

Chain Information Manual



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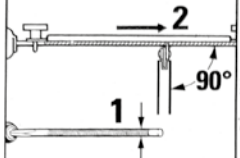
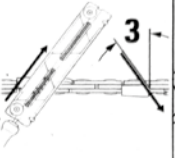

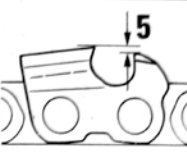
Chain Information

This manual details more information on the various chains sold on the website. It gives several pictures of each particular chain as well as information from the manufacturers.

What is the Best Chain?

Forums debate this question constantly and in the end much comes down to personal experience. In summary Stihl and Oregon both produce very high quality products. With correct maintenance all the chains listed will perform well.



					
	1	2	3	4	5
71 PM3	3,2 mm 1/8"	90°	30°	75°	0,45 mm (0.018")
13 RM, 13 RMC, 13 RMS	4,0 mm 5/32"	90°	30°	75°	0,65 mm (0.025")
61 PMMC3, 63 PMC, 63 PMC3	4,0 mm 5/32"	90°	30°	75°	0,65 mm (0.025")
63 PS3	4,0 mm 5/32"	90°	30°	60°	0,65 mm (0.025")
23 RMC, 25 RMC, 26 RMC	4,8 mm 3/16"	90°	30°	75°	0,65 mm (0.025")
23 RMC3, 25 RMC3, 26 RMC3	4,8 mm 3/16"	90°	30°	75°	0,65 mm (0.025")
23 RSC, 25 RSC, 26 RSC	4,8 mm 3/16"	90°	30°	60°	0,65 mm (0.025")
33 RMC, 35 RMC, 36 RMC	5,2 mm 13/64"	90°	30°	75°	0,65 mm (0.025")
33 RMF, 33 RMC3, 36 RMC3	5,2 mm 13/64"	90°	30°	75°	0,65 mm (0.025")
33 RSC, 35 RSC, 36 RSC	5,2 mm 13/64"	90°	30°	60°	0,65 mm (0.025")
33 RSC3, 36 RSC3	5,2 mm 13/64"	90°	30°	60°	0,65 mm (0.025")
33 RSK, 36 RSK	5,2 mm 13/64"	90°	30°	60°	0,65 mm (0.025")
46 RC, 46 RCK	5,5 mm 7/32"	90°	30°	75°	0,80 mm (0.030")
46 RM, 46 RMF, 46 RMK	5,5 mm 7/32"	90°	30°	75°	0,80 mm (0.030")
46 RS, 45 RSF, 46 RSF, 46 RSK	5,5 mm 7/32"	90°	30°	60°	0,80 mm (0.030")
63 PMX	4,0 mm 5/32"	90°	10°	75°	0,65 mm (0.025")
36 RMX	5,2 mm 13/64"	90°	10°	75°	0,65 mm (0.025")
46 RCX, 46 RMX, 46 RCXK	5,5 mm 7/32"	90°	10°	75°	0,80 mm (0.030")

Working through the numbers – Stihl chain is rightly seen as the highest quality chainsaw chain available in the world today. Unfortunately Stihl have labelled their chain with various numbers and letters that allude to their own terminology. This can make deciphering which chain you need difficult.

Rapid

Almost every Stihl chain has this prefix to show their chains are fast cutting. The term does not seem to apply to anything specific.

Micro

This tells us the profile of the chain and working corner is micro chisel. Similar to semi chisel chain it gives slightly less speed than a full chisel but better resistance to dulling and more forgiving of sharpening errors. Look at micro chisel chain as semi chisel chain.

Picco

This is exactly the same as saying 3/8 lo pro.

Super

Stihls full chisel chain. The highest performing chain in terms of speed of cutting yet more fussy of sharpening technique and much less tolerant of dirty wood. Super means full chisel.

Comfort

Chain designed to give less vibration and smother cutting. In real terms the cutter and tie strap are a slightly different design.

