

# TIP SHEET

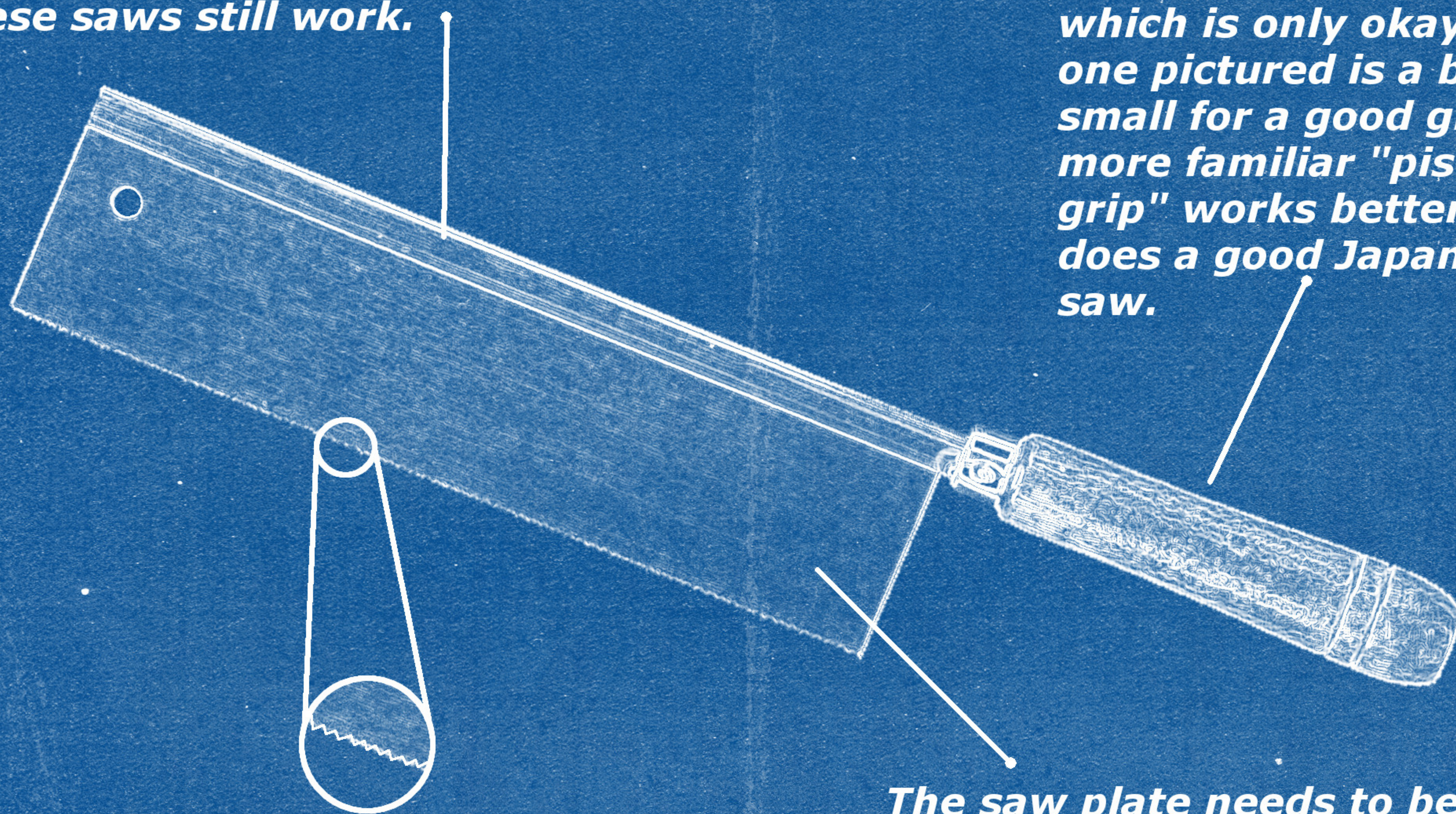
NO. 031

## FIND A GOOD DOVETAIL SAW

*It seems hard to find a good dovetail saw that's affordable. Really nice saws go for over \$100 and it's easy to think you have to spend a lot to get a saw that will cut a fine, straight line. But if you know what to look for, a good joinery saw can be found for well under \$50.*

*The saw's spine keeps it straight in the cut and keeps the thin plate from folding. The best saws have heavy spines made from brass or steel. Look for the thickest spine you can find, but don't worry if it's thin; these saws still work.*

*A good handle is important. Many inexpensive saws have the "gents" handle, which is only okay. The one pictured is a bit small for a good grip. The more familiar "pistol grip" works better, as does a good Japanese saw.*



*The teeth need to be fine, but smaller teeth also cut slower and are hard to sharpen. If a saw has more than 15 teeth per inch (tpi), it's not practical to sharpen at home. A saw that has very small teeth is basically disposable.*

*The saw plate needs to be pretty thin. .02" (.5 mm) is a good thickness. If the plate is too thin, it will be fragile.*

**Watch the video here**



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