Tools for Sawing

Although the bow saw is designed for one person, two people can saw large logs more effectively. Two people operate the bow saw like a crosscut—each works only on the pull stroke.

The teeth are needle-sharp, so wear gloves when sawing and keep hands clear of the cut and the blade. Carry bow saws by your side with the blade pointed down. Sheathe the blade with small-diameter fire hose and Velcro fasteners or plastic blade guards when not in use. Always carry spare parts and plenty of replacement blades on the trail.

Since worn blades are replaced rather than sharpened, maintenance consists of blade replacement, periodic checks to see that bolts are tight, and an occasional light oiling. Take care when oiling these and other trail tools. Too much oil can trap dirt in tool joints.

Examples:

The Sandvik all-purpose bow saw has a hardened 3/4-inch by 36-inch blade, and a Swedish steel frame with a knuckle guard. The blade changes easily and has a tension lever. Its weight is 21/4 pounds.

The Sandvik Swifty is designed for light pruning and landscape work. The tension-mounted blade is 3/4 inch wide and 21 inches long, and features a peg-tooth design. The quick-action tension lever facilitates blade changing. It has a Swedish steel frame with a knuckle guard, and weighs 11/4 pounds.

A small bow saw is used for pruning, limbing, landscaping, camping. The 21-inch raker tooth blade is quickly and easily replaced using a tension lever. The strong tubular steel frame is designed to allow use of the entire cutting blade. It weighs 11/2 pounds.

The Portex self-storing Swedish bow saw features a 3/4 by 16-inch Swedish steel blade with raker teeth for cutting firewood, limbs, or lumber. It has an aluminum frame with a no-slip, plastic hand grip. All parts disassemble and “nest” inside the handle, and are easy to reassemble. Weight is 11/4 pounds.

Bow saws effectively clear trails.