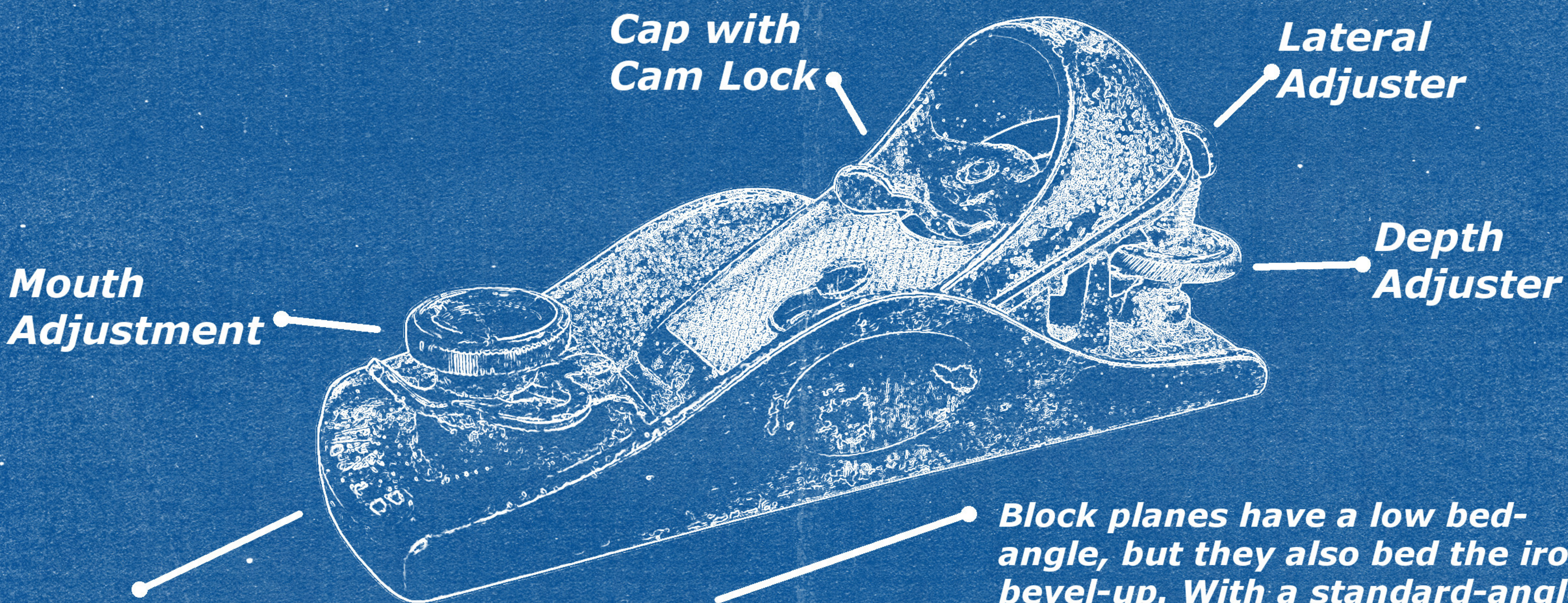
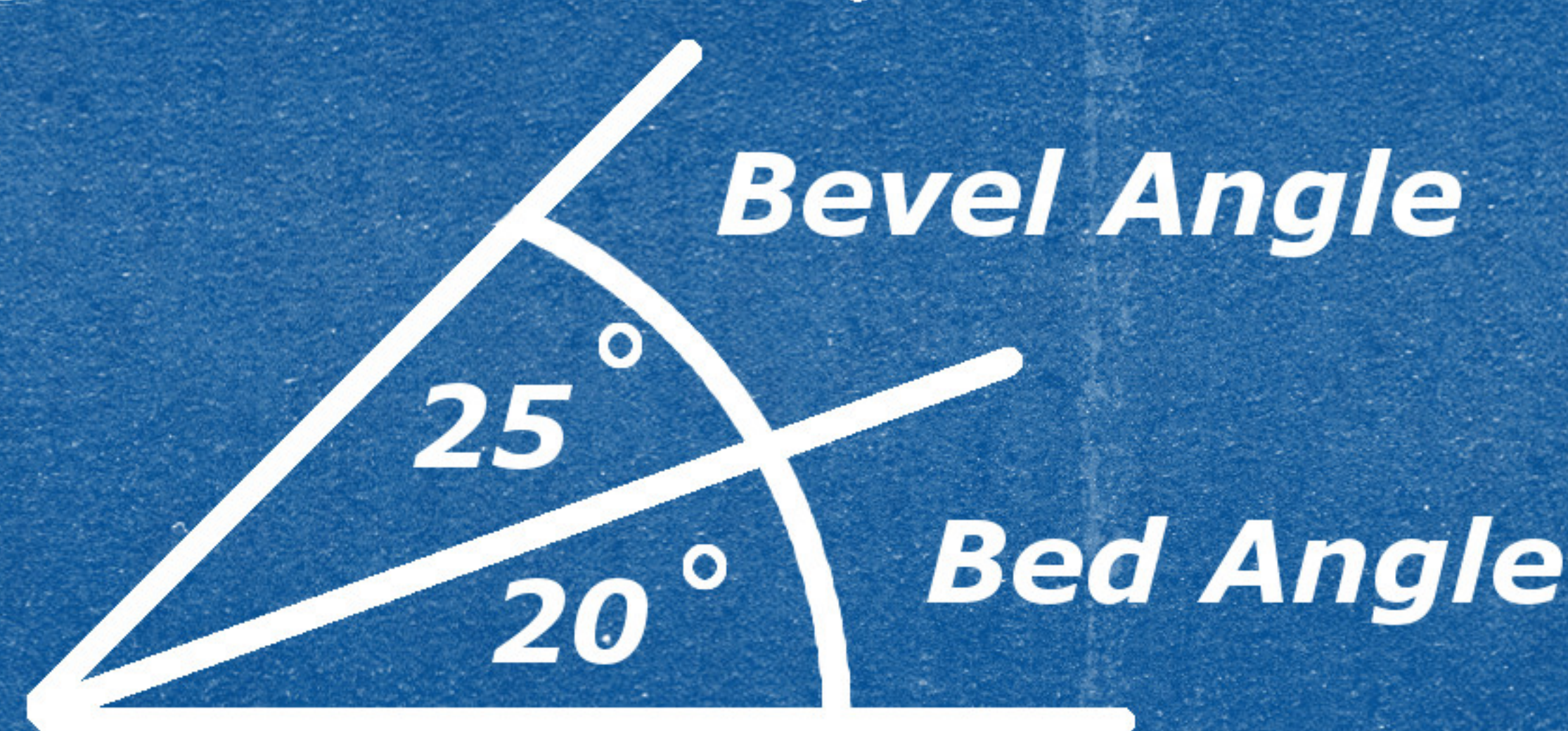


UNDERSTANDING BLOCK PLANES

Many new woodworkers struggle to find a good, affordable block plane, especially when they hear that this is the "only" tool for working on end-grain. The truth is that block planes are handy but not necessary. Trimming and end-grain tasks are easily handled by a standard bench plane. The main advantages of a block plane are portability and simple construction. If you need a plane to carry in a pocket or something that you can hold one-handed, buy a quality block plane with full adjustments, an adjustable mouth, and (ideally) a low-angle bed. As I demonstrate below, the standard angle block plane cuts at the same angle as a bench plane and offers few advantages for tough cuts. A standard bench plane is a better investment for those just starting out.



An adjustable mouth is an excellent feature. It allows extra control over the depth of cut and helps prevent tear-out and clogging.



Block planes have a low bed-angle, but they also bed the iron bevel-up. With a standard-angle block-plane (shown) the bed angle plus the blade's bevel angle equals 45 degrees, the same as a standard bench plane. A low angle block plane has a cutting angle of 37 degrees, which does offer some advantage, but less than many people claim.

Watch the video here

