

# Technical Bulletin M0004

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## Selecting an Increment Borer

### Increment Borer Accessories

#### Forestry Suppliers' Increment Borer Holsters

Leather holsters protect your increment borer. Friction-fit belt loop. For use with core diameters up to .200".

- 63413** For 8" and 10" bits
- 63414** For 12" bits
- 63415** For 14" bits
- 63416** For 16" bits

#### Increment Borer Accessories

<b>63408</b>	Increment Borer Bit Starter Positions, holds and steadies the bit while you turn the handle. Fits trees up to 22" dia.
<b>63417</b>	Increment Borer Starter For larger borers or for hard dense wood. All metal construction, folding chest plate.



### Selecting an Increment Borer

The Increment Borer is essential for extracting a core of wood from trees, logs, poles or timbers. The core extracted is used for many purposes including determination of growth rate, age, tree soundness, penetration of chemicals in the wood treating business, and specific gravity studies of wood.

#### Making the Right Selection

There are three things to consider when you choose an increment borer. They are length, core diameter, and thread style.



Borer bit length depends on the size of the trees you will be boring. Length is measured from the tip of the threads to the end of the round section of the borer bit. This is the maximum depth the bit will penetrate.

Core diameter of the wood sample is determined by the inside diameter of the opening at the threaded end of the bit. For general forestry use, .169" is commonly used, .200" is used for wood preserving testing, and .500" is used for large amounts of wood for quality analysis.




-  .169 inch (4.3 mm)
-  .200 inch (5 mm)
-  .500 inch (12 mm)

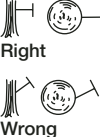
2- or 3-Thread Style is a matter of personal preference. A 2-thread borer has two threads on the cutting edge of the bit, each originating 180° apart while a 3-thread borer has three threads, each originating 120° apart. The 3-thread borer will engage the wood faster and easier than the 2-thread borer, and it will also turn easier inside the tree. Although, for each 360° turn of the handle, a 2-thread borer will penetrate deeper and come out of the tree faster than a 3-thread borer.

#### Taking An Increment Core:

1. Remove the borer bit and extractor from inside the handle. Place the extractor in a pocket of your cruiser vest for convenience and protection of the extractor.

2. Assemble the handle and borer bit by:

- A Pushing the locking latch away from the handle with your thumb, 
- B Inserting the square end of the borer bit into the handle, and then 
- C Returning the locking latch completely around the borer bit "collar." You're now ready to start boring. However, we suggest you apply beeswax to the threads and shank before you begin. 

3. Align the borer bit and the handle so that the bit will penetrate through or towards the center of the tree and at right angles to the tree. In any other alignment, the annual growth rings seen in the extracted core will be distorted and could result in erroneous growth rate analysis. 


4. Place the borer bit threads against the tree (Fig.1, right), preferably in a bark fissure where the bark is thinnest. Hold the threads in place with one hand. With your other hand push forward on the handle and simultaneously turn it clockwise until the bit threads penetrate the wood enough to hold the bit firmly in place. 

Fig. 1


5. Then place both hands, palms open, on the ends of the handle and turn the handle clockwise until the bit reaches the desired depth (Fig. 2). 

Fig. 2

### Tech Support 800-430-5566

If you need more information or would like advice from an experienced professional, call our Technical Support team.

### Sales 800-647-5368

Our sales department will gladly fax you an order form, update you on pricing, or take your order over the phone.

### Online www.forestry-suppliers.com

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6. With the bit at the desired depth, insert the full length of the extractor, concave side down like this (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

Then turn the handle one-half turn counterclockwise to break the core from the tree and also to turn the extractor concave side up like this (Fig. 4).

7. Pull the extractor from the borer bit (Fig. 4). The core will be resting in the channel and held in place by the small "teeth" at the tip of the extractor.



Fig. 4

Before examining the core sample, promptly remove the borer bit from the tree. Clean it and place it and the extractor back in the handle.

