

**TOP
TIPS**

GET THE BEST KNIFE FOR YOUR MONEY

MARCH 2008

BLADE

BLADE

THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION

Tim Galjean's flipper folder in
a 154CM/CPM D2 composite

FLIPPIN' OUT!

**\$5 Knife Sells
For \$10,700**

**Makers To
Watch in '08**

**Power Points:
Latest Tacticals**

- ALSO -

**State-of-the-Art
In Art Knives**

**WHITE HOT Knives
Of The Firefighters**

**Handle Materials Now:
Gripping Knife Tales**

www.blademag.com

fw F+W PUBLICATIONS, INC. **US \$4.99**



0 71486-50251-7

Display until February 5, 2008



MARCH 2008

BLADE

World's #1 Knife Publication

F+W Publications



EXOTIC PURPLE SPINEY OYSTER

Named for the spines on its back that help it close, the Spiney Oyster shell is found in the Sea of Cortez off Baja California, Mexico. It was the shell most loved by the Mayan people, and has been found in abundance in excavations of the Anasazi and Hohokam tribes of the Southwest. When Cortez took examples of Spiney Oyster back to the King of Spain, the king's daughter fell in love with it. The shell acquired the name Princess. W.R. Case and Sons Cutlery Company is proud to present Purple Spiney Oyster. Six patterns, with Abalone and nickel silver inlay and mirror polished Tru-Sharp™ surgical steel blades have a total production limited to 500 pieces of each pattern. Just like the Princess, Case Collectors are sure to fall in love with W.R. Case and Sons newest Exotic release.



\$163⁹⁹

#6628 (EX10096 SS)
SMALL TEXAS TOOTHPICK

- Exotic Purple Spiney Oyster Handle
- Long Clip Blade
- 3" closed
- Mfg. List \$255.50



\$165⁹⁹

#6629 (EX2154 SS)
TINY TRAPPER

- Exotic Purple Spiney Oyster Handle
- Clip and Spey Blades
- 2 3/4" closed
- Mfg. List \$259.70



\$187⁹⁹

#6627 (EX254 SS)
TRAPPER

- Exotic Purple Spiney Oyster Handle
- Clip and Spey Blades
- 4 1/4" closed
- Mfg. List \$293.40



\$164⁹⁹

#6632 (EX333 SS)
SMALL STOCKMAN

- Exotic Purple Spiney Oyster Handle
- Clip, Sheepfoot and Pen Blades
- 2 5/8" closed
- Mfg. List \$257.50



\$174⁹⁹

#6631 (MINI MUSKRAT SS)
MINI MUSKRAT

- Exotic Purple Spiney Oyster Handle
- Two Clip Blades
- 3 3/8" closed
- Mfg. List \$274.00



\$163⁹⁹

#6630 (EX220 SS)
PEANUT

- Exotic Purple Spiney Oyster Handle
- Clip and Pen Blades
- 2 7/8" closed
- Mfg. List \$255.50

1-888-4CASE XX OR 1-800-727-4643

TOLL FREE • 7 DAYS A WEEK 8-8 • We're on the Web!!! www.casexx.com & www.shepherdhillscutlery.com

Home Office: Lebanon, MO

Additional Locations Include: Osage Beach, MO • Branson, MO • Eddyville, KY • Tunica, MS • Nashville, TN



We developed this tactical knife because making it back is a pretty good tactic.

Buck's tactical knife experience spans from WWII to today's Bravo. This folder features our buttery-smooth opening mechanism that functions in the harshest conditions. The blade utilizes the Besh Wedge™ grind that delivers the same sturdy width all the way to the tip so you can pry, wedge and puncture anything in your way. The Bravo is your ticket home.



Model 850
Bravo™ Folding Knife

800.326.2825 | www.buckknives.com

BUCK[®]
KNIVES

BLADE

THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION®



March
2008



12



18



42

FEATURES

12 Collectors' Choice: Makers to Watch

Who better to pinpoint them than those who buy the knives? *By Steve Shackelford*

18 Latest Factory Tactical Fixed Blades

Sample the sleekest, sharpest and sexiest of the genre. *By Brendan O'Brien*

28 When is the Price Really Right?

Knowing how a maker prices a knife helps you decide whether to buy. *By Mike Haskew*

34 Best Job in the World?

From surfing to knifemaking, Tom Mayo is one fun-loving guy. *By Dave Rhea*

42 What Firefighters Look For in a Knife

Pro firemen share their views on the optimum emergency blades. *By Mike Haskew*

50 Treasure Found In a Barn

Bill Torrance buys a Scagel knife for \$5 and sells it for \$10,700. *By Mike Carter*

60 A Randall Handle Evolution

The handles on full-tang Randalls of the 'Nam era run the gamut. *By Robert E. Hunt*

66 Toughest When Super Thin

Higher-alloy tool vs. stainless—and is the steel tough enough? *By Dan Farr*

72 Three Favorite Knife Books

A trio of works that aided the author's voyage into knifemaking. *By Ed Fowler*

94 Into the Dragon's Lair

Jimmie Buckner's Dragon's Foot Skinner gets the acid test. *By MSG Kim Breed*

96 Wire Rope Into Quality Damascus

In the right combos, wire blades have the best flexible strength. *By Wayne Goddard*

100 EDGES Antique U.S. Switchblades

Old autos remain some of the most fascinating collectibles. *By Richard D. White*

108 Never Too Hot to Handle

Old and new materials enliven the "steering wheels" of knives. *By Stephen Garger*

116 Applied Opulence

The state-of-the-art in art knives is embellishment personified. *By Don Guild*



100

BLADE SPOTLIGHT

- 6 Readers Respond
- 7 Cover Story
- 10 Unsheathed
- 24 The Knife I Carry
- 68 Where To Net 'Em
- 78 BLADE Shoppe
- 84 BLADE List
- 84 Classified Ads
- 85 Ad Index
- 86 What's New
- 88 Knifemaker Showcase
- 90 2007 Recap
- 99 Where To Get 'Em
- 104 Show Calendar
- 106 Next in *BLADE*®
- 122 Hot Handmade



116

BLADE® (ISSN 1064-5853) is published monthly, including the directory and calendar issues, by F+W Publications, Inc., 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-001. Periodical postage paid at Iola, Wis., and at additional mailing offices. Canadian Agreement Number: 40665675. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *BLADE*, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32142 877.485.6426 or outside the US. 386.246.3419.

