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| No. | Hand files | Flat files | Half-round files | Mill files | Round files | Square files | Three square files |
| 1 | rectangular in section | rectangular in section | chord of a circle in section | rectangular in section | round -section | Square in section | triangular in section |
| 2 | parallel in width | tapered in width and thickness towards the tip | taper towards the tip | tapered towards the tip | tapered towards the tip | tapered towards the tip | tapered towards the tip |
| 3 | used for roughing and finishing |  | used for forming radii, grooves, and flat side is used for finishing flat surfaces | 1-used on tools where fast metal removal is required.  2-used for sharpening tools | used for enlarging holes and producing internal round corners | used for filing rectangular slots or grooves | used in filing corners or angles less than 90°. |
| 4 | double cut teeth on two faces.  single cut teeth on one edge, and one safe edge | double cut teeth on two faces and Single cut teeth on two sides |  | single cut on two sides | double cut in the larger sizes and single cut in the smaller sizes. | double cut on all four faces | double cut on both faces |