

X-acto Knife

Drill a hole in the handle of your X-acto knife. Put a key-ring thru the hole. Now it won't roll and can be easily hung up.

Dull X-Acto Blades

Tired of dull X-Acto blades? The only time I replace blades is when I drop one and break off the point. I covered my last plane using only one blade!

Go to your local hardware store or knife emporium and purchase a Washita whet stone. Washita is an extremely fine grade of stone used for finish honing a knife blade to a razor edge. About ten strokes on each side should return your X-Acto blades to their original sharpness. Mine is about 1-1/2 x 4 inches, made by the Buck Knife people, and is the perfect size for sharpening #11 X-Acto blades. These stones cost about \$10, but think how many blades you used covering your last plane with Monokote. It won't take many packs of blades to pay for your stone and it will last for many years. I've had mine for at least 15 years and it's still going strong. Be sure to apply plenty of oil to the stone before sharpening your blades. I use 3-in-1 oil. It will keep the metal particles that are removed from the blade in suspension so you can wipe them away instead of having them clog the pores of the stone and render it useless. Wipe the stone with a paper towel after each use.

Repeat this oil-sharpen-wipe procedure each time you use the stone and it will last forever. An instruction booklet is usually packed with each stone. Read it to find the best way to sharpen your blades.

from R/C Skyhawks Club Newsletter Craig Miller, Editor Remsen, IA