

Included Items:

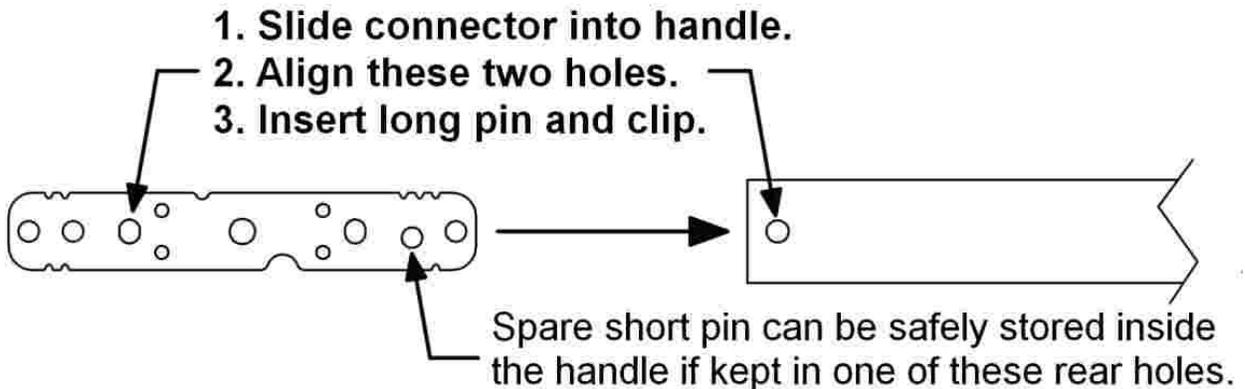
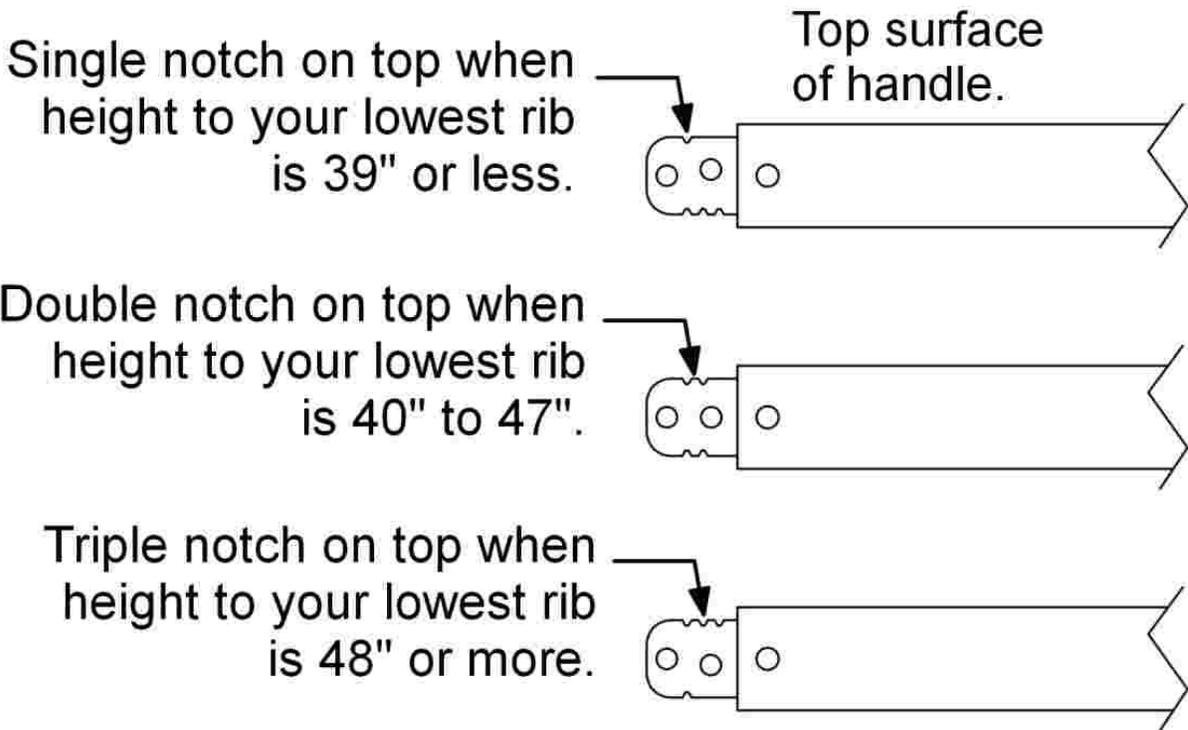
Handle, Connector, 3" blade, 5" blade, 2" wire, 4" wire, 6" wire, the Pin and Chain Kit

FIRST: Assemble the Connector based on your lowest rib height

How the Connector is assembled sets the angle of the Handle to fit either a short, average, or tall person.

