

## Do I use a Nibbler or a Shear?

Shears can cut slight curves and straight cuts in both flat sheet metal and also round stove pipe. If these shears are used for welded pipe, you must waste the cut-off part since the wide base does not allow starts from a drilled hole or other hole knocked into the centre of the pipe. This is a great shear for the pro to have in their toolbox for regular use.

A nibbler "nibbles" the sheet metal by removing small round pieces as it is moved forward. It can cut very thick sheet metal in any direction. It is usually reserved for heavier sheet metal although it will make a fine addition to any tool collection. A nibbler is typically slower than a square-blade shear and it is actually removing materials as opposed to simply shearing it.

There are two types of cuts when you use a nibbler; an outside cut which will be around the outer perimeter or an inside cut which would mean putting a circle or a square or a shape inside. This is accomplished by punching a hole with a drill in the desired location and making the cut. With nibblers, you can cut 360 degrees. You can cut letters out; it's great for letter cutting or sign making.

### TIPS FOR USING A NIBBLER:

- **Either clamp the material and move the nibbler, or clamp the nibbler and move the material.** Good nibblers can be used either way, the choice depending on the size of the material piece. The width of the cut made by a nibbler is much greater than a cut from a jigsaw or hacksaw, so always mark the side of the line on which you'll be cutting.

- **Be careful not to overload the tool.** If the die and cutter are to have a long life, you don't want to feed a heap of material like stainless steel through a nibbler. Yes it will cut it, but the cost of the replacement bits will be much higher than that of a jigsaw blade.

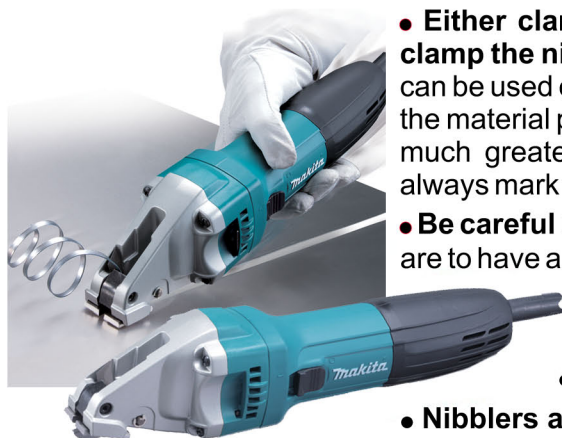
- **Use lubricant.**

- **Nibblers are safer than both jigsaws and hacksaws - but still wear eye protection.**

## Sheet Metal Working



JN3200 Nibbler



JS1601 Straight Shear



JN1601 Nibbler



JS1600 Shear



JS3200 Shear