Exquisite

At the award winning William Henry Studio we create superlative cutting instruments that belong equally to the most rugged tasks and refined environments.

Each piece takes over eight months to complete, involving more than 800 steps by as many as 30 artisans who bring their expertise to bear on every aspect of the final product. The finest materials on earth, state of the art technology, and brilliant handwork - seamlessly integrated into a flawless tool for your lifetime and beyond.

To learn more about our latest offerings, visit our website or one of our authorized retailers...



William Henry
S T U D I O

www.williamhenrystudio.com

888.563.4500

MADE IN USA

Superlative function deserves to be elevated to superlative art

AUTHORIZED STRIDER DEALER EXCLUSIVE STRIDER PT CC-X

LIFTER'S LEATHER CLIP POCKET SHEATH
BRAIDED LANYARD - SILVER SKULL BEAD
3" S30V DIGICAM BLADE
BLACK CC G-10 HANDLE
STARTING AT \$450.00



LIFTER'S
LEATHER
DAVID ABRAMSON

TRUE NORTH KNIVES
TNK

ad by armstraised.com

PURVEYOR NEIL OSTROFF 514.748.9985
WWW.TRUENORTHKNIVES.COM



readers respond

This Is Your Column! And we want to know what you think. Do you like what you've read in *BLADE*? Do you have a complaint, a suggestion or an opinion you'd like to share with the largest knife audience in the world? Mail your comments

to: *BLADE*, P.O. Box 789, Ooltewah, TN 37363-0789, or e-mail: BladeEditor@fwpubs.com, or visit our website: www.blademag.com. We reserve the right to edit your comments to fit the space available.

Guild's Success is Our Success

I read the "Unsheathed" on page 10 of the December *BLADE* about Bob Terzuola's comments addressing the Knifemakers' Guild during the business meeting of this past summer's Guild Show. While I am neither a member nor in regular contact with the Guild at any level, I have been observing this from the sidelines for well over a decade now.

I hate to put too fine a point on it but it does seem that over the past decade the Guild has had a major hand in supporting the rise and success of competing knife shows while decidedly eroding its own show. The Guild has simply left the barn door open and helped others build what could have been the Guild's. All has been accomplished through sheer neglect. The Guild has buried its head in the sand and done a terrible disservice to itself and to the knifemakers who are its backbone. It is tragic to see an organization that could deliver so much to both its artisan members and to an industry chart such a deliberate path of self-destruction. Why?

While it is easy to sit on the sidelines and criticize, these observations are offered in a constructive manner. Take what is useful and discard the rest.

Whether for altruistic goals or our own self-interest, we in the knife industry all truly want nothing but the best for the Guild. Its success is our success. Conversely, well, you get the point. It is my estimation that the Guild should have long been established as the international brand around handmade knives, the gold standard. The value of the Guild's brand has been in decline for many years and continues unabated.

The Guild Show should be vibrant, three to four times the size it is now. To exclude makers who have played monolithic roles in the growth of the business, to tell them they do not belong is unconscionable and just plain suicidal. Any knife show in the world would not only welcome such makers with open arms but also roll out the red carpet to get them.

The "hi-tech topic" has puzzled me for years. I don't get it. Back in the day, were band saws considered "hi-tech" when hand-saws were the standard tool? Was that considered heresy? Only hand hammers instead

of power hammers for forging? Doesn't any sensible person navigate to a tool or a process that will help him be a better and more productive craftsman? "Hi-tech" is just the next wave of tool technology.

When properly combined with fine craftsmanship, the technology/hand craftsmanship alliance should ultimately deliver a higher-quality product. If makers are upfront about the processes they use, there will not be a problem with the buying public. That fact has already been well documented at non-Guild shows.

All this makes me crazy and I am not even a maker. But, ladies and gentlemen, let us keep our eye on the ball and not forget the bottom line, and that is, with or without the Guild, custom knives are hot and, for the foreseeable future, continue to track upward.

Someone will rise to lead us.

Name withheld by request

Not So Little Giant

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the article on Harlan "Sid" Suedmeier and Little Giant power hammers in the September *BLADE*. Sid has been a great help to many others, including myself, who use the old machines. Sid, Mary and Keri are a pleasure to deal with. *BLADE* field editor Ed Fowler did a very good job on the article. I will add that the phone number for Sid listed in the story is his home number. It is best to call the Little Giant shop at 402.873.6603.

It is also an honor for me to be included in the "Hottest Knives of the Hottest ABS Smiths" article by Mike Haskew in the October *BLADE*. I would like to thank all involved and to thank *BLADE* for a fine magazine.

Don Hanson III, Success, Missouri

Good Golly Miss Molly!

My November *BLADE* came and I read it cover to cover as usual, and was still chuckling at seeing a quote from me in the review of the 2007 *BLADE* Show when—good golly Miss Molly!—I got to Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer B.R. Hughes' story on the annual ABS banquet, and there was a

great full-page photo on page 80 of my very own knife and a neat caption description I recognize from a phone conversation I had with the *BLADE* staff.

It might be old hat to folks who have been at this knife game forever, but it is all still fresh for me, and it is a real thrill to see something I made shown so beautifully in *BLADE*.

Thanks for giving me such good exposure, and thanks to *BLADE* for being the "paper of record" for the knife as art and craft in this modern era.