While standing straight, measure the distance from the ground to the bottom of your lowest rib at your side. This determines how to assemble the Connector into the handle. See the image of assembly options below.

If your lowest rib height is 39" or less, assemble the Connector with the single notch exposed and facing upwards. If it is 40" to 47", the double notch should face upwards. Or if it is 48" or more, the triple notch should face upwards. See Page 4 for more information about using the Pins and Clips.



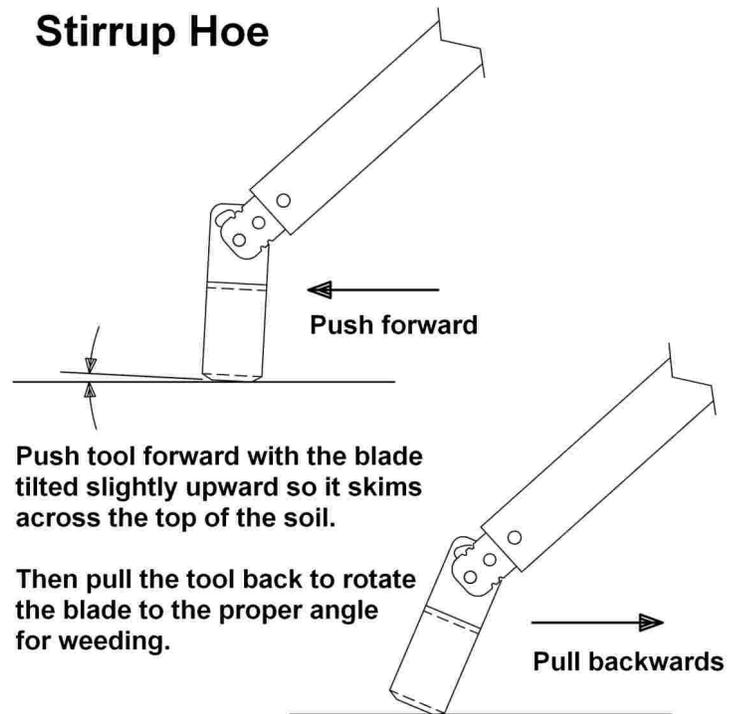
Stirrup Hoe assembly and use

A stirrup hoe is also called an oscillating hoe, a hula hoe, or a reciprocating hoe. This type of hoe is used on SMALL weeds with a back and forth action similar to scrubbing. It is designed to work (to rip and uproot weeds) ONLY ON THE BACK STROKE (when it is pulled towards the user). On the forward stroke, the blade should just gently skim across the soil surface. *It is NOT used for hacking weeds or chopping into the soil.

Step 1: Attach a Blade, and adjust the Handle length for best use of the Stirrup Hoe

Follow these steps: (the best way to adjust the handle length is on a CARPETED FLOOR)

1. Assemble the connector in the position that matches your measured lowest rib height. (see instructions on Page 1)
2. Attach a blade to the connector using the two supplied pins and clips. First, pin the front hole of the Connector to the lower center hole of the Blade. Second, pin the Connector's rear hole to the Blade's rear slot. (see Page 4)
3. Release the handle's clamp, slide the handle closed, then extend it back out about 12 inches.
4. Rest the clean blade on the carpet with the bottom of the blade flat, like the upper picture to the right. Position your rear hand at the top of your hip bone, and stand upright with good posture.
5. Try pushing the blade about 8" forward. If it catches in the carpet, make the handle a couple inches longer. *If making this adjustment OUTDOORS in the garden, replace "catches in the carpet" with "digs down into the soil".
6. Repeat #5 until the handle is long enough to allow the blade to just skim across the carpet surface (or soil surface) on the forward stroke. Once you have found a length that works well for you, use a permanent marker or Sharpie to mark that position on the silver inner handle tube.



Step 2: Use the Stirrup Hoe in the garden

The stirrup is for use on bare garden soil with small weeds. Use the 5" Blade between the garden rows, and the smaller 3" Blade for the tight spaces between your crop plants. *They are NOT used on sod or large weeds.

You will walk forward down the garden row as you weed. Start with the hoe blade flat on the ground, and using your arms slide it about 6" forward. Then pull it back the same distance while adding a little downward pressure to churn through the soil and kill the weeds. With the blade resting on the ground, step forward and repeat the "slide it forward" and "pull backwards to weed" operation. Your rear hand will provide most of the forward/backward motion, while your front hand steers the blade and adds and releases the down pressure.

