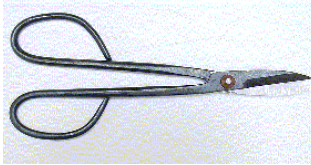


TOOLS by Jonathan Cain

Initially, you will need a pruning scissors to cut the leaves and fine branches. Larger branches will require a larger pruner being a bonsai knob cutter or bonsai branch cutter. The latter two are engineered to give clean wounds to enable the tree to heal faster with limited scarring. Later on you will need a root pick, wire cutters, root cutter and ginning pliers, all of which come in different sizes.

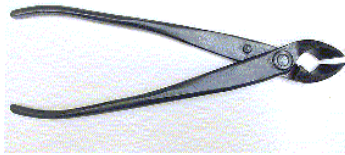
LEAF CUTTER

Bonsai scissors are used for the leaves and fine branches. One should never cut a branch thicker than the width of the blade. The long shank is very useful when one needs to reach deep into the tree to nip off those leaves, especially when the tree has thorns.

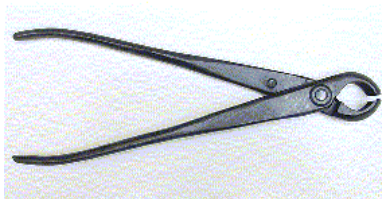


CONCAVE CUTTER or BRANCH CUTTER

The most used tool in bonsai, required for cutting unwanted branches and knobs by giving a flush cut, without leaving a distracting knob.



KNOB CUTTER

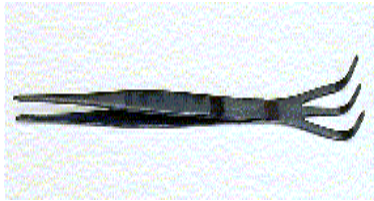


This tool is used for cutting into the bark of the tree and leaving a concave hollow. This allows the tree to grow over the wound. It is very useful for hollowing out old scars and dead wood. Remember to seal your wounds.



ROOT PICK

Useful tool for untangling roots and digging out weeds. Fairly easy to make as well.



ROOT RAKE with TWEEZER

Used mostly for weeding. A table fork bent in vice works just as well.



JINNING PLIERS

A handy tool for stripping wood, but even more handy when used to bend branches which have been wired. One simply bends the wire without touching the branch to get the perfect bend in the perfect place. Using two jinning pliers allows one to lever against the other, giving a precise bend.

WIRE CUTTER

Used for cutting wire. Using your other tools will make them blunt. The tip has a blunt stump nose so as not to injure the bark when cutting wire off a branch. Unlike commercial side cutters it gives a flush clean cut against the branch.



ROOT CUTTER

This is a more robust scissor, designed to cut roots containing soil and stone.

TRUNK SPLITTER

A useful tool for splitting trunks. By splitting the trunk allows one to bend a ridged branch or stem easier. It also inflicts wounds which scar the tree and provide girth.



Secateurs or Pruning Shears.

Although useful for general gardening, they do not get in close enough to branches for precision cuts.