John White, ABS master smith, Niceville, Florida

Rader's New Address

Thanks for publishing my letter about Dan Farr in the September *BLADE*. Also, thank you for displaying one of my "staff swords" in the "Handmade Gallery" of the same issue. You know how much we knifemakers like to see our stuff in print!

By the way, my mailing address has changed to POB 393, Wilkeson, WA 98396. Everything else is the same. Thanks.

Michael Rader, Wilkeson, Washington

Frosting on the Cake

I wanted to thank you for including my picture and some kind words in the December *BLADE* coverage of the Knifemakers' Guild Show. It was a terrific surprise to open a favorite magazine and see myself looking back.

I am honored to be mentioned in the same article with some outstanding Guild members. I am proud to be a voting member of the Guild and to be included along with people whose work I have admired for a long time.

Your picture and words were the frosting on the cake. After a four-year process (for me), having my voting membership review, selling a few knives, and then appearing in *BLADE*—it does not get much better than that for me.

Kevin Lesswing, Bayonne, New Jersey

BLADE



cover cover story story

Tim Galyean's latest custom design, the **MOAB** (Mother Of All Blades) is a flipper folder with a titanium handle and a 4-inch blade of a composite of 154CM stainless and CPM D2 tool steels.

"The pieces of the blade are braze welded together in a vacuum furnace," Galyean explained. "This is the same technology that **Kershaw** developed with **Darrell Lewis** of **Ionbond**."

Galyean said he based the MOAB's design on that of the F-117 Nighthawk Fighter. "I fell in love with the radical design of the F-117," he said, "and I wanted to incorporate the same angles and edges into a knife design."

"The pieces of the blade are braze welded together."
—Tim Galyean

He indicated that he has never put a price on one of the MOABs, though he sold the prototype to a private collector. "He made me an offer that I could not refuse," Galyean admitted. "I sold two others at the **Tactical Invitational** in open bids and they both sold for \$3,000."

For more information on the cover knife, contact Galyean at 503.799.7779 tjgalyean@hotmail.com, or see the story on page 28.

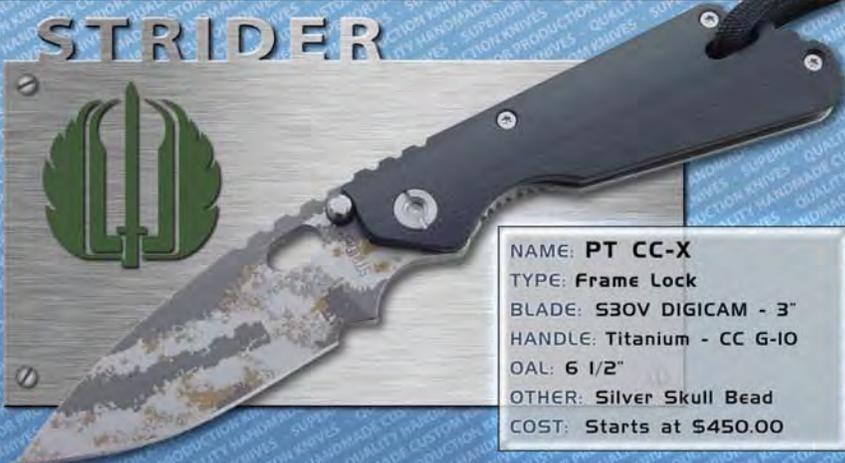
The cover photo is by **Kris Kandler**.

BLADE



FEATURED EXCLUSIVES

STRIDER



NAME: **PT CC-X**
 TYPE: **Frame Lock**
 BLADE: **S30V DIGICAM - 3"**
 HANDLE: **Titanium - CC G-10**
 OAL: **6 1/2"**
 OTHER: **Silver Skull Bead**
 COST: **Starts at \$450.00**

ad by: armsraised.com

MIKE OBENAUER



NAME: **OBIE NECKER ONE**
 TYPE: **Neck Knife**
 BLADE: **D2 - 3 1/4"**
 HANDLE: **Various**
 OAL: **7 1/4"**
 OTHER: **Kydex Sheath w/ Cord**
 COST: **Starts at \$250.00**

MEL PARDUE



NAME: **THE PARLOW**
 TYPE: **Lock Back**
 BLADE: **S30V - 2 1/2"**
 HANDLE: **Mother of Pearl Scales**
 OAL: **6"**
 OTHER: **Damascus Bolsters**
 COST: **\$775.00**

TRUE NORTH KNIVES



NEIL OSTROFF
514.748.9985

LEFT-HAND KNIVES IN STOCK
 WORLDWIDE SHIPPING
 ALL NEW KNIVES IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
 DEALER EXCLUSIVES

AUTHORIZED DEALER




WWW.TRUENORTHKNIVES.COM

MOKI
100TH
ANNIVERSARY

~ 300 PIECES, LIMITED KNIVES IN EACH MODEL ~
2007 summer release



MOKI-100th/Pro
Procyon



MOKI-100th/Sp
Spica



MOKI-100th/SI
Sirius

Ever since our foundation in 1907, we have been producing high quality knives with original design and high precision. Backed by our proud history of 100 years, every one of our handmade knives is made for unmatched "Sharpness and durability".

Distribution in USA.

Blue Ridge Knives.

E-mail: onestop@blueridgeknives.com

TEL: (276) 783-6143. FAX: (276) 783-9298.

Moteng.

E-mail: info@moteng.com

TEL: (800) 367-5900. FAX: (800) 367-5903.