IF THE BLADE DOES NOT SKIM OVER THE SURFACE ON THE FORWARD STROKE, THEN HOEING WILL BE INEFFICIENT AND TIRING. Make it easy on yourself by adjusting the handle to the proper length.

Wire Weeder or Wire Hoe assembly and use

A wire hoe is used on new weeds, which are also called thread-stage or sprouts. It is simply dragged across the soil surface, and the small weed stems wrap around the thin wire and are pulled out. Use it weekly to prevent weeds from becoming large or strong. *It is NOT used for hacking weeds or dragging deeply through the soil.

Step 1: Choose and attach a Wire loop, then adjust the Handle length for comfort.

There are three widths of wire loop to choose from. The 2" is for tight space between crop plants within a row. The 4" is for larger spaces and for the open area between rows. The 6" is just for the open areas between rows.

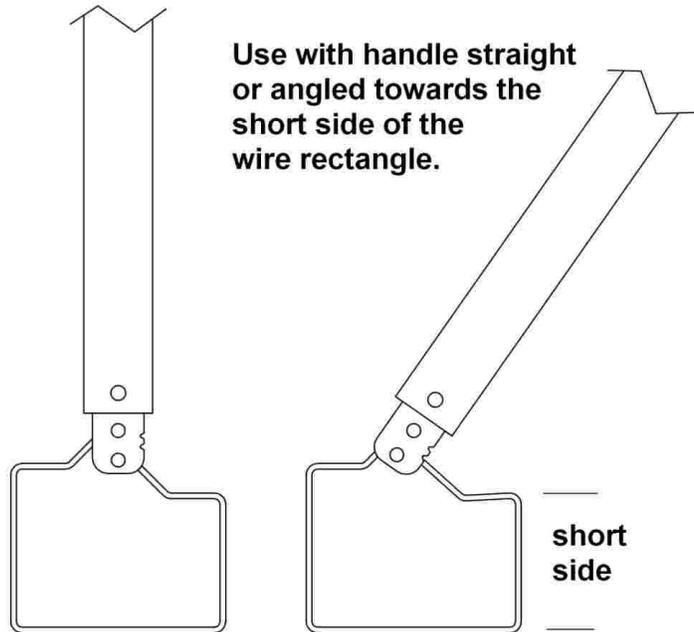
The wire loops are attached using the two short pins through the holes in the end of the handle Connector. (see page 4)

The wire hoe can be used with the handle inline with the wire loop (straight), or with the handle pivoted about 45 degrees to the wire loop (angled). See image at the right.

There is no rule for wire weeders to relate your height to the best handle length. Since the wire loop does pivot freely, a longer handle length will allow dragging the wire loop straight across the surface without unintended pivoting or twisting of the wire.

In general, use the longest handle length that allows you to easily CONTROL the tool and SEE the weeds you are removing.

Wire Weeder



Step 2: Use the Wire Hoe in the garden

This tool is just dragged lightly across the surface of the soil. That is all that is needed for it to pull out the fresh weed sprouts. It is not strong enough for dragging deeply through the soil, nor is that an effective weeding method. Light, fast, and easy is way this tool should be used.

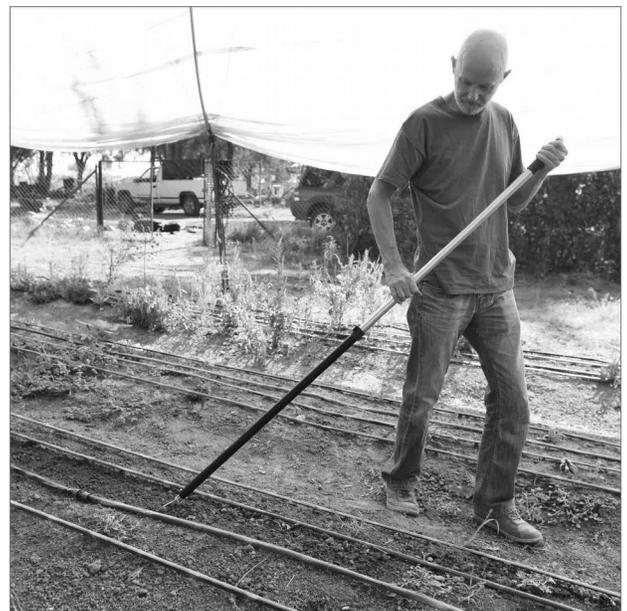
For the tight spaces between plants within a row:

Use either the 2" or 4" wire. Stand to the side of the row and extend the wire loop beyond the gap between the plants. Drag it back towards you. Then lift and repeat in the next space. Much like regular hoeing but easier, and safer for your crops.