3

Humped drive link to reduce the tendency of kickback. Almost looks like a 'double' depth gauge or raker just before the tooth.

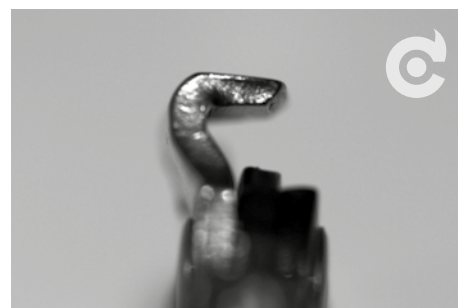
More information can be found on Stihls site here:

<http://www.stihlusa.com/chainsaws/types.html>



Stihl 13 Rapid Micro (RM) – .250 (1/4) pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge

Micro chisel chain for all round use. Micro chisel corners make it easier to sharpen.
For small compact chainsaws.



Stihl 13 Rapid Micro Super (RMS) – .250 (1/4) pitch .050" (1.3mm) gauge

This chain is specifically designed for use with carving bars. Low vibration, good cutting and excellent boring characteristics. The shorter top plate makes boring easier and faster when carving.



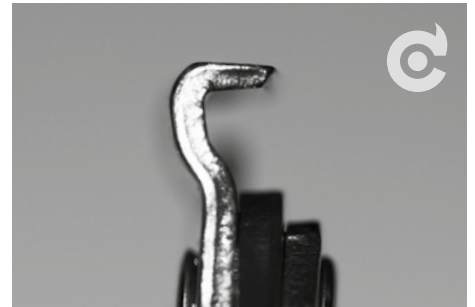
Stihl 26 Rapid Micro Comfort (RMC) – .325 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Good all round chain with micro chisel corners for easier sharpening.
Good resistance to dulling.



Stihl 26 Rapid Super Comfort (RSC) – .325 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

High performance full chisel chain with low vibration for professional applications. Requires good chain sharpening technique and being full chisel chain is less resistant to dulling.



Stihl 36 Rapid Micro Comfort (RMC) – .375 (3/8) pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Good all round chain with micro chisel corners for easier sharpening.
Good resistance to dulling.



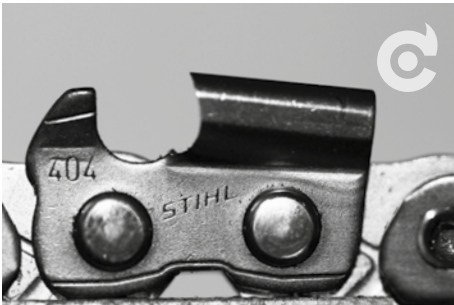
Stihl 36 Rapid Micro X (RMX) – .375 (3/8) pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Ripping chain for use with chainsaw mills. Micro chisel corners with top plate factory filed to 10 degrees. Good resistance to dulling.



Stihl 46 Rapid Comfort X (RCX) .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Stihls .404 ripping chain for use with large chainsaw mills. Good dulling resistance and easier to sharpen. Comes factory filed to 10 degrees.



Stihl 46 Rapid Micro (RM) .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Standard micro chisel chain for all round use. Micro chisel corners are easier to sharpen. Good resistance to dulling.



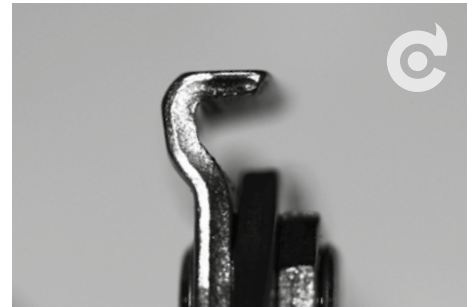
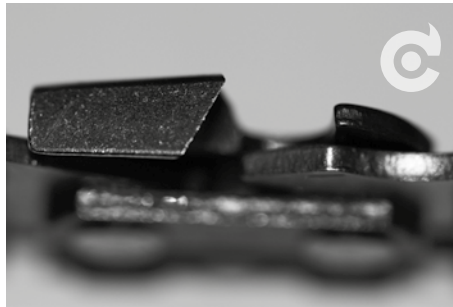
Stihl 46 Rapid Super (RS) .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

High performance saw chain for fast cutting in professional situations. Chisel corners require good sharpening technique and being full chisel is less resistant to dulling.