PO BOX25, Seki City, Gifu Pref., JAPAN. 501-3224 Web Site : <http://www.moki.co.jp>

BLADE[®]

WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION

Vol. XXXV, No. 3, MARCH 2008

Publishers Of

Inside World Knife Collecting & Investing
EIGES

BLADE
TRADE
And Cutlery Retailer

700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001

715.445.2214 www.blademag.com

BladeEditor@fwpubs.com

Group Publisher
HUGH McALOON

Publisher
BRAD RUCKS

Editor
STEVE SHACKLEFORD

Associate Editor
BRENDAN O'BRIEN

Production Coordinators
MARK LILLA

Field Editors
LOWELL BRAY, MSG KIM BREED, DEXTER
EWING, ED FOWLER, WAYNE GODDARD,
ROBERT E. HUNT, B.R. HUGHES, JOE SZILASKI,
RICHARD D. WHITE, TIM ZOWADA

Advertising Sales
MISSY BEYER, EXT. 642
BRUCE WOLBERG, EXT. 403

Advertising Assistants
MARY ANN RICE
STEPHANIE WILCOX

Art Director
CRAIG NETZER

Graphic Designer
JEREMY BOUTWELL

F+W Publications, Inc.
DAVID H. STEWARD, CHAIRMAN & CEO
JOHN SPERIDAKOS, CFO
BARBARA SCHMITZ, VP, MANUFACTURING
ERIC SVENSON, GROUP PUBLISHER INTERACTIVE MEDIA

F+W Publications, Inc. Magazine Group
COLIN UNGARO, PRESIDENT
SARA DECARLO, VP, CONSUMER MARKETING
SARA DUMFORD, CONFERENCE DIRECTOR
TOM WIANDT, BUSINESS PLANNING

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: 877.485.6426
OUTSIDE THE U.S., CALL: 386.246.3419

BLADE® is published by Krause Publications, a division of F+W Publications, Inc., 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54990. BLADE and its logo are registered trademarks. Other names and logos referred to or displayed in editorial or advertising content may be trademarked or copyrighted. BLADE assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials sent to it. Publisher and advertisers are not liable for typographical errors that may appear in prices or descriptions in advertisements. The possession, transportation and sale of certain types of knives is restricted or prohibited by federal, state and local laws. BLADE and F+W Publications, Inc. rely upon the fact that collectors, dealers, exhibitors, advertisers and manufacturers are expected to know and comply with these regulations.

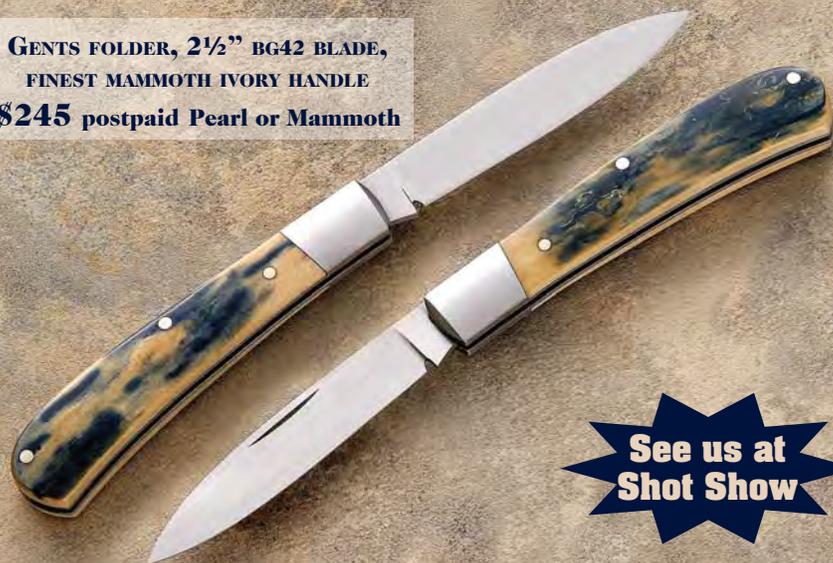
fw
F+W PUBLICATIONS, INC.

TIM BRITTON

Knifemaker

GENTS FOLDER, 2½" BG42 BLADE,
FINEST MAMMOTH IVORY HANDLE

\$245 postpaid Pearl or Mammoth



See us at
Shot Show

www.timbritton.com

336.923.2062

P.O. Box 71, Bethania, NC 27010

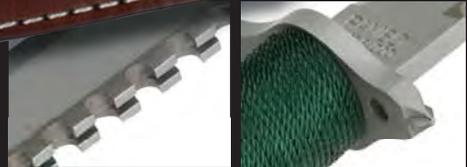
**OFFICIALLY LICENSED
TRUE AMERICAN CLASSIC!**

RAMBO® FIRST BLOOD

INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED



MC-RB1A25
MSRP: \$150



RAMBO® FIRST BLOOD PART II

INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED
JOHN RAMBO SIGNATURE EDITION



MC-RB2S
MSRP: \$150



Rambo is a Trademark of StudioCanal Image S.A. All Rights Reserved.

Exclusively Licensed to Hollywood Collectibles Group and Master Cutlery, Inc.

Dealer Inquiries : Master Cutlery, Inc. • 700 Penhorn Avenue • Secaucus, NJ 07094 • Tel: 201.271.7600
To Order: 888.271.7228 • Fax: 201.271.7666 • www.mastercutlery.com • sales@mastercutlery.com



By Steve Shackelford

He Always Lived Up to His Billing

The e-mail from Kit Rae, the gifted fantasy sword and knife designer, slammed home like a medieval war hammer: Hank Reinhardt, creative genius behind Museum Replicas, loving husband to Janet and then Toni, and doting father to Dana and Cathy, was dead.

Hank wasn't just old school, he did his homework on parchment. He was a 17th-century man thrust into the modern milieu. With his slick bald-head and silver goatee, he looked like a well-traveled musketeer who had fought many good fights and outlived all his adversaries to tell the tales.