For the long open area between your rows:

Use either the 4" or 6" wire. Walk parallel to the row while dragging the tool to the side and behind you. See the photo to the right.

- If the crops border the path you are walking in and weeding, keep the handle in the Straight position. (see drawing above)
- If the row you are weeding is in the middle of a bed, use the handle in the Angled position.



How to use the Pins and Clips:

The LONG pin attaches the Connector to the Handle. The two SHORT pins fasten the blade or wire to the Connector. The chain prevents loss of the clips. See the drawing to the right for the correct assembly of the pin and clip.

Assembling the BLADES to the Connector:

The blade fits INTO the space in the middle of the Connector. Each blade has three holes, but only two are used for attaching it into the Connector. Think of the three holes as a face with eyes and a nose. See the drawing at lower right for the Assembly Steps...

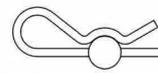
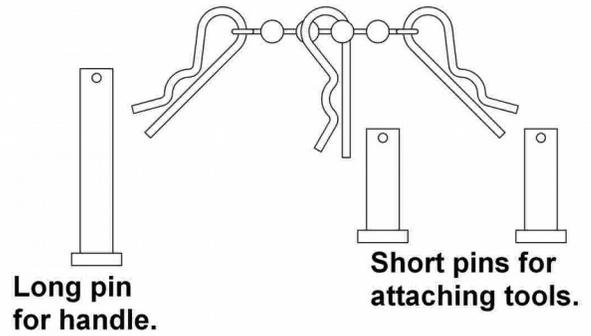
Assembling the WIRES to the Connector:

The Wire fits INTO the space in the middle of the Connector. Each wire has two eyelets that are used for attaching it into the Connector. You may need to flex the wire a little to align the eyelets with the holes. See the drawing at bottom right for the Assembly Steps...

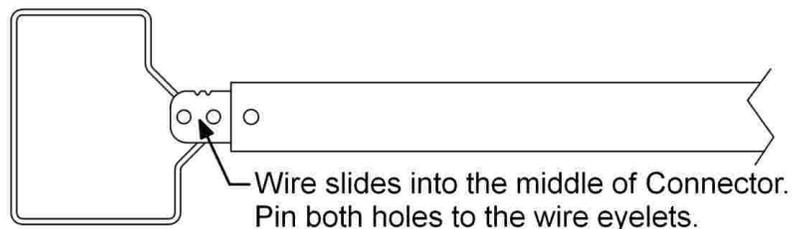
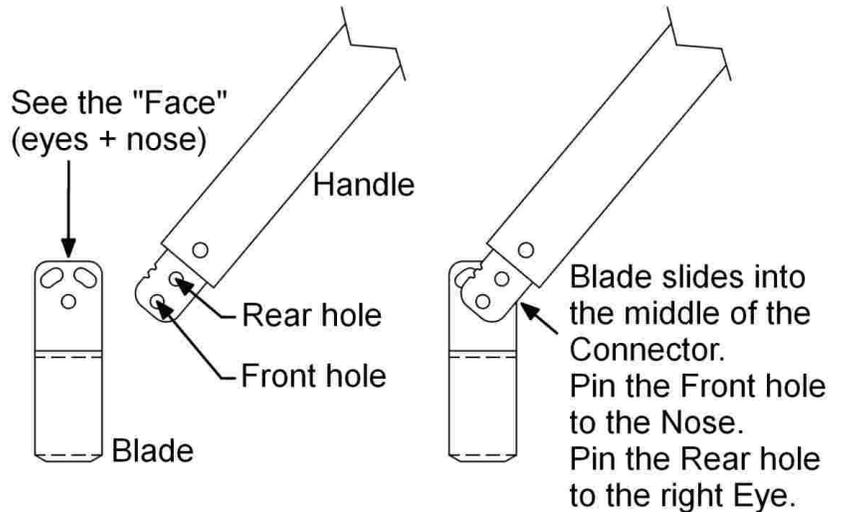
Sharpening the Blades:

It is best to keep the blade slightly sharp, but not like a knife. It rips and uproots weeds rather than slicing them. Sharpening can be done in a vise using a file. If you use a grinder or sander, do it lightly and slowly to avoid overheating the steel. The best sharpening angle is 30 degrees.

Pins, Clips, and Chain



Insert clip into pin. Center arch will rest on the side of the pin.



Tightening the Handle Clamp:

If the handle clamp becomes too loose to keep the handle at your desired length, it can be re-tightened. Just open (release) the clamp and use a 2.5mm hex key to tighten the bolt within the clamp a QUARTER TURN. If that makes it too tight, open the clamp and loosen the bolt a little. Or if still not tight enough, open the clamp and tighten the bolt a little more.