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Stens 700-583

Stens 700-583 Flat File Instruction Manual

Comprehensive guide for the Stens 6-inch Flat File (Pack of 10)

1. Introduction

This manual provides essential instructions for the safe and effective use of the Stens 700-583 Flat File. This product consists of a pack of ten 6-inch flat files, designed for various material shaping and finishing tasks. Please read this manual thoroughly before use and retain it for future reference.



Figure 1: A pack of ten Stens 700-583 6-inch flat files. These files are designed for material removal and shaping, featuring a flat profile for broad surface work.

2. Safety Information

Always prioritize safety when using hand tools. Failure to follow these safety guidelines may result in injury or damage to the workpiece.

- **Eye Protection:** Always wear safety glasses or goggles to protect against flying debris.
- **Hand Protection:** Wear appropriate gloves to prevent cuts and abrasions.
- **Workpiece Security:** Ensure the workpiece is securely clamped or held to prevent movement during filing.
- **Proper Grip:** Maintain a firm grip on the file. If using a handle (not included), ensure it is securely attached.
- **Avoid Prying:** Do not use the file as a pry bar or chisel, as this can damage the file and cause injury.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the file clean and free of debris to maintain cutting efficiency and prevent clogging.

3. Setup

The Stens 700-583 Flat Files are ready for use upon removal from packaging. For enhanced comfort and control, it is recommended to attach a suitable file handle (sold separately) to the tang of the file.

1. **Inspect File:** Before each use, inspect the file for any damage, such as broken teeth or bends. Do not use a damaged file.
2. **Attach Handle (Optional):** If using a file handle, ensure it is compatible with the file's tang size. Firmly tap the file's tang into the handle's opening until secure.
3. **Prepare Work Area:** Ensure your work area is well-lit, clean, and free of obstructions. Secure the workpiece in a vise or with clamps.

4. Operating Instructions

Using a flat file effectively requires proper technique to achieve desired results and prolong the life of the tool.

- **Filing Stroke:** Apply pressure only on the forward stroke. Lift the file slightly or relieve pressure on the return stroke to prevent dulling the teeth.
- **Angle of Attack:** Hold the file at a slight angle to the workpiece. This allows more teeth to engage and helps prevent grooving.
- **Even Pressure:** Apply even pressure across the entire length of the file during the cutting stroke to ensure uniform material removal.
- **Cross-Filing:** For faster material removal, use a cross-filing technique by moving the file diagonally across the workpiece.
- **Finishing:** For a smoother finish, use lighter pressure and a finer file (if available), or switch to a draw-filing technique (pulling the file sideways across the work).
- **Cleaning the File:** Regularly clean the file teeth with a file card or wire brush to remove accumulated metal shavings (pinning). This maintains cutting efficiency.

5. Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and performance of your Stens flat files.

- **Cleaning:** After each use, clean the file teeth with a file card or stiff wire brush to remove all metal particles.
- **Storage:** Store files separately to prevent their teeth from rubbing against each other, which can cause dulling. A file rack or individual sleeves are recommended.
- **Rust Prevention:** Apply a light coat of oil to the file surface if storing in a humid environment to prevent rust.
- **Avoid Dropping:** Dropping a file can damage its teeth or cause it to break.

6. Troubleshooting

Common issues encountered when using flat files and their solutions.

- **File Not Cutting Effectively:**
  - **Cause:** Clogged teeth (pinning).
  - **Solution:** Clean the file thoroughly with a file card or wire brush.
  - **Cause:** File is dull.
  - **Solution:** Replace the file. Files cannot be effectively sharpened once dull.
- **Scratches or Grooves on Workpiece:**

- **Cause:** Uneven pressure or incorrect filing angle.
- **Solution:** Ensure even pressure and a consistent, slight angle to the workpiece.
- **Cause:** Debris embedded in file teeth.
- **Solution:** Clean the file thoroughly before use.

- **File Slipping:**
  - **Cause:** Workpiece not securely clamped.
  - **Solution:** Re-secure the workpiece firmly.
  - **Cause:** Oily or greasy file/workpiece.
  - **Solution:** Clean the file and workpiece to ensure a dry, firm grip and contact.

7. Specifications

Brand	Stens
Model Number	700-583
Type	Flat File
Length	6 inches
Quantity	Pack of 10
Product Dimensions	8.6 x 1.7 x 0.95 inches
Item Weight	1.21 Pounds (total for pack)
ASIN	B01LZAKITZ
Date First Available	March 9, 2016

8. Warranty and Support

Information regarding specific warranty terms and customer support for the Stens 700-583 Flat Files is not provided within this manual. For warranty details, technical assistance, or to inquire about replacement parts, please refer to the official Stens website or contact Stens customer service directly. Contact information can typically be found on the product packaging or the manufacturer's official website.

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