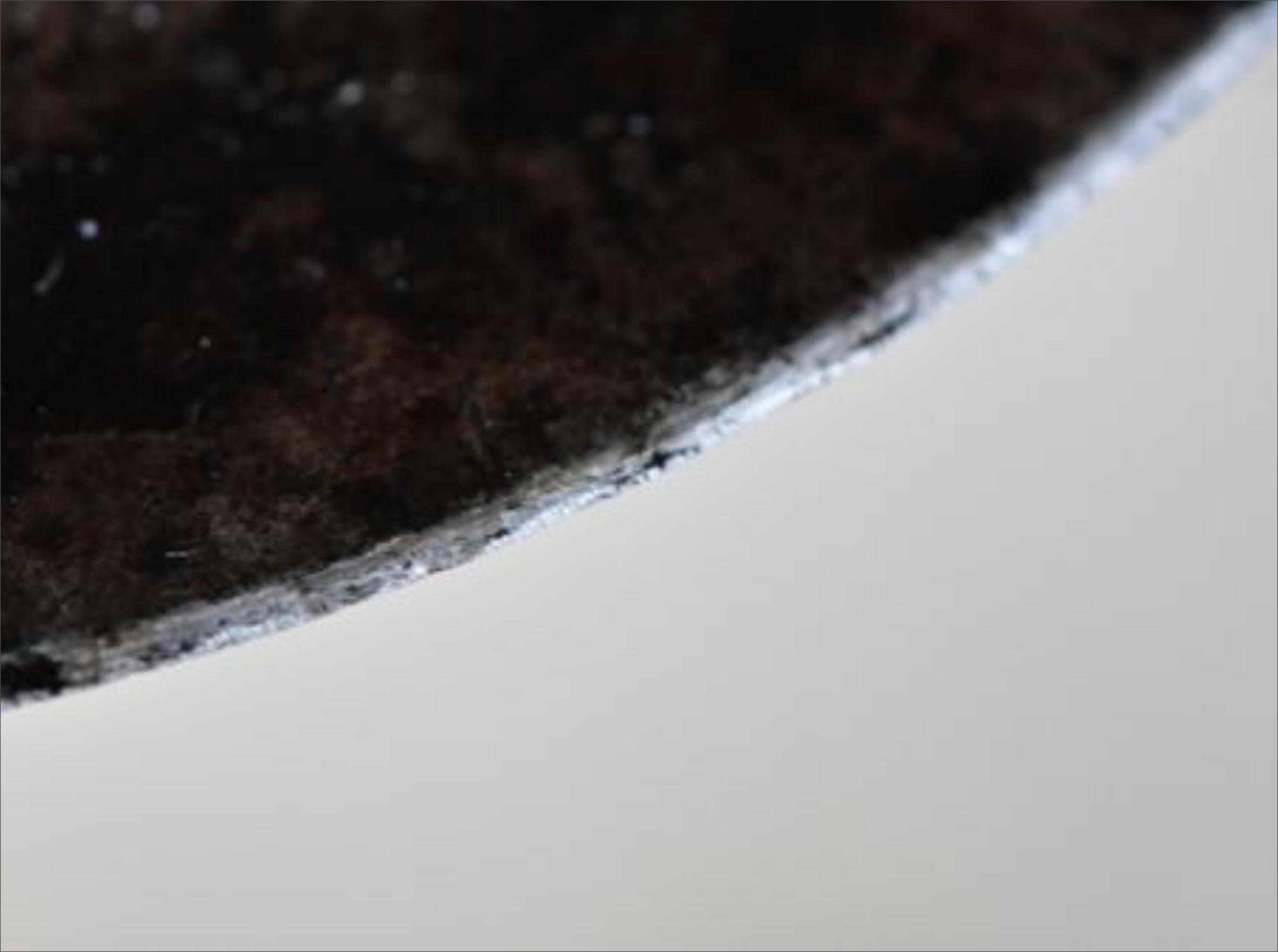
Now admire *your* work!















And be careful of your fingers:

And be careful of your fingers:
Those cutters will work *so easily now!*



You did it!

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