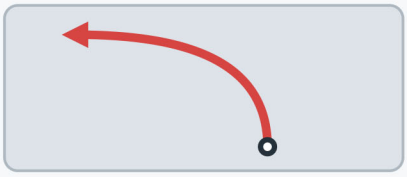
Which Shears, Which Cut?

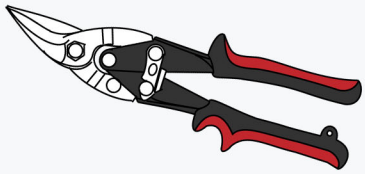
The handle color is the instruction: red cuts left, green cuts right, yellow cuts straight.

Use the wrong color and the metal binds. Use the right one and the cut almost does itself.

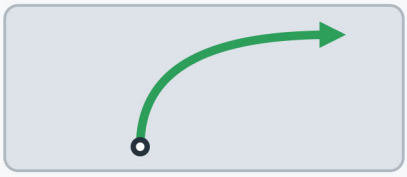
Red — Cuts Left



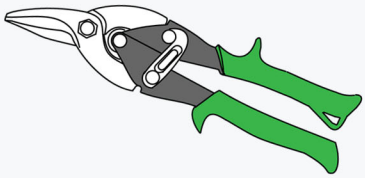
Reach for it: For curves that turn left (counterclockwise), or when you want the waste to curl away to the left.



Green — Cuts Right



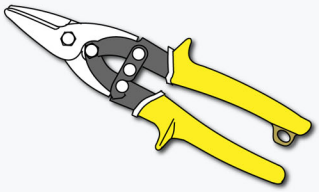
Reach for it: For curves that turn right (clockwise), or when the waste needs to curl away to the right.



Yellow — Cuts Straight



Reach for it: Long straight lines and wide, gentle curves either way. Also the first entry cut, before you switch to red or green.



Wrong color: the metal binds, the edge comes out ragged, and your hand gives out before the job does. **Right color:** the cut follows the line, the waste curls away cleanly, and the edge comes out smooth.

Match the job

When you need to…	Reach for
Trim a piece of sheet metal to length	**Yellow (straight)**
Cut a curve that turns left	**Red (cuts left)**
Cut a curve that turns right	**Green (cuts right)**
Make the entry cut, then cut the curve	**Yellow first, then red or green**
Follow a wide, gentle curve either way	**Yellow**

Cut like this

1. **Mark the line.** A marker works on most metals. A scribe works better on shiny or coated surfaces.
2. **Pick the color.** It takes two seconds and the whole job goes better.
3. **Cut in short bites.** Open, advance a few inches, close. Long forcing cuts tire your hand.
4. **Let the waste curl.** Don't hold it flat. Fighting the curl causes binding and rough edges.

Wrist straining? Suspect the wrong color, thick metal, or dull blades.

Limits and safety

Cuts: up to 18-gauge mild steel and 22-gauge stainless, plus aluminum sheet, copper sheet, vinyl siding, wire mesh, and thin plastics.

Not for: hardened steel, rods, wire rope, or anything thicker than 18-gauge mild steel. It rolls or chips the blades.

Cut edges are sharp. Wear heavy leather or cut-resistant gloves, plus safety glasses.

Store them right: latch engaged, blades wiped dry, a drop of oil on the pivot now and then.

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General guidance only.