

Bow Saw

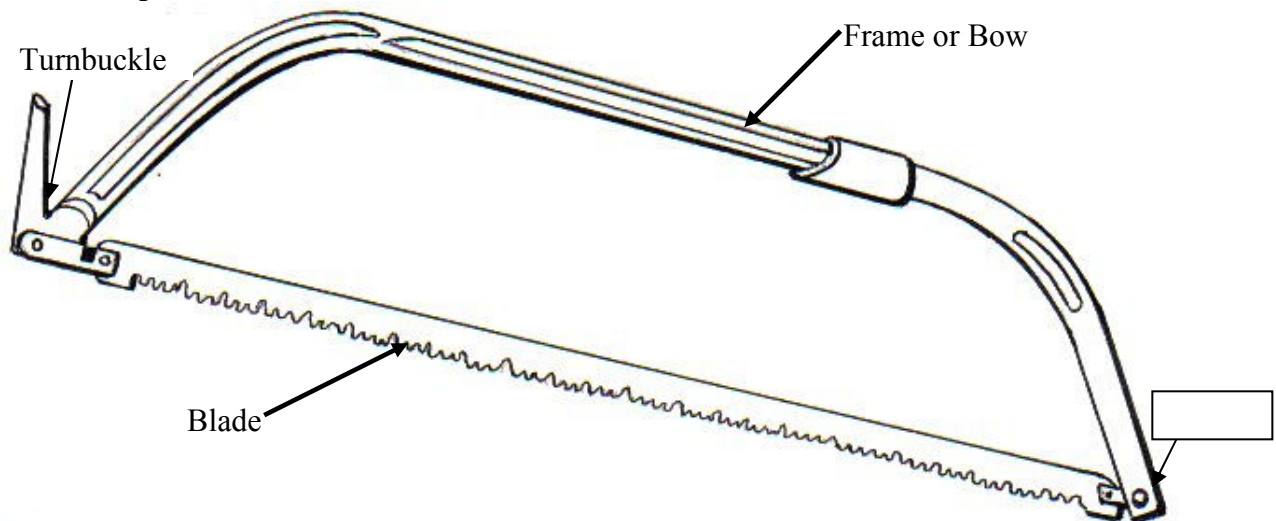
Bow saws are used in conjunction with a hand-axe in preparing wood for the fire. A bow saw is safer, quicker and easier to use than a hand or felling axe. It also doesn't leave a pile of wood chips that need to be cleared up.

Bow saws are good only where no obstruction exists for a foot or more above the area to be cut because its curved handle or bow gets caught in confined spaces and makes it difficult to manoeuvre.

When to use the Bow Saw:

The bow saw should be used on wood that is too large to be chopped safely using the hand-axe – that is anything greater than about 7.5cm in diameter.

The main parts of the Bow saw:



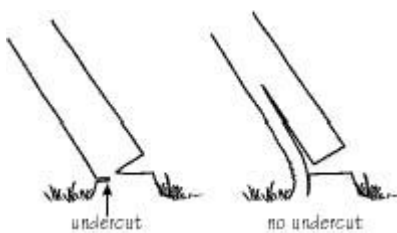
Bow saws should also have a mask or cover for the blade. This is often a plastic strip that clips over the blade but a length of hose split along its edge and secured with some tape works very well.

Care of the Bow saw:

- Mask the Blade when not in use
- Keep bow saws dry
- Do not leave them out at night. However put them away carefully in the stores tent, never just inside the door where someone might kneel or step on it going into the tent.
- Bow saws will become blunt if they dig into the ground so they should be used with a chopping block or trestle when sawing logs.
- Bow saws should be greased to prevent them from rusting.
- If the blade is blunt replace it, the blades are relatively cheap and easy to replace – this is far safer than trying to sharpen all the teeth using a file. A sharp blade makes a huge difference when using a bow-saw.

How to use the Bow saw:

1. Dress appropriately, where closed shoes, tie back hair
2. Remove the mask
3. Check the blade is sharp, taut and facing outwards
4. Make sure the wood is held firmly in a trestle or hold onto the chopping block.
5. When using a Bush saw start off slowly, pulling the blade backwards and towards you, until the cutting edge has a firm grip into the log.
6. Then push and pull in a steady rhythm using the whole length of the blade.
7. Remask the saw after use.



It often helps to make a small undercut to the opposite side of the log or tree you are cutting. This will make for a cleaner break



Alternatively the bow saw can be used by two people facing one another.

171st Rivervalley Explorer Scouts

Scope of Document:

*Support document for training of Explorer Scouts in using a Bow saw.
For use in conjunction with practical demonstration and practise*

Adventures Skills Awards supported: *Camping Level 2, Backwoods Level 2*