Stihl 61 Picco Micro Mini Comfort 3 (PMMC3) 3/8 lo pro pitch .043 (1.1mm) gauge

All purpose chain for use on smaller chainsaws. Robust, low kickback and hard wearing with high cutting performance due to a very narrow kerf. Note this is the smallest gauge chain at .043" gauge.



Stihl 63 Picco Micro Comfort 3 (PMC3) 3/8 lo pro pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge

All purpose chain for smaller chainsaws. Low kickback and low vibration with good resistance to dulling.



Stihl 63 Picco Super (PS3) – 3/8 lo pro pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge

New from Stihl the only 3/8 lo pro full chisel chain in the world. Fast cutting performance with low vibration. Recommended for arborists and top handled chainsaws.

20-21-22BP 25AP 26(P), 27(A)(P) 95VP	3/16" 4.8mm 5/32" 4.0mm 7/32" 5.5mm 3/16" 4.8mm	.025" .65mm .025" .65mm .030" .75mm .025" .65mm	10° 10° 10° 10°	30° 30° 35° 30°	85° 85° 85° 85°	7 MICRO CHISEL®
20-21-22LP 33-34-35LG, SL 58-59L, J 72-73-75JG, JP, LG, LP 72-73-75V	3/16" 4.8mm 5/32" 4.0mm or 4.5mm 7/32" 5.5mm 7/32" 5.5mm 7/32" 5.5mm	.025" .65mm .025" .65mm .025" .65mm .025" .65mm .025" .65mm	10° 10° 10° 10° 10°	25° 25° 25° 25° 25°	60° 60° 60° 60° 60°	7 ROUND GROUND CHISEL
72AP/72-73-75D, DP	7/32" 5.5mm	.025" .65mm	90°	35°	85°	7 SEMI-CHISEL
26-27R, RA 72-73-75RD 95R	7/32" 5.5mm 7/32" 5.5mm 3/16" 4.8mm	.030" .75mm .025" .65mm .030" .75mm	10° 10° 90°	10-15° 10-15° 5°	75° 75° 75°	7 RIPPING CHAIN
90SG 91VG, 91VS, 91P	4.5mm 5/32" 4.0mm	.025" .65mm .025" .65mm	90° 90°	30° 30°	75° 80°	7 CHAMFER CHISEL™
58-59AC, 59AA *	7/32" 5.5mm	.030" .75mm	90°	35°	90°	7 MICRO BIT®
16H * 18H *	7/32" 5.5mm 7/32" 5.5mm	.050" 1.2mm .050" 1.2mm	10° 10°	35° 35°	80° 80°	7 MICRO CHISEL®

* MECHANICAL HARVESTER APPLICATIONS ONLY - APPLICATIONS POUR ABATTAGE MÉCANIQUE SEULEMENT

Oregon also have their own method of labelling chains that is totally different to Stihl.

More info can be found on the Oregon site here:

<http://www.oregonchain.eu/en/products/catalogue2011>

The first numbers denote the pitch and gauge of the chain for example 75lpx the 75 means 3/8 pitch .063 gauge.