### Care & Maintenance of Increment Borers

Here are a few suggestions that will be helpful in maintaining the efficiency and extending the life of increment borers.

#### Lubricate with Beeswax

A block of beeswax is provided with every increment borer. Penetration and removal of the borer bit will be easier if beeswax is liberally applied to the threads and shank before each boring.

#### Clean with WD-40

WD-40 is an excellent cleaner and rust preventative for an increment borer. It will also prevent sap acid-etching of the borer. Spray it on the outside as well as the inside of the bit and on the extractor at the end of each working day. Wipe clean.

#### Be Quick!

Obtain your core samples as rapidly as possible. It's best to remove the bit from the tree even before examining the core sample. This will reduce the possibility of the bit becoming stuck or locked in the tree.

#### Avoid Compression & Tension Wood

Never bore into suspected compression or tension wood. To explain: a tree leaning towards the North will have compression wood on the North side. If you bore into compression wood, the bit could be locked into the tree by the force of the "compressed" wood. If you bore into the South side, you are boring into "tension" wood, where the ring width may not be representative. We recommend boring on the East or West side, or if possible, select another tree.

### Increment Borer Sharpening

Increment borers become dull or nicked with use. A borer is dull if it does not easily engage the wood and if it will not cut a clean-edged hole when rotated on a sheet of paper.

See Increment Borer Sharpening Kit for stones described here.

#### 1. True Cutting Edge Using Pocket Stone

If cutting edge is uneven when placed lightly against a flat surface, it needs to be trued up. Place a few drops of oil on wide face of pocket stone. Hold borer bit steady on cork rest and pass stone back and forth across cutting edge, turning bit slightly after each pass. Repeat until true. (Fig. 5)

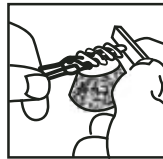


Fig. 5

#### 2. Sharpen Cutting Edge Using India Stone

Holding bit in left hand and India stone in right hand, slowly rotate bit away from you and against stone while holding stone parallel to and firmly on beveled edge of bit. Continue until sharp. If nicks are present, use the pocket stone to work them out, then follow with the India stone. (Fig. 6)

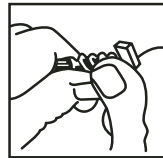


Fig. 6

#### 3. Hone Inside of Cutting Edge Using Conical Stone

Put a few drops of oil on conical stone and insert tip of stone into cutting end of bit until it occupies about 3/4ths of core hole. Very lightly rotate stone against inside of cutting edge, keeping the edge of the stone parallel to the long axis of the bit. (Fig. 7)

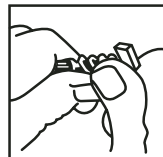


Fig. 7

#### 4. Hone Outside Beveled Portion of Cutting Edge Using Conical Stone

Hold borer bit with threads on cork rest and place just the tip of conical stone on and parallel to bevel. Use very light strokes back and forth over a small arc of beveled edge. Turn bit and repeat until entire edge has been honed. To test sharpening, cut circular holes in a sheet of paper. (Fig. 8)

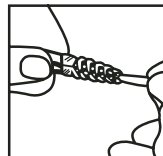


Fig. 8

### Increment Borer Sharpening Kit

Includes everything needed to sharpen borers: India Stone to sharpen lead cutting edge; Conical Stone to sharpen inside cutting edge, outside beveled edge; Pocket Stone to "true" cutting edge, remove chips and nicks; can of Sharpening Stone Oil to lubricate, clean stones; and Cork to use as a work rest. To order, specify Sharpening Kit, stock number 63399.

#### Professional

#### Increment Borer Repair Service

Extend the life of your increment borer. Have the cutting edge sharpened, threads reshaped near cutting tip, and nicks removed. Your bit will be returned to you in "like-new" condition.

**Note:** Nicks, chips and cracks greater than 1/16" deep cannot be repaired. For more information, call our Customer Service Department toll-free at (800) 752-8460. One of our friendly representatives will tell you everything you need to know.