

## ■ Veritas Bevel-up Bench Planes

800-871-8158 or [leevalley.com](http://leevalley.com)

If you use bench planes, your core set should include three tools: a jack, jointer and smoothing plane. Used together, these three tools flatten and smooth surfaces, and perform many other workshop tasks.

This year, Veritas introduced two tools – a jointer plane (\$225) and a smoothing plane (\$185) – that complete a set of these three essential planes. Together, they are an excellent value, are easy for beginning planers to set up and, most importantly, perform brilliantly. What's unique about these tools is they have the bevel of the iron facing up, like a block plane, and they all use the same 2 1/4"-wide iron. This bevel-up feature makes the tools easy to set up (there's no chipbreaker to mess with) and having the three same-size irons (with different pitches or shapes) allows you to swap blades around for tricky grain or to put off a sharpening session.

All three tools have an adjustable sliding mouth

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plate to close up the throat and an ingenious stop system to keep you from damaging the cutting edge with the mouth plate.

The jointer plane also allows you to screw on a 90° fence for truing edges of boards, another nice feature for beginning planers. These three tools are ideal for anyone wishing to explore hand planes. You'll get started on the right foot, you'll find the tools versatile for different styles of woodworking and you'll never outgrow them.