25 – ¼ (.250) pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge
 90 – 3/8 lo pro pitch .043 (1.1mm) gauge
 91 – 3/8 lo pro pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge
 95 – .325 pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge
 20 – .325 pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge
 21 – .325 pitch .058 (1.5mm) gauge
 22 – 3/8 (.375) pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge
 72 – 3/8 (.375) pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge
 73 – 3/8 (.375) pitch .058 (1.3mm) gauge
 75 – 3/8 (.375) pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge
 59 – .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge
 27 – .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge
 M – MultiCut

There are also letters after the numbers e.g. 75lpx

To translate these letters is confusing and makes Stihls system appear straight forward!

L – stands for full chisel chain

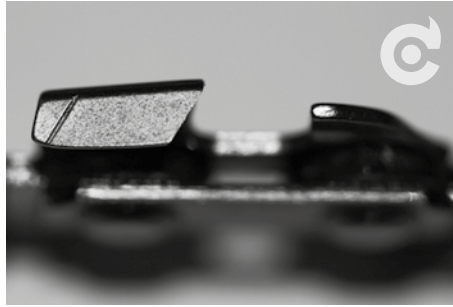
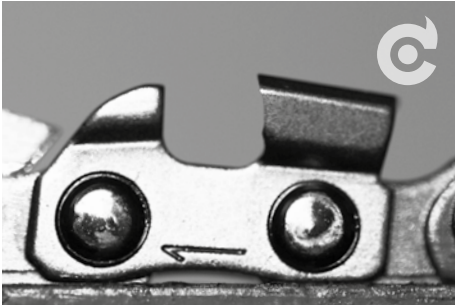
R – refers to ripping chain

P – appears to stand for humped drive link similar to Stihls number 3

D and B – appear to refer to the equivalent of semi chisel/micro chisel chain

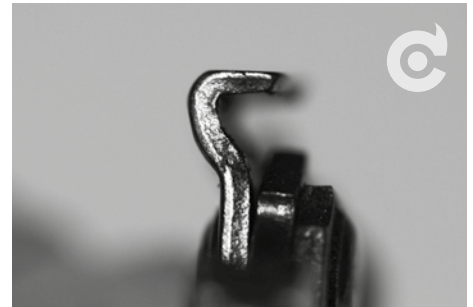
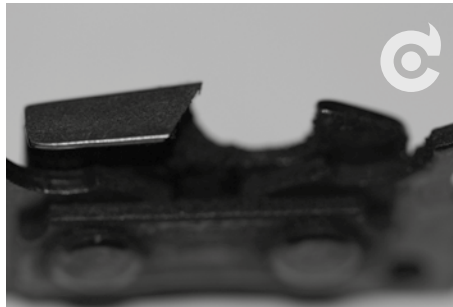
X – similar to Stihls R in that it does not seem specific i.e. means rapid cutting

The other letters used to label Oregon chain do not seem to follow any consistency.



Oregon 90SG – 3/8 lo pro pitch .043 (1.1mm) gauge

Lightweight chain for smaller chainsaws. To be used in conjunction with Oregon micro light bars that have a .43 gauge bar groove.



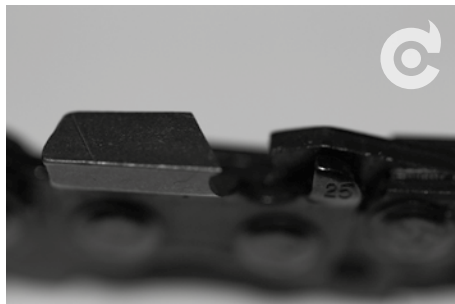
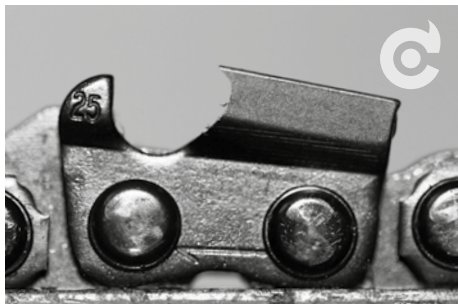
Oregon 91VXL – 3/8 lo pro pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge

Lightweight high performance chain for smaller chainsaws. Recommended for arborists and top handled saws.



