

Care and Feeding

Most saws are fairly low maintenance. Always remove debris after each cut. Spray water on the tray to clean its surface, and wash around the splashguard of the blade. For trim saws, clean and replenish reservoirs with fresh water. On occasion, wipe exposed steel and metal nut and bolt heads, washers, spacers, etc., with a dab or two of machine oil. A light greasing (with bike grease such as Phil Wood's waterproof grease) of exposed parts will assist in the release of nuts and bolts for maintenance. Also lube any moving parts for the tray and for any adjustment knobs. Wipe down the whole machine at the end of the day.

Blades

Good blades are an essential part of the saw. Most blades used in the coldshop are continuous-rim diamond blades, that have a full rim of cutting material on the edge of the blade. For cutting bricks, a serrated blade will be used, though these blades are not recommended for most glass cutting applications.

Have at least two blades available at all times. A rough-duty blade (often the one that comes with the saw) for general applications and for very rough cuts through materials other than glass, such as kiln shelves or bricks or for cutting up scrap glass.

And purchase a blade, such as a fine quality lapidary blade, made specifically for cutting cleanly through glass. A good example is the MK 303 Professional blade. Lapidary blades have thinner and cleaner cuts and produce less chipping on the bottom of the piece.

When selecting a high quality lapidary blade, choose the thickest one available, with the biggest kerf, if desiring to use it for long, straight cuts. For example, with a 10" (25 cm) blade, the .050" (1.25 mm) thick blade of the MK 303 Professional blade is the thickest and firmest blade of that product. It will not bend and warp during longer cuts. If only shorter cuts are to be done, then a narrower blade can be used.

When purchasing a new blade, take the time to mark an arrow to indicate the orientation of the blade so that it is always mounted the same way onto the machine. This practice will help to stabilize the sintered matrix of the metal rim which holds the diamonds in place on the saw blade. Keep the good blade stored safely in its originally packing when not in use.



Using a carborundum dressing stick to clean and refresh the saw blade.