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## Starrett BT96-20

# Starrett BT96-20 Bi-Metal Fast Cut Reciprocating Blade Instruction Manual

Model: BT96-20 | Brand: Starrett

## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Starrett BT96-20 Bi-Metal Fast Cut Tapered General Purpose Reciprocating Blade is engineered for versatility and efficiency. Its bi-metal construction ensures durability and a long cutting life, making it ideal for a wide range of applications, particularly in wood and plastic materials. The tapered shape allows for plunge cutting and improved access in tight spaces, while the 6 teeth per inch (TPI) configuration provides a fast and clean cut.



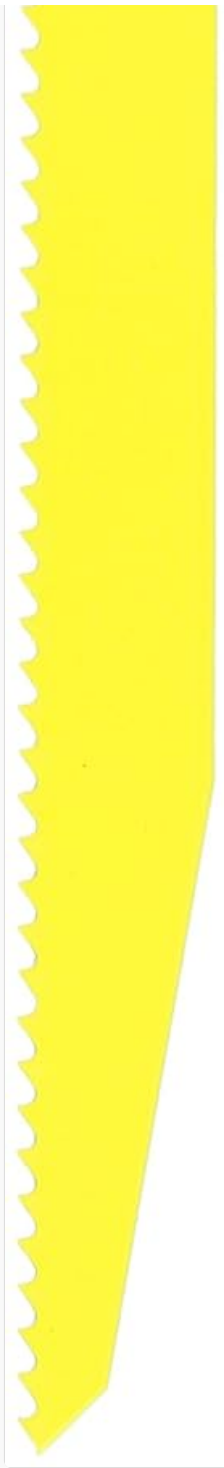


Image: Starrett BT96-20 Bi-Metal Fast Cut Reciprocating Blade, showcasing its yellow finish and blade specifications.

### Key Features:

- **Fastcut General Purpose:** Excellent for all-around use in various materials.
- **Versatile Application:** Specifically designed for cutting wood and plastic.
- **Tapered Shape:** Facilitates easier plunge cuts and access in confined areas.
- **Optimal Tooth Count:** Features 6 teeth per inch (TPI) for efficient material removal.
- **Dimensions:** Measures 9 inches in length, 3/4 inches in width, and 0.050 inches in thickness.

## 2. SPECIFICATIONS

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Attribute	Value
Model Number	BT96-20
Brand	Starrett
Material	Bi-metal
Blade Length	9 inches
Blade Width	3/4 inches
Blade Thickness	0.050 inches
Teeth Per Inch (TPI)	6
Compatible Material	Wood, Plastic
Style	Compact, Tapered
Package Dimensions	9.7 x 2.1 x 0.9 inches
Item Weight	1.5 Pounds (for pack of 20)
Manufacturer	Starrett
ASIN	B00FLEEXSA
GTIN	07891265201300

### 3. SETUP & INSTALLATION

Proper installation of the reciprocating blade is crucial for safety and effective cutting. Always refer to your reciprocating saw's user manual for specific blade change procedures. The following are general guidelines:

- Safety First:** Ensure the reciprocating saw is unplugged or its battery is removed before attempting to change the blade. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses and gloves.
- Blade Release Mechanism:** Locate the blade release lever or button on your reciprocating saw. This mechanism typically allows the blade clamp to open.
- Remove Old Blade (if applicable):** If there's an old blade, carefully remove it, as it may be hot or have sharp edges. Dispose of used blades responsibly.
- Insert New Blade:** Insert the shank of the Starrett BT96-20 blade into the saw's blade clamp. Ensure the blade is fully seated and properly aligned.
- Secure Blade:** Release the blade release mechanism to allow the clamp to secure the blade firmly. Gently pull on the blade to confirm it is locked in place and cannot be easily dislodged.
- Check for Wobble:** A properly installed blade should have minimal wobble. If excessive wobble is observed, re-check the installation.

### 4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Using the Starrett BT96-20 blade effectively requires understanding proper cutting techniques and safety precautions. This blade is optimized for cutting wood and plastic.

## General Cutting Tips:

- **Material Selection:** This blade is specifically designed for wood and plastic. Using it on harder materials like metal or masonry may damage the blade or the saw.
- **Secure Workpiece:** Always ensure the material you are cutting is securely clamped or held to prevent movement during operation.
- **Start Slowly:** Begin cutting at a lower speed to allow the blade to bite into the material, then increase speed as needed.
- **Maintain Pressure:** Apply consistent, moderate pressure. Do not force the blade through the material, as this can lead to overheating, premature wear, or kickback.
- **Plunge Cutting:** The tapered design allows for plunge cuts. Position the tip of the blade against the material and slowly angle the saw until the blade penetrates.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate ventilation in your workspace, especially when cutting plastic, as it can produce fumes.
- **Blade Cooling:** For extended cuts, especially in dense wood, periodically withdraw the blade from the cut to allow it to cool.

## Safety Precautions:

- Always wear safety glasses, hearing protection, and gloves.
- Keep hands and body parts clear of the blade's path.
- Do not operate the saw with a dull, bent, or damaged blade.
- Ensure the work area is clear of obstructions and well-lit.
- Never attempt to cut material that is unstable or cannot be properly secured.

## 5. MAINTENANCE & CARE

Proper maintenance extends the life of your Starrett BT96-20 blade and ensures consistent performance.

- **Clean After Use:** After each use, remove any accumulated sawdust, resin, or plastic residue from the blade using a brush or cloth. This prevents buildup that can hinder cutting performance.
- **Inspect for Damage:** Regularly inspect the blade for signs of wear, such as dull teeth, bends, cracks, or missing teeth. A damaged blade should be replaced immediately.
- **Storage:** Store blades in a dry environment to prevent rust. Keep them in their original packaging or a dedicated blade storage case to protect the teeth and prevent accidental injury.
- **Avoid Overheating:** Excessive heat can reduce blade life. If the blade becomes discolored (blue or purple), it indicates overheating. Reduce cutting speed or pressure.

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues while using your Starrett BT96-20 blade, consider the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Slow Cutting / Excessive Effort	Dull blade, incorrect blade for material, insufficient power from saw.	Replace blade, ensure blade is suitable for wood/plastic, check saw's power supply.
Blade Bending / Wobbling	Improper installation, damaged blade, forcing the cut.	Re-install blade securely, replace bent blade, reduce cutting pressure.
Excessive Vibration	Loose blade, worn saw components, material not secured.	Check blade installation, inspect saw, secure workpiece firmly.
Blade Overheating / Smoke	Forcing the cut, dull blade, cutting too fast, material friction.	Reduce pressure, replace dull blade, slow down cutting speed, allow blade to cool.
Rough Cut Finish	Dull blade, incorrect blade for desired finish, excessive feed rate.	Replace blade, use a finer TPI blade if available for smoother finish (though this blade is 6 TPI), reduce feed rate.

## 7. WARRANTY & SUPPORT

Starrett products are manufactured to high standards of quality and precision. For information regarding warranty coverage, product support, or to inquire about other Starrett tools and accessories, please visit the official Starrett website or contact their customer service department.

**Official Starrett Website:** [www.starrett.com](http://www.starrett.com)

For further assistance, please refer to the contact information provided on the Starrett website or your product packaging.