Oregon 25AP – .250 (1/4) pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge

Small size and lightweight chain for the smallest chainsaws. Can also be used with carving bars.



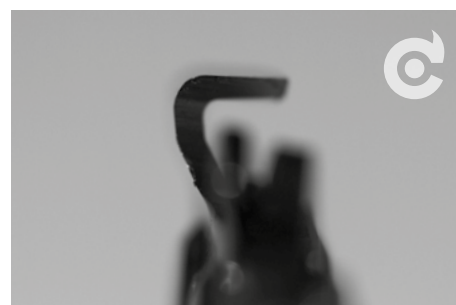
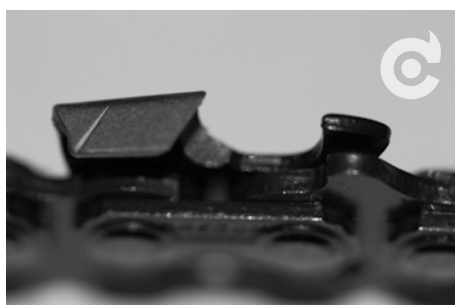
Oregon 22LPX – .325 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

High performance full chisel chain with bumper drive links to reduce kickback. Fast cutting but with reduced resistance to dulling due to being full chisel.



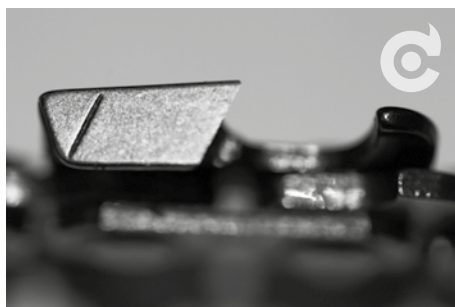
Oregon 22BPX – .325 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Micro chisel chain with humped drive links that provides smooth fast cutting. Semi chisel profile means chain more tolerant of sharpening errors and has greater resistance to dulling.



Oregon 95VPX – .325 pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge

Lightweight chain that cuts only a thin kerf allowing greater performance for smaller chainsaws. Must be used with a bar that has a .050 gauge. Gives very rapid and efficient cutting. Recommended.



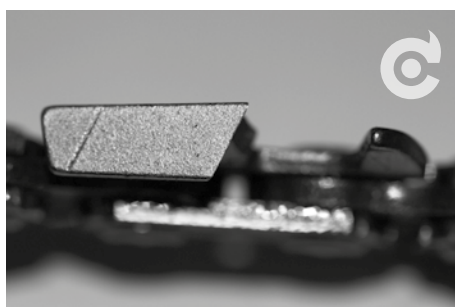
Oregon 75LPX – .375 (3/8) pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Oregons benchmark full chisel chain for pro users. Bumper drive links reduce kickback while the full chisel profile gives very fast cutting. Harder to sharpen correctly and less resistant to dulling being full chisel.



Oregon 75DP – .375 (3/8) pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Rounded semi chisel chain that will give good performance yet is more tolerant of sharpening errors and more resistant to dulling.



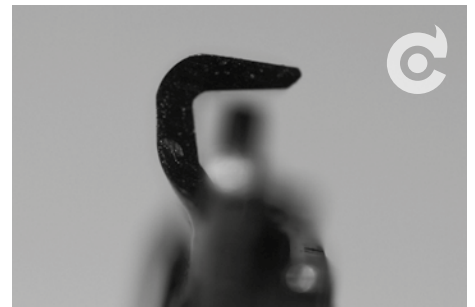
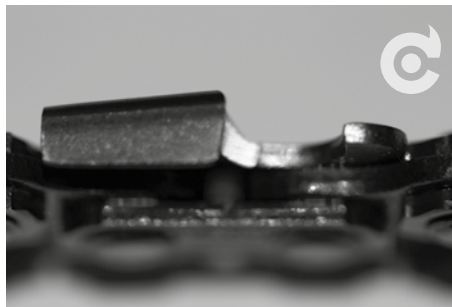
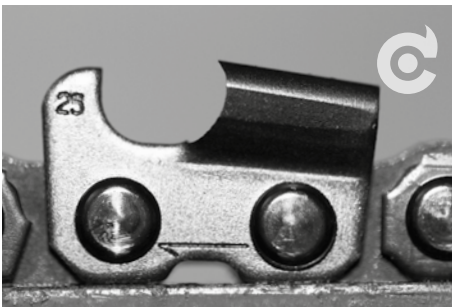
Oregon 59L – .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

