ABOVE®

SHEARS KNOWLEDGE

ABOVESHEARS.COM

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# CONTENTS

The name *ABOVE* comes from our mission to provide quality shears that are *above, and beyond the rest.*

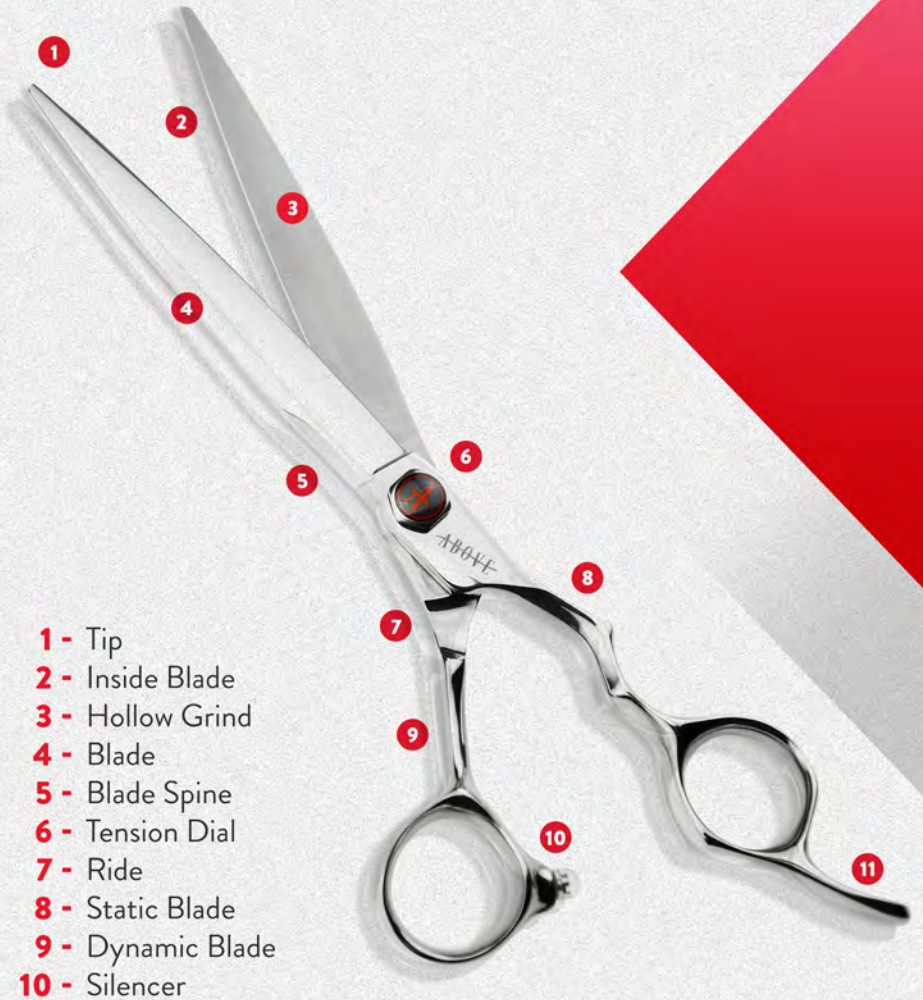
Forged with pride and precision, Above shears are handcrafted by highly skilled shears masters from proprietary cobalt steel and customized ball-bearing tension system.

With decades of experience in designing and manufacturing high-end shears, the Above team continues to impress stylists, hairdressers, barbers, and groomers in the community.
Above invites you to join our journey of first-class craftsmanship.

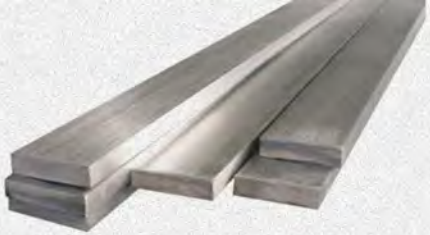

# ANATOMY OF A SHEAR

A fully functional shear is composed of many different parts. But all of them share the same principles.

Learning the right terminology will allow sharpeners to communicate more efficiently and precisely with their clients regarding the tools in need of service.




**1 -** Tip
**2 -** Inside Blade
**3 -** Hollow Grind
**4 -** Blade
**5 -** Blade Spine
**6 -** Tension Dial
**7 -** Ride
**8 -** Static Blade
**9 -** Dynamic Blade
**10 -** Silencer
**11 -** Finger Rest



## STEEL

While Japanese steel is very well-known and widely used in manufacturing of professional shears, there is also great steel from Germany, Sweden, and the USA. The most commonly used steels in shears' industry are Aichi 440C, Hitachi GN1, Takefu VG10, Yamamura ATS314, and some other proprietary hybrid steels from Naruto, Hikari, Mizutani, and Above, etc. However, all of the different steel in a shear can be broken down into "material properties" including hardness, strength, toughness, and corrosion resistance.

