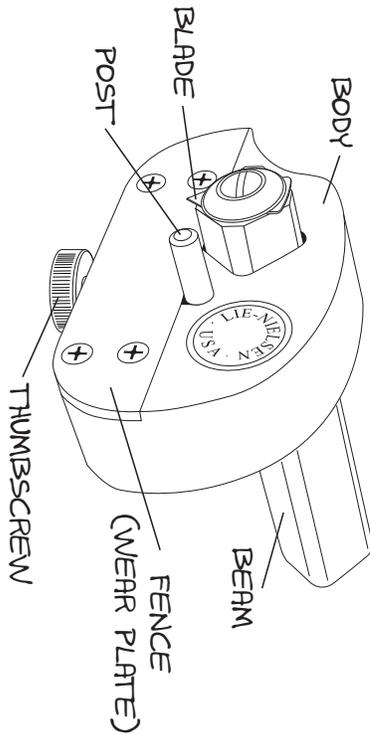


SLICING GAUGE



**WARNING:** This product can expose you to lead, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov). Wash hands after handling.

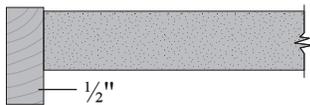
## Slicing Gauge

Our collaboration with Educator and Cabinetmaker, Steve Latta, began in 2006, when he approached us about designing a selection of inlay tools based on the tools he developed over many years of studying and creating 18th century furniture. Our inlay tools are the first commercially available tools designed specifically for stringing inlay. These tools cut precisely and are easily adjusted.

The Slicing Gauge is for slicing veneer into thin strips to form pieces of stringing. The veneer should be around .9mm (.034") — just a little bit thicker than the standard .032" cutter that comes with our Radius or Straight Line cutting tools. If you are cutting thicker grooves, you will want to use slightly thicker material. To extend the blade, loosen thumbscrew and slide the beam forward. The beam is 6" long and the blade can be extended to cut various width strips. When disassembling, be careful not to lose the spacer & pressure pad under the thumbscrew that locks the beam.

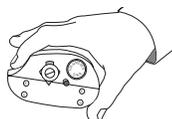
For more information on the Slicing Gauge and how to use stringing inlay in your work, we recommend Steve Latta's DVD *Fundamentals of Inlay: Stringing, Line & Berry*, available via our website in both DVD and streaming formats.

**Slicing Fixture:** Study the illustration and make a fixture for slicing off your stringing. Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) works well for the main surface and a hardwood, such as maple or cherry, makes a great edge strip. The strip should rest above the surface by about 1/32" and lip below about 1/4" so that it can be butted to the edge of a workbench.



This strip will serve as a guide for the slicing tool. As the MDF surface becomes worn and scored, it will lose its ability to serve as a chipbreaker for the slicing tool. When that occurs, simply remove the strip, cut off the rough section of the MDF and reattach.

**Slicing Off a Piece of Stringing:** Hold the tool with your thumb and forefinger encasing the body of the tool, with the outermost knuckle of the finger positioned



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*Heirloom Quality Tools<sup>®</sup>*

## Latta Inlay Tools Slicing Gauge

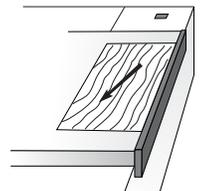
[www.lie-nielsen.com](http://www.lie-nielsen.com)  
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at the crest of the slope. The remaining three fingers are simply held out of the way and make no contact with the tool at all. Hand pressure should be used to hold the tool against the bearing surface. Minimal pressure should be required for the actual cutting process.

Using a block plane or a jointer, true the edge of the veneer. Butt the veneer up against the strip and hold it in place with a strip of wood or a steel rule. Holding the Slicing Gauge, place the steel post on the edge strip and starting near the bottom of the veneer, pivot the blade lightly into the veneer and pull the cutter towards you. It should take two or three passes to slice through the veneer completely. Work your way up the full length of the veneer until you have completely removed the stringing. For difficult materials, try slicing half way through and then flip the veneer over and come in from the other side. If necessary clean up the edge of your veneer with a block plane.

**A Note on Stringing Material:** Veneer, despite its thinness, is still a board and paying attention to grain direction is essential. The grain of the veneer should be oriented as shown in the illustration. Having it positioned as such prevents the stringing from fracturing and pulls the slicing tool tight against the guide strip. It may be helpful to re-cut sheet veneer to guarantee such an orientation.



**Sharpening:** The Slicing Gauge has four bevels per blade. Mark the bevels with a felt tip pen or layout fluid to help see your work. Hold the blade so the bevel registers flat on the stone (medium or fine grit). Position the cutting edge of the blade so it is parallel to the edge of the stone. Run the blade up and back along the length of the stone, using your fingers as a fence to brace your hands in the right position. Hone until the ink has been removed from the bevel. Repeat until all bevels have been honed.

**Materials:** Hard Maple body and shaft. Other parts are Brass and Steel. The blade is made of .020" Spring Steel hardened to RC 52.

**Guarantee:** Materials and workmanship are guaranteed for the life of your tool. Call for repairs or replacement parts. We are available for advice if you ever have a problem using your tool.