

INSTRUCTIONS AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR MORSE-STARRETT IMPACT CABLE CUTTERS

This guide is for all Morse-Starrett impact cable cutters including model 101, 121 and 131.

Instructions for safe use:

1. Wear proper safety equipment.

*Note: Morse-Starrett recommends safety glasses and leather work gloves to be the minimum safety equipment standard; hard hats and ear protection are also suggested.

2. Place cable cutter on a flat, level surface.

*Note: Surface used for cutting must be solid enough to withstand the force of impact cutting. **DO NOT** cut cable with the tool lying on its side. Cutters are designed with a wide flat base to support the tool and keep it in an upright position while cutting.

3. Lift plunger and move guard plate to expose dies.

4. Place cable in the curve of the dies and then move guard plate back so it covers the cable where the cut is going to be made.

*Note: Guard plate must be level with the base of the cutter before cutting can begin. **DO NOT** cut cable if the guard plate is angled upward. Cutting cable with the guard angled upward can obstruct the cut and damage the tool. Morse-Starrett recommends that any damaged or detached guard plate be replaced with a new guard plate before use of the tool continues.

5. Rest blade in the approximate place where cut is desired.

*Note: Ensure that the blade is centered in the slot of the guard and resting on the cable before cutting continues.

6. Be sure that the work area where cutting is happening is cleared of all individuals not involved with the cutting.

*Note: Be sure to look around and announce that cutting is going to start. This alerts workers that cutting is going to begin and allows everyone to get a safe distance away and to be properly equipped with safety gear. Require all individuals to wear safety equipment.

7. Strike plunger until blade has sheared through cable.

Note: It is important to strike the plunger directly on top in a straight downward motion. Striking the plunger at an angle may cause mushrooming and chipping of the tool. Keep plunger clean, dressed and free from chips and mushroomed heads.

8. If the cutter moves while striking the plunger, stop and readjust the cutter so the blade is resting where the cut was started.

Note: **DO NOT** continue striking the plunger if the cutter has moved. Several short cuts will cause chips of the cable to form which can jam the plunger and dies. If the cutter moves, it is best to stop and readjust so the blade rests where cutting was started.

9. Strike plunger until blade shears through cable. The cut is complete when the blade has fully sheared the cable.

Note: **DO NOT** continue striking the plunger when the cut is complete. Striking the plunger after cut is complete may cause chipping to the plunger and/or dies and may damage the tool.

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Maintenance

Morse-Starrett impact cable cutters are expertly designed and precision machined to offer our users a tool that will outperform all others. We pride ourselves in a product that is dependable and user friendly. While our tools are designed to last a lifetime, it is important to remember that they are still tools and require some maintenance from the user.

Common maintenance tips and instructions

Only use replacement parts manufactured by Morse-Starrett Products Company. Cutters manufactured before 1995 are equipped with a plunger size that is no longer available. Please specify if you are ordering parts for an older model.

Keep plunger and dies free from dirt and loose debris to prevent jamming. If the plunger becomes jammed or stuck, use a flat head screw driver or flat chisel to pry up on the plunger to free it from the jam.

Keep the crown of the plunger free from chips and mushroomed heads. The crown of the plunger can be dressed on a lathe or belt sander. However, it may be necessary to replace the plunger if mushroomed heads cause a safety concern.

Mushroomed heads can cause chipping. If the plunger needs to be replaced, follow these steps:

Replacing the plunger:

1. Remove blade pin and blade by placing the cutter on its side with the guide slot facing down.
2. Place punch in hole located in the plunger above the blade.
3. Strike punch until blade pin is fully removed.
4. Once the blade pin is removed, the plunger can be removed from the cutter base.
5. Remove plunger and then gently tap blade on side until blade is removed.
6. Remove guide pin from the neck of the cutter base.
7. Reassemble new plunger with blade and blade pin.
8. Insert new plunger assembly into the neck of the plunger base with the guide slot facing the same direction as the guide pin hole.
9. Insert guide pin and tap it flush with the neck of the casting base.
10. Make sure plunger moves freely before cutting continues.

The blade is designed to shear rather than cut. After the first cut is made, the blade will appear dull. However, this is desired for best cutting results. While it is necessary to dress the edge of the blade after extended use, it is important to remember that overly sharpened blade edges may cause the blade to chip or crack while cutting.

The blade and/or dies may have to be replaced after extended use. The blade can be redressed however after extended use, it may be necessary to replace the blade and/or dies. Follow the steps listed in the guide for replacing the blade and dies.

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Replacing the blade

1. Remove blade pin and blade by placing the cutter on its side with the guide slot facing down.
2. Place punch in hole located in the plunger above the blade.
3. Strike punch until blade pin is fully removed.
4. Once the blade pin has been removed, the plunger can be removed from the cutter base.
5. Remove plunger and then gently tap blade on side until blade is removed.
6. Gently tap new blade into the blade slot of the plunger.
7. Make sure the blade hole in the blade lines up with the blade pin hole in the plunger.
8. Line up the blade pin with the hole on the guide slot side.
9. Gently tap blade pin until the top of the pin is flush with the plunger. Do not counter sink the blade pin. The blade pin acts as a stop.
10. Return plunger to the casting base with the guide slot of the plunger lined up with the guide pin hole of the casting base.
11. Line guide pin up with hole and gently tap until pin is flush with the neck of the casting base.
12. Make sure plunger moves freely before cutting continues.

Replacing the die set

1. Remove blade pin and blade by placing the cutter on its side with the guide slot facing down.
2. Place punch in hole located in the plunger above the blade.
3. Strike punch until blade pin is fully removed.
4. Remove plunger.
5. Once the plunger has been removed, remove the guide pin from the neck of the cutter.
6. After the plunger and guide pin have been removed, place the cutter upside down so that it is resting on the neck and the base is fully exposed.
7. Place a punch in the slot that is centered with the bottom of the dies.
8. Strike punch until dies are free from the base of the cutter.
9. Place cutter back on its base.
10. Place new dies together in the die slot.
11. Reassemble the plunger and blade.
12. Put plunger back into cutter so the blade lines up with the center of the dies.
13. Strike plunger until new dies are set in the cutter base.
14. Make sure the guide slot of the plunger is lined up with the guide pin hole in the casting.
15. Return guide pin.
16. Make sure plunger moves freely in cutter before cutting is continued.

For further information about maintenance, you may contact us at 208/888-7571
Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm mountain time or you may email your questions to sales@morse-starrett.com