

Oscillating hoe No. 404

Use:

For weed control in young seedling plantings and clean cultivation between narrowly planted row crops.

Description:

An oscillating hoe is much more efficient than a standard hoe.

The blade of the oscillating hoe works parallel to the ground in an easy and efficient push and pull motion replacing exhausting hoeing done with a standard hoe. Weeds are undercut and weed seeds stay on the surface, not buried to germinate. The vertical edges of the blade are sharpened so a clean cut is possible very close to young plants without disturbing their growth. The blade of the oscillating hoe is easily replaceable.

Technical data:

<i>Size:</i>	<i>Part no.:</i>	<i>Repl. blade no.:</i>	<i>Weight:</i> approx. 450 gm (without handle)
85mm	404/85	404M/85	<i>Recommended handle:</i> Ash, not
125mm	404/125	404M/125	lacquered, 28 mm dia, 1.5 m long
175mm	404/175	404M/175	<i>Rust protection:</i> powder coated, blade oiled



Manufactured by

GLASER ENGINEERING GMBH of Switzerland and sold in the UK by

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Getting Started with the Oscillating Hoe

Fitting a Handle. You need to find a broom handle (or similar) which is 1500mm long and 28mm diameter. Your local DIY or hardware store should have these fairly cheaply, and they are usually ash, which is ideal. If you want a shaped handle, you will need to pay more, and probably at a more specialist garden shop. Alternatively, we now sell handles too! You may be happy with a handle shorter than 1500mm, but that is the recommended length.

To get the taper on the hoe end of the handle, try drawing round a 5p piece on the end (12mm diameter circle) and measure back about 80mm on the handle. Draw a line around it here, and then aim to trim off wood between this line and the circle on the end. You can use a plane or a sharp craft knife and a 'Surform' tool is good to get a smoother surface. For final trimming try it in the hoe and see where you need to make adjustments. Coarse sandpaper will probably help.

The Glaser oscillating hoe has a slot rather than a hole on the back of the ferrule, so it is easy to adjust the fixing if the handle shrinks a little. It's a good idea to **treat the handle with linseed oil**, but you may want to use a bradawl to mark the screw position on the handle first. Then paint the oil on and stand the tapered end in a jar of the oil for a day or two. If you re-soak the handle every year, it should last for ages.

The Blade. The blade is replaceable and can be re-sharpened with a file after use. In practice, there is normally very little need for sharpening.

Using the Hoe. If you have a copy of Eliot Coleman's *Four Season Harvest*, then see what he has to say (page 64):- *"The stirrup is hinged where it attaches to the handle so it swings back and forth slightly. The blade is sharpened on both edges. The hinged action changes the angle of the blade to the soil just enough so that it cuts smoothly whether you are pushing or pulling. This hoe is held with the thumbs pointing down the handle so that a lot of power can be applied. It can cut effectively just below the soil's surface or go deeper if you wish. The cutting blade is curved and fits nicely in the paths between the beds where your feet have passed. We use this hoe while moving down the paths backward, working the hinged action of the hoe back and forth in the compacted soil. It neatly cuts off all weeds and leaves a fresh, aerated surface."*

Any questions? Get in touch and we will try to help.

Dave Taylor

December 2004 - May 2020

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