High performing full chisel chain for large chainsaws. Designed for rapid cutting of big timber. Full chisel chain is harder to sharpen correctly and is less tolerant to dulling.



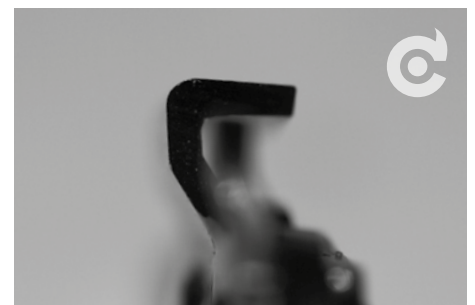
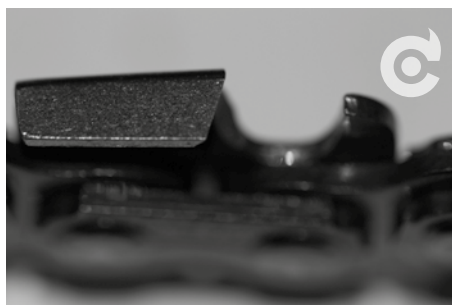
Oregon 59AC – .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

The only full chipper chain we sell. Fully rounded corners give good cutting in hard wood and excellent durability and easy of sharpening. Much more tolerant to dulling than full chisel chain.



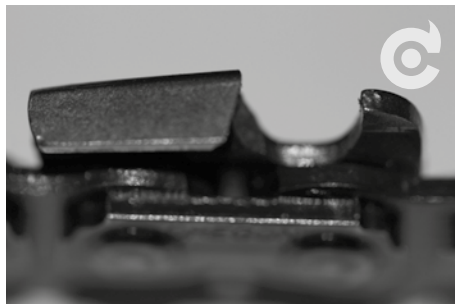
Oregon 75RD – .375 (3/8) pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

Standard 75 semi chisel chain that has been factory sharpened to 10 degrees ready to use with chainsaw mills for ripping timber.



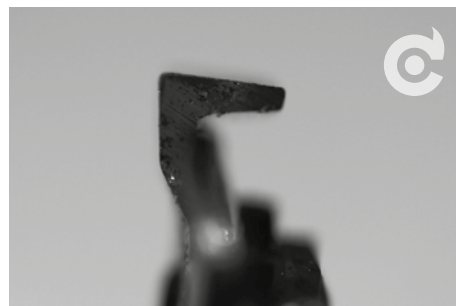
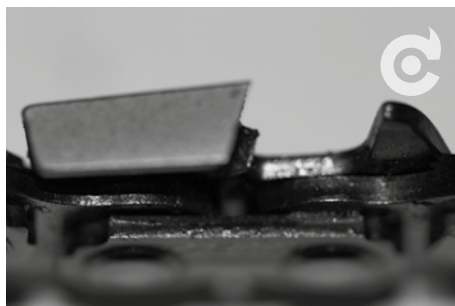
Oregon 27R – .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

.404 chain for use with large chainsaw mills. Comes pre-sharpened to 10 degrees ready to use with chainsaw mills for ripping timber.



