

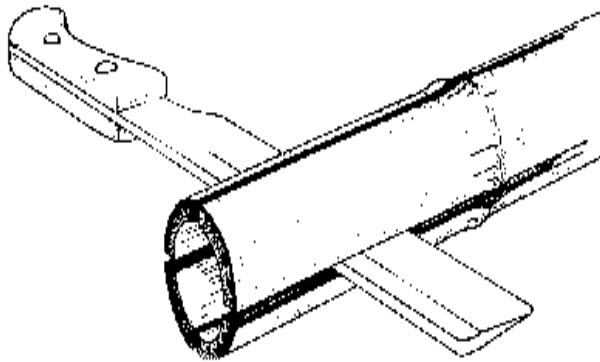
BAMBOO..... WORKING WITH IT

The included images are ones I have found at different places on the web during the past few years along with images that have been sent to me from bamboo workers. Some of the diagrams are from old issues of the Manjha News a Manjha Club International newsletter.

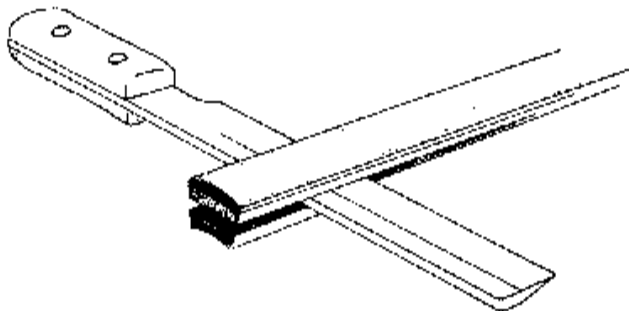
I hope all of them show you ways to work with bamboo that you can apply!



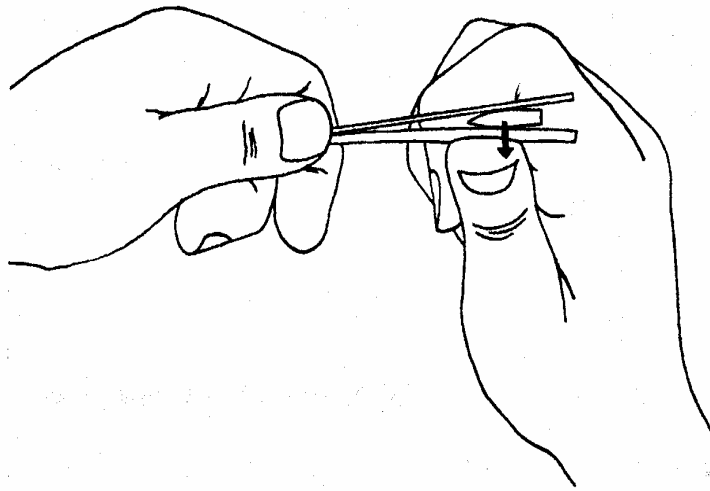
The photo on the left is from Chile, showing a splitting jig.



When splitting bamboo it is best to split it is best if you can split it into two equal parts. This applies to each time you split the bamboo from splitting a pole to splitting a 1/4" wide strip. The reason is the forces acting on the knife are more equal on both sides of the split and that will help to assure a straighter split and equal parts after the split. As you can see in the diagram, the shapened part of the blade is not in contact with the bamboo, only the sides of the knife; it is being used more as a wedge than a knife after the initial entry into bamboo.



Here the knife is shown splitting the bamboo strip parallel to the skin of the bamboo to make the piece thinner.



This shows how to bend the bamboo to assist in a more even split. As you can see in the diagram, the top portion is thinner than the lower portion. To move the split down so the split is dividing the piece more equally, put downward pressure on the entire bamboo piece. This makes the bamboo curve downward and the split will normally follow the direction of the curve. So if the curve is downward as in the diagram, the split will begin to move down. Bending or applying pressure to either side of the piece being split is how to guide the split. Go slowly and carefully.

BambooGrins,
Bruce