## Screwed or screwed up? Cutting a cove A screw is inclined plane wrapped around a cylinder!

What causes run-off when you start a cut?


It is simple, if you present the tool at an angle, the tool will follow that angle. It is the same as cutting threads. The lines on the left are at a $92^{\circ}$ angle or a $2^{\circ}$ angle to the cylinder. The line on the right is at $90^{\circ}$ or square with cylinder. The tool wants to follow the established lines, so a $2^{\circ}$ will cause the tool to cut a $2^{\circ}$ angle, spiraling around the cylinder.

So how can I start a cove cut on a cylinder so that it doesn't run-off? First, start with the gouge level and on center of the cylinder, next make sure that the cutting edge is square with the cylinder.


The next step is to push the cutting edge into the cylinder to make a "V" cut so you have a shoulder to ride the bevel against.

The next step is to slightly rotate the cutting edge of the gouge in the direction of the cut, then drop the tool handle slightly at the same time.

Follow through to the bottom of the cove and stop. Do not try to go up the other side because you will be cutting against the grain causing a great deal of tear-out.