## HEAT TREATING

Forging is simply the shaping of metal with compression by room or higher temperature such as with a rolling mill, hammer, or press. Cold Forging means being forged at room temperature. Hot Forging is forged at a higher temperature. This is because the higher the temperature, the lower the strength of the steel, making forging easier.

### TEMPERING:

Tempering is primarily performed to improve toughness of the as-quenched steel because the steel is quenched to form hard martensite making it relatively brittle. However, tempering can reduce the hardness of the steel while the temperature is increased.

### COLD TREATMENT:

Cold treatment is the process of cooling steel to below room temperature. It is usually grouped into different temperature ranges: cold (freezer), subzero (dry ice), or cryogenic (liquid nitrogen). Cold treatment mainly improves hardness and strength but can reduce the toughness. However, Cryogenic treatment leads to a very small reduction in toughness while it improves hardness. Above Shears are all cryogenic treated.

## CRAFTSMANSHIP

*"Craftsmanship is the skill that someone uses when they make beautiful things with their hands."*

-(Collins Dictionary: 2013)

However, making shears is far more complicated than just making beautiful things. It needs to look beautiful in their eyes, but also perform beautifully in their hands.. This means a truly beautiful tool that makes them stand out requires a combination of precise engineering and craftsmanship.

# SHEARS' TYPES

There are two types of shears: standard and texture shears. Standard Shear features two blades to cut the hair. Texture shears feature a number of teeth on the blade(s) to give texture to the hair.

## STANDARD SHEARS

The Standard Shear features two blades to cut the hair.

## TEXTURIZING SHEARS

Texture Shear usually has wider teeth and features more space between the teeth. It is designed to remove over 30% weight, and create volume as well as texture through layering.

## THINNING SHEARS

Thinning Shear generally has small teeth and has more teeth than texture shear. Removes excess weight, normally up to 30% hair weight removal.

## BLENDING SHEARS

Blending Shear is designed to blend away demarcation lines left by hair shears and soften the look.

# SHEARS' SIZES

One size does not fit all. Shears come in a variety of sizes from 5 to 7 inches to fit different needs of the clients.

It is common to see stylists working with multiple sizes of shears for different cutting techniques.

The shorter length is ideal for precision cutting techniques and longer length is best for layer cutting techniques.

# DIFFERENT HANDLES

## THE OPPOSING GRIP

The opposing handles are completely straight, flat, and the same length.

## THE SEMI-OFFSET HANDLE

The semi-offset handles have either static or dynamic handle completely straight and flat.

## THE OFFSET HANDLE

The off-set handles have both static and dynamic handle. Ergonomically designed and twisted.
**Note: static handles are longer than dynamic handles.**

## SWIVEL HANDLES

The swivel handles have to be either semi or full offset handles with a swivel thumb ring.


# SHEARS' EDGES

One of the most common questions asked is about shear edges. Broadly speaking, there are only 2 types of shear edge: Convex and Beveled. So what is the difference between these two different edge types?

## CONVEX EDGE

A convex edge, originating in Japan with the nickname “clam shell”, creates the sharpest blade due to the hollow ground on the inside that translates to a smooth cutting action. But it is fragile and can nick its edge after cutting combs, clippers and tough dry hair.

## BEVELED EDGE

A bevelled edge, also known as German edge, is not as sharp as convex edge, but provides increased durability. Note it requires more force when cutting, and can result in increased noise and hair-pushing.

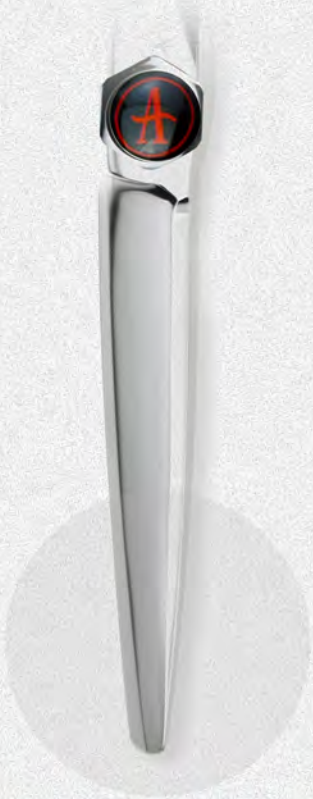
# SHEARS' BLADES

Whether it is dry-cutting, wet-cutting, or both...

...blades are designed for a specific cutting purpose

## SWORD BLADE

Best for **Wet-Cutting**



## WIDE BLADE

Best for **Dry-Cutting**

## SUPER WIDE BLADE

Best for **Slide-Cutting**

## CURVE BLADE

Best for **Slide-Cutting**

# SHEARS VS TECHNIQUES

**BLUNT CUTTING** is two dimensional cutting. It is when a stylist cuts straight across with shears. This cut is great to create a shaped look and the blunt cut was made famous by the late Mr. Vidal Sassoon who turned haircuts into dramatic art pieces.