Oregon 27RA – .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

27R chain in a full skip link format. Skip link chain has an additional link in between each cutter. This gives faster more aggressive cutting. It requires more power and is better suited to older style saws that have high torque and less revs. Or use with a smaller bar on an existing large saw. This one comes factory sharpened at 10 degrees for ripping timber.

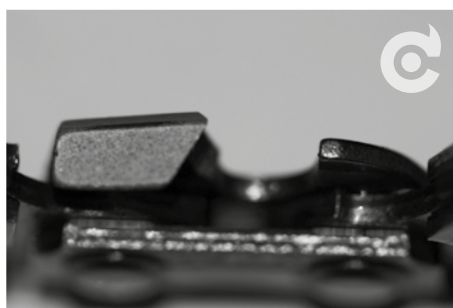


Oregon 59CJ – .404 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

The only square ground chain we sell. Square ground chain is not used much in the UK. It is harder to sharpen and the files more expensive. This version is a full skip link chain and is the fastest cutting chain we sell. For professionals only. See our chain sharpening page for links to how to sharpen.

MultiCut chains

Oregon do a range of MultiCut chains. These chains are standard chains but with extra heavy duty chrome plating on the top plate to increase resistance to dulling in dirty abrasive conditions. Bear in mind they will cut for longer in harsh conditions but **they will never cut as fast and efficiently as 'normal' chain**. The thicker chrome layer means you can never get the top plate quite as sharp.



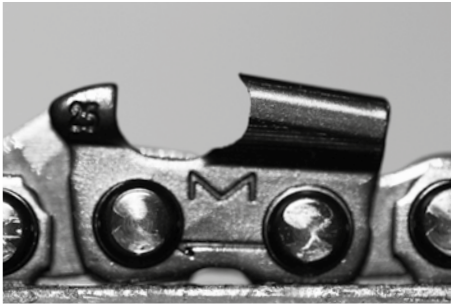
Oregon MultiCut 91VX 3/8 lo pro pitch .050 (1.3mm) gauge

MultiCut chain for smaller chainsaws. Be aware the teeth are shorter than on the equivalent 91VPX chain. More durability at the expense of efficient cutting.



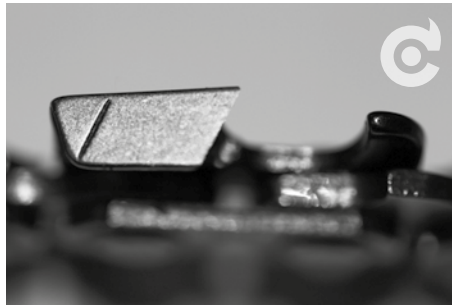
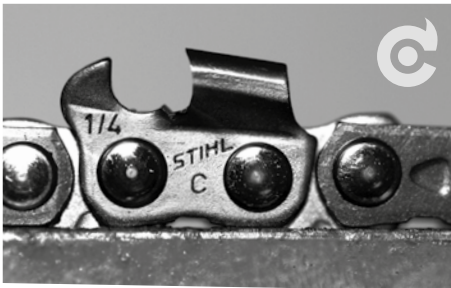
Oregon MultiCut 22LPX .325 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

22LPX with extra heavy duty chrome plating. More durability at the expense of cutting efficiency.



Oregon MultiCut 95VPX .325 pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

95VPX with extra heavy duty chrome plating. More durability at the expense of cutting efficiency.



Oregon MultiCut 75LPX .375 (3/8) pitch .063 (1.6mm) gauge

75LPX with extra heavy duty chrome plating. More durability at the expense of cutting efficiency.

Granberg Ripping Chain

Available in all pitches and gauges for all chainsaws. Granberg chain is adapted Carlton chain and is specifically designed for ripping planks of timber using a chainsaw mill. It features an adaption found on no other chain.

N.B The chain can be left very hard where every other cutter has been ground down to form a scoring cutter. This can be very hard on hand files. 12volt grinders are recommended for sharpening this chain. To see the differences in the Granberg chain please see below.