Hank didn't just look the part. He knew and loved swords, their history and how they were used. He knew them so well, in fact, that when he and Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® Bill Adams started Museum Replicas in the mid-1980s, 19 out of 20 swords that Hank had an Italian manufacturer make for the first catalog were solid sales successes. As Adams noted at Hank's memorial service, "I'd never had a 95 percent hit rate on anything I'd picked—ever!" Those are strong words from a man who made Atlanta Cutlery a household name in the knife business.

In the early '90s, Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer Bruce Voyles asked Hank to give a seminar on sword fighting at the BLADE Show when the show was in Knoxville, Tennessee. The seminar was so popular that Bruce asked Hank to do it again when the show moved to Atlanta.

That year the sword-fighting seminar was held in the lobby of the Renaissance Waverly, the host hotel to the BLADE Show, in the area adjacent to the sunken bar known to BLADE-o-philes as The Pit. Hank taught classical sword fighting and asked some of his students—including Eddie and Samara Floyd—to participate. The sight of them all in medieval costume, thrusting and parrying as they danced around the hotel lobby floor, is one I will

never forget. And there was Hank, pushing 60, mixing it up with the best of them. Later, despite a lifelong affinity for cigarettes that racked his lungs and gave him emphysema, Hank continued to spar and hold his own in sword-fighting exercises with those many years his junior.

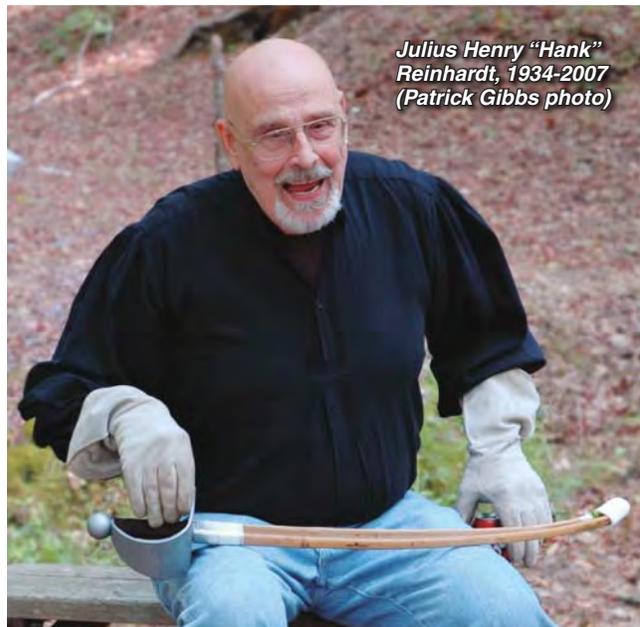
Swords and his love for them was a crusade with Hank. He founded units of

did not hold a candle to his family. When Janet was killed in a car wreck, Hank devoted himself to raising Dana and Cathy. "He quit traveling and came off the road so he could be there for them," Adams noted. "His daughters were more important than anything else in his life." Later, Hank was blessed with Toni. "I never saw him happier and it was wonderful to see—how much they loved and cared for each other," Adams said.

Many *BLADE*® readers will recall Hank's "Movie Blades" series, as well as his recent two-part story on the top 10 sword movies of all time in the October and November issues. He always had an eye for historical accuracy, as well as what really could and could not be done with a sword. Even then, he allowed for artistic license where need be. As he noted of the "flying" swordsmen and sword-fights in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, "as [the movie is a martial arts fantasy], I have no objection to the film's complete defiance of the laws of gravity. The movie is a fantasy and lives up to its billing."

Hank always lived up to his billing. A few days before the heart surgery that would ultimately take his life, he called to discuss a story on axes he wanted to do for *BLADE*. He mentioned the upcoming surgery and how it really didn't worry him that much. "If I live through it, everything will go on pretty much as usual," he said. "If not, I'll never know what hit me."

He faced the possibility of death as he did life—positive and fearless. Hank didn't go out in a blaze of Hollywood-esque glory like the elderly heroes in one of his favorite movies, *Secondhand Lions*. No, he dedicated his life to his family and to the things in which he believed. And that, in the final tally, is all that really matters.



Julius Henry "Hank" Reinhardt, 1934-2007
(Patrick Gibbs photo)

the Society for Creative Anachronism, a medieval re-enactment society, in Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. He conducted sword seminars at a number of science fiction conventions, staged panels on medieval arms and armor, and exhibited the fighting techniques of the era, most recently at Dragoncon in Atlanta this past September. He wrote many stories on swords and knives, was presented with the Blade Magazine 2006 Industry Achievement Award for his lifelong contributions to the cutlery community, and reportedly will appear in the already completed documentary, *Reclaiming the Blade*, set for a 2008 release.