**LAYER CUTTING** creates movement pushing to longer hair by shorter hair. It is a hairstyle that gives the illusion of length and volume using long hair for the illusion of length and short hair for volume, as an easy style to manage. Hair is arranged into layers, with the top layers (those that grow nearer the crown) cut shorter than the layer beneath.

**POINT CUTTING** is a part of texturizing and creates soft edges. It is a hair cutting technique that allows hairdressers to turn an ordinary cut into a look that is full of movement and texture all achieved by the removal of weight and creating seamless layering.

The objective of point cutting is not to remove length, but to soften ends and impart texture to a cut.

**SLIDE CUTTING** creates movement and softness. It is a technique of texturing the hair and removing bulk by sliding their shears, held slightly open along the length of the hair.

## TECHNIQUE: BLUNT CUT

**IDEAL SHEARS FOR THIS TECHNIQUE:**
Wet Cut Shears. Recommended: **Above X Series**

## TECHNIQUE: LAYER CUT

**IDEAL SHEARS FOR THIS TECHNIQUE:**
Wet & Dry Cut Shears. Recommended: **Above Signature Series**

## TECHNIQUE: POINT CUT

**IDEAL SHEARS FOR THIS TECHNIQUE:**
Wet Cut Shears. Recommended: **Above X Series**

## TECHNIQUE: SLIDE CUT

**IDEAL SHEARS FOR THIS TECHNIQUE:**
Dry & Slide Cut Shears. Recommended: **Above D Series**

# KNOWING YOUR HANDS
## THEN YOUR SHEARS

Buying a pair of shears is like buying a pair of shoes. First you need to know your size. In general, the size of your hand is the size of the shears. To ensure optimal cutting experience, most shears should not extend over your palm.

### LITTLE FINGER MATTERS

In comparison, females tend to have shorter little fingers than males. So shears have to be chosen accordingly, and attention should be paid to shears' finger rest. Broadly speaking, the shorter the little finger is, the longer and wider the finger rest should be.

### PALM AND FIST

Offset is where the thumb is at its most natural position. Palm's width determines shears' offset, especially for hairdressers who like to palm the shear with a fist. The right pair of shears should fit the users' hand ergonomically and the wrong choice of shears can lead to serious long-term damage to the users' hand like carpal tunnel and tendonitis.

## TOUCHING-POINT

Every single pair of Above shears has 4 main touch-points:

-Point where the thumb touches the static handle.
-Point where the ring finger touches the dynamic handle.
-Point where the little finger touches finger rest.
-Point where the first and middle finger touch the shank of static handle.

There are 5 key elements in choosing a right shear.

-It looks right
-It weighs right
-It fits right
-It cuts right
-It is priced right

# SHEARS' SPECIFICATIONS

LEVEL/SEMI/OFFSET HANDLES

EXAGGERATED FINGER REST

PROPRIETARY BALL BEARING TENSION

AG16/22 PROPRIETARY COBALT STEEL

HOLDING POINT

CONVEX EDGE (SHEARS)

HARDNESS (HRC) 62 (+/-1)

# MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

**ABOVE** recommends ***premium silicone oil*** for its ball bearing tension system and genuine leather for wiping the shear blades. Maintenance is recommended after 20 cuts or once a week, whichever comes first.


## STEP 1.

Keep the shear wide open at 90 degrees or more, hold the shear still, wipe down the dynamic (thumb) blade from the pivot to the tip by using genuine leather, wipe down the static (finger) blade from the pivot to the tip (you may turn the shear around).

## STEP 2.

Brush or drop the oil (1-2 drops or 2-3 brushes) at the pivot (tension) area, wait for 5-10 seconds, close and open the shear slowly and gently 2-3 times, repeat the process if necessary.

## STEP 3.

Then Wipe down the oil, keeping the shear wide open, wipe down the oil from the pivot to the tip on both blades, then proceed to next step.

## STEP 4.

Close it slowly and gently, slightly adjust the tension if necessary, keep it in its original case or a dry and safe place, repeat step 1 before using the oiled shear.

**ERGO**
WET & DRY BLADE

BALL BEARING SYSTEM

AG16 PROPRIETARY STEEL

OFFSET HANDLE

# ERGO SIGNATURE

Making your Wet & Dry Cutting Perfect

**ERGO X**
WET BLADE

BALL BEARING SYSTEM

AG16 PROPRIETARY STEEL

OFFSET HANDLE

# ERGO X SERIES

Making your Wet Cutting Perfect

# ERGO D SERIES

THE ONE THAT DOES IT ALL

**ERGO D**
DUAL EDGE BLADE

BALL BEARING SYSTEM

AG16 PROPRIETARY STEEL

OFFSET HANDLE


## DIFFERENTIATE DUAL EDGE