



File Terminology

Shape The File cross section (round, square, knife, etc.)

Tang The pointed portion of the file that is inserted into the handle.

Heel or Shoulder The end of the file next to the tang.

Point The end of the file opposite the tang.

Length The distance between the point and the heel (tang not included). On files without tangs, length is measured overall.

Back The rounded side of Half-Round and Great American Crosscut files.

Also the side opposite the narrow edge of knife, and similarly shaped files.

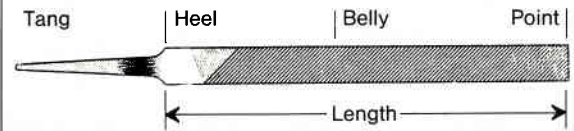
Side The broad, flat cutting surface.

Edge The narrowest cutting surface and corners on triangular-shaped files.

Safe The uncut edge, side, or back of the file.

Blunt A file having an equal cross section from heel to point.

Taper The unequal or tapering width and/or file thickness. Also the name of a type of Saw file.



ILLUSTRATED FILE FINDER FOR MACHINISTS' FILES

CROSS-SECTION	NAME	SHAPE	CHARACTER OF TEETH	TAPER	GENERAL USES
	Flat	Rectangular	Usually bastard. Also second-cut and smooth.	Tapered in width.	A general-purpose file.
	Hand	Rectangular	One edge safe. Bastard, second-cut and smooth.	Uniform in width.	Finishing flat surfaces.
	Pillar	Almost Square	One edge safe. Bastard, second-cut and smooth.	Uniform in width.	Keyways, slots, narrow work.
	Warding	Thin	Usually bastard. Also second-cut and smooth.	Width sharply tapered thickness uniform.	Filing ward notches in keys. Narrow work.
	Square	Square	Bastard, second-cut and smooth.	Tapered	Enlarging holes or recesses. Mortises, keyways and splines.
	Three-Square	Triangular	Sharp edges. Bastard, second-cut and smooth.	Tapered	Filing acute angles, corners, grooves, notches.
	Round	Circular	Usually bastard. Also second-cut and smooth.	Tapered	Enlarging holes; shaping curved surfaces.
	Half-Round	Third-Circular	Usually bastard. Also second-cut and smooth.	Usually tapered, sometimes blunt.	Concave corners; crevices, round holes.
	Knife	Knife-Shaped	Usually bastard. Also second-cut and smooth.	Tapered curving to a narrow point.	Cleaning out acute angles, corners, slots.
	Aluminum	Flat Rectangular	Made in one cut only. Fast-cutting teeth.	Tapered	Filing aluminum alloys and other soft metals.
	Aluminum	Half-Round	Made in one cut only. Fast-cutting teeth.	Slightly tapered.	Filing aluminum alloys and other soft metals.
	Long Angle Lathe	Flat Rectangular	Made in one cut only. Both edges safe.	Slightly tapered.	Lathe work where smooth finish is desired. Also soft metals.

ILLUSTRATED FILE FINDER FOR SAW AND CHAIN SAW FILES

CROSS-SECTION	NAME	SHAPE	CHARACTER OF TEETH	TAPER	GENERAL USES
	Taper	Triangular	Single-cut and Double-cut	Tapered	Sharpening Saws
	Slim Taper	Triangular	Single-cut and Double-cut	Tapered	Sharpening Saws
	Extra Slim Taper	Triangular	Single-cut and Double-cut	Tapered	Sharpening Saws
	Double-Extra Slim Taper	Triangular	Single-cut and Double-cut	Tapered	Sharpening Saws
	Mill	Flat Rectangular	Single-cut. Both edges cut. Also with either one or two round edges.	Slightly tapered 2 RE no taper.	General purpose file for sharpening tools and shop use.
	Mill Chain Saw File	Flat 2 RE	Single-cut	Uniform in width	Filing Saw Chain
	Round Chain Saw File	Round	Single-cut	Blunt	Filing Saw Chain