As much as Hank loved swords, they



MANTIS KNIVES

SHOT SHOW BOOTH #5399



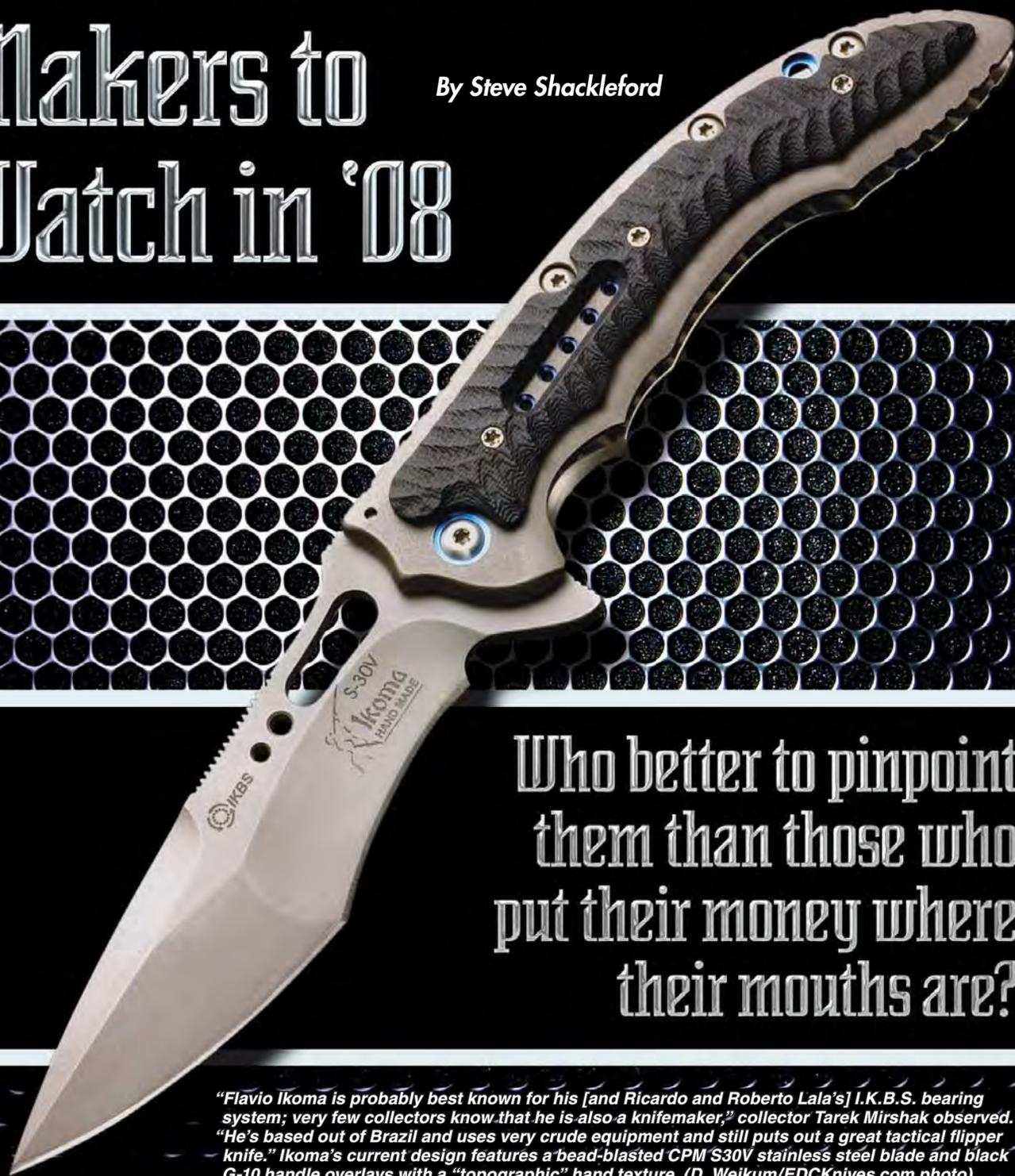
Mantis Knives
1580 N. Harmony Circle
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807

ph: (714) 701-9136

www.MANTISKNIVES.com

Collectors' Choice: Makers to Watch in '08

By Steve Shackelford



Who better to pinpoint
them than those who
put their money where
their mouths are?

"Flavio Ikoma is probably best known for his [and Ricardo and Roberto Lala's] I.K.B.S. bearing system; very few collectors know that he is also a knifemaker," collector Tarek Mirshak observed. "He's based out of Brazil and uses very crude equipment and still puts out a great tactical flipper knife." Ikoma's current design features a bead-blasted CPM S30V stainless steel blade and black G-10 handle overlays with a "topographic" hand texture. (D. Weikum/EDCKnives.com photo)

In past installments of identifying the custom knifemakers to watch for the coming year, *BLADE*® has relied on purveyors and other knife scene observers for their input. This time, *BLADE* taps some of today's active buyers/collectors for their opinions on the subject.

Twenty-three collectors were contacted in all. Of those, 14 were able to participate in one form or another—not a bad rate of return!

Of those contacted, three mentioned the same person—Michael Burch—which was more mentions than any other maker.

“Michael started out as a tactical fixed-blade maker and has gradually been evolving into a tactical folder maker,” noted collector Tarek Mirshak. “He’s still making fixed blades but what’s setting him apart is his new flipper folders. He’s using the I.K.B.S. [Ikoma Korth Bearing System] in his 3-inch flippers and they work like a charm.”

“What’s setting him apart is his new flipper folders.”

—Tarek Mirshak

Collector Steve Desarno said he likes Burch’s combination of traditional-looking forged W2 tool steel with *hamons* (temper lines) and modern tactical styles. Meanwhile, collector Gary Capraro may be Burch’s biggest fan of all.

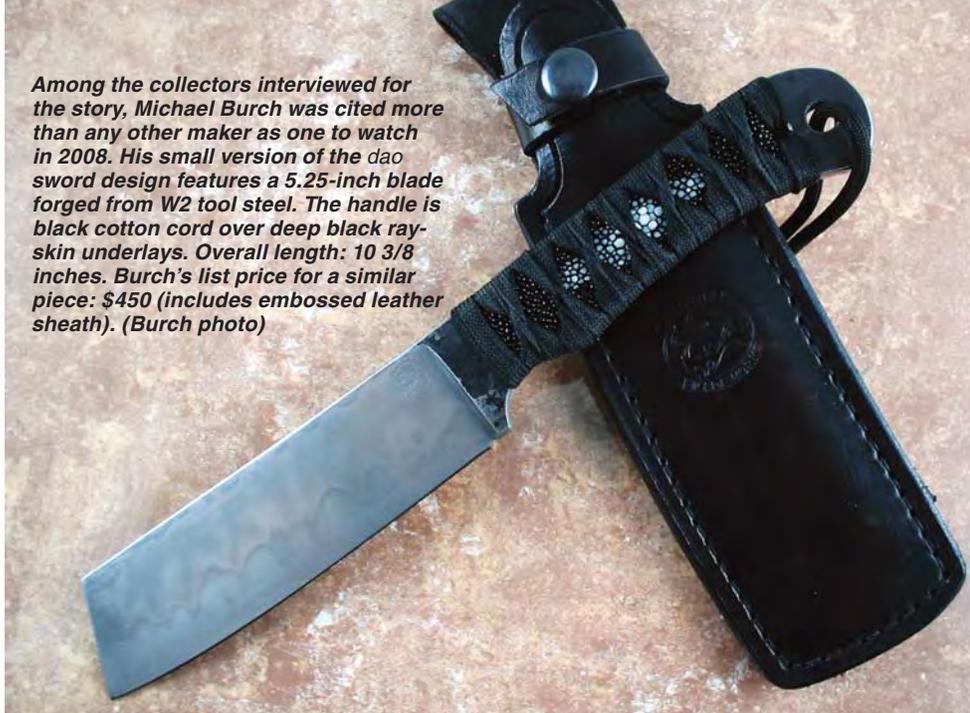
“He is without a doubt an up-and-coming talent. I’m wearing his bamboo folder right now,” Capraro confided. “It’s a very unique design as it is small and very compact closed. But open it—as it does so very smoothly, I might add—and wow! it produces a very beefy and amazingly thick modified sheepfoot-type blade made of 1095 with a temper line to cry over! He exhibits all the qualities and passion to facilitate a well-rounded maker but has a real flair for Japanese style.”

