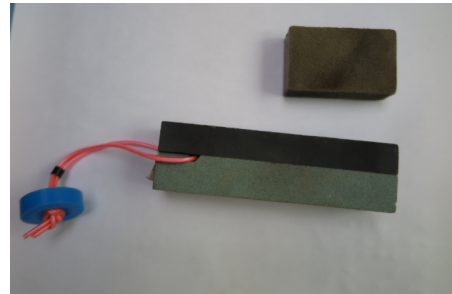


## Care of tools

We pay a lot for our tools so it makes sense to look after them. The best time to do this is immediately after using them – a quick clean and oil and then put them away. Sometimes events get in the way of this and the tools suffer a loss of TLC. These snips had spent too long in the greenhouse, to restore them the best thing to use is CreenMate, obtainable from most bonsai stores and on line. By all means use a Dremel if you wish, its easier to get round the rivet with one using a buffing brush.



I used the CreenMate to clean the blades, this is the small square block – dunk it in water and start to rub on the blade, the shine is restored within minutes. The larger block, two tone, is a whet stone for



sharpening. It has coarse and fine grits, you are in deep trouble if you need to use the coarse grit. It is far easier to keep a tool sharp than it is to restore the edge to a tool that has gone blunt. I have found that as the CreenMate is a mild abrasive regular use keeps the blades sharp.

Not sure why but Japanese tools often come with the instruction to use camelia oil to lubricate and protect. I use it but other than it not smelling like 3-in-1 I am not sure if it has any other properties. Finally, if the blades on snips etc seem a bit loose then put the snips on a firm surface, anvil if you have one, and give the rivet a whack with a hammer. Always best to start with a light tap and work your way up to a power blow as I cannot advise on how to deal with overtightened rivets.