Three makers received mention twice by the collectors polled—in alphabetical order, Peter Carey, Flavio Ikoma and Jeremy Krammes.

Collectors Chris Schlueter and Roy Humenick tabbed Carey. “He [appears] to be a full-time maker,” Humenick observed. “His work is pretty nice and he has won a few awards.” Collector Jon Ukman was highly complimentary of Ikoma’s work.

“While his knives function perfectly, Mr. Ikoma also has a sense of design and style that he combines with an uncanny

Among the collectors interviewed for the story, Michael Burch was cited more than any other maker as one to watch in 2008. His small version of the dao sword design features a 5.25-inch blade forged from W2 tool steel. The handle is black cotton cord over deep black ray-skin underlays. Overall length: 10 3/8 inches. Burch’s list price for a similar piece: \$450 (includes embossed leather sheath). (Burch photo)



ability to choose raw materials that make each of his knives a showstopper,” Ukman stressed. “As an everyday carry knife you won’t be afraid to use it, and every time you do, you’ll feel like a million bucks.”

Mirshak agreed.

“Flavio Ikoma is probably best known for his [and Ricardo and Roberto Lala’s] I.K.B.S. bearing system; very few collectors know that he is also a knifemaker. He’s based out of Brazil and uses very

crude equipment and still puts out a great tactical flipper knife,” Mirshak assessed. “There is a strong contingent of people that are trying to get Flavio to move to the U.S. and get him some ‘real’ equipment to work with. His work is already impressive, so I cannot begin to imagine what he could make with better tools.”

Ukman and Mirshak are also of like mind on Krammes.

“I can’t verify it, but I believe



Collector Jon Ukman quipped that knifemaker Jeremy Krammes “must have been cloned in a lab from one of the world’s great knifemakers.” Collector Tarek Mirshak added that Krammes is primarily a tactical folder maker and “his folders just keep getting better.” Here is a sample. (SharpByCoop.com photo)

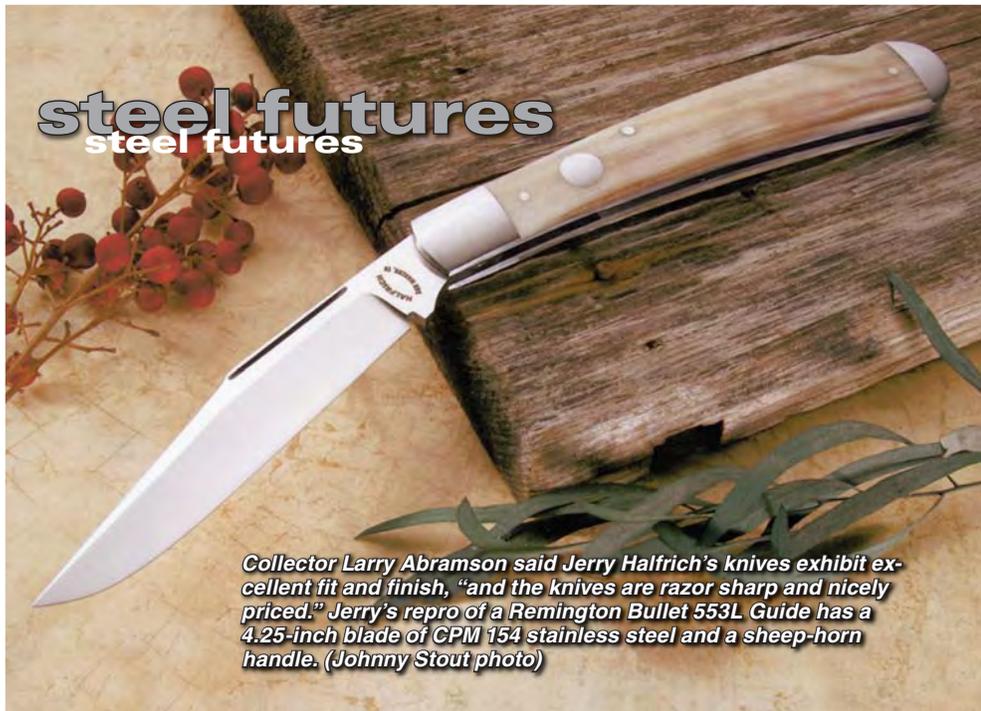


**THE ONLY TIME THIS KNIFE
WILL GET HANDED DOWN:
IN A WILL**

The New Osborne 950 RFT

steel futures

steel futures



Collector Larry Abramson said Jerry Halfrich's knives exhibit excellent fit and finish, "and the knives are razor sharp and nicely priced." Jerry's repro of a Remington Bullet 553L Guide has a 4.25-inch blade of CPM 154 stainless steel and a sheep-horn handle. (Johnny Stout photo)

[Krammes] must have been cloned in a lab from one of the world's great knifemakers," Ukman quipped. "Jeremy's fine craftsmanship, his beautiful grinds and unique sense of design are in every knife he makes. I love his work now, and I can't wait to see what comes off his workbench when he has 10 years under his belt and starts to hit his stride."

"Jeremy came onto the knifemaking scene a couple of years ago and has been putting out a very good product since," Mirshak commented. "He's primarily a tactical folder maker and his folders just keep getting better. His newest designs,

the 'APOC' and the 'Fenix,' are real winners. Both have great ergonomics and are great carry pieces."

Movin' On Up

On the handforged side, collector Kevin Jones praised the work of ABS journeyman smith Mace Vitale.

"Mace's ultra-clean designs, precision fit and finish and desire to succeed will eventually propel him into the upper tiers of the ABS," Jones began. "He puts the same painstaking effort into every knife, from his entry-level hunters to his top-of-the-line bowies."



"Mace Vitale's ultra-clean designs, precision fit and finish and desire to succeed will eventually propel him into the upper tiers of the ABS," collector Kevin Jones noted. Vitale's personal utility model boasts a 3-inch blade of 1084 carbon steel and a Sambar stag handle. (SharpByCoop.com photo)



1-800-351-8900

JANTZ SUPPLY

VG10 JAPANESE BLADES

NEW!

High Carbon Cobalt Core, clad with 33 layers of stainless steel, producing a damascus look. A true super steel, holds a razor sharp edge. Absolute best cutlery available.

Paring

6-1/2" overall, 3-3/4" blade, .078 tang thickness
HD801 Paring Blade.....29.95

Steak

8" overall, 5-1/8" blade, .078 tang thickness
HD802 Steak Blade.....34.95

Sandwich

8-5/8" overall, 6" blade, .078 tang thickness
HD803 Sandwich Blade.....49.95

Nagiri

9-1/2" overall, 6-1/2" blade, .098 tang thickness
HD806 Nagiri Blade.....69.95

Santoku

9-1/2" overall, 6-3/4" blade, .098 tang thickness
HD807 Santoku Blade.....59.95

Chef

11-3/8" overall, 8-3/8" blade .098 tang thickness
HD808 Chef Blade.....64.95

NEW! SUSHI BLADES

The Doba a thick, heavy blade used by Japanese Chefs for boning poultry, fish, and other meats. The Sashimi blade is for slicing fish, meats and vegetables. Each blade is beveled on one side, flat on the other, for straight penetrating cuts.

Sashimi

12-3/4" overall, 9" blade, .135 tang thickness
HD804 Sashimi Blade.....99.95

Deba

9-1/2" overall, 6-1/2" blade, .218 tang thickness
HD805 Deba Blade.....149.95

LOCKING LINER KITS

Exceptional quality at a great price! Each kit includes all components except handle material. Easy to follow instructions make these perfect for the beginner.

VG10 Folder Kits



VG10 Super Sharp Mirror Polished Laminated Blade, available with Blue or Silver Titanium or Stainless Steel Liner. Overall length opened is 6 5/8", 3 7/8" closed, cutting edge is 2 1/2".

VG101 Blue Titanium Liner.....69.95

VG102 Silver Titanium Liner.....59.95

VG103 Stainless Liner.....49.95

Pre-Shaped Handle for VG10

Stabilized Exhibition Quality pre-shaped handles for the VG10 folder kits above.

VG500 Stabilized Wood for VG10....14.95

THE 605 MINI KITS



Satin finished 8A stainless sub zero quenched. Overall length opened 5 3/4", 3 3/8" closed, cutting edge 2 3/8", 3/32" thick.

KV605MS 605 Mini Serrated.....29.95

KV605M 605 Mini Standard.....29.95

605 Mini Accessories



KV620 Replacement Screw Kit.....5.95

KV625 Optional Belt Clip w/screws....4.95

BLACK WIDOW KIT



Black Anodized Stainless overall is 7 5/8" long, 4 1/2" closed, cutting edge 3 1/8" x 5/64" thick. Supplied with preshaped, drilled handle material.
SS652 Black Widow.....14.95

FALLOW KIT



High Carbon Stainless blade, Nickel silver bolster, belt clip. Supplied with preshaped, drilled handle material. 7 13/16" long when opened, 4-1/2" closed, 3-1/4" cutting edge, 3/32" thick. Use torx wrench T10 and T6.

SS656 Fallow Locking Liner.....19.95

FX106 T6 Torx Wrench.....4.50

FX110 T10 Torx Wrench.....4.50

RAINDROP DAMASCUS

NEW! limited edition blades

Eagle Claw
4 3/4" overall, 3" blade .100 thickness
JD808 Eagle Claw.....29.95

Tarpon
7" overall, 2-3/4" blade .135 thickness
JD809 Tarpon.....49.95

Barracuda
7" overall, 2-3/4" blade .135 thickness
JD810 Barracuda.....59.95

TRADITIONAL CUTLERY

High polished, 440C Stainless blades. Complete Kit includes 11 blades, one each as shown below. Steak set includes four SS826 blades. Carving Set includes SS825 and SS822 blade. All kits include handle material, Rivets and complete step by step instructions.



SS801 Complete Set.....69.95

SS807 Carving Set........19.95**

SS803 Steak Set.....*.....27.95**

SS821 8" Cooks Blade Only.....10.71

SS822 8" Carver Blade Only.....7.80

SS825 Carving Fork Only.....6.81

SS823 Boning Blade Only.....6.91

SS820 6" Cooks Blade Only.....6.85

SS827 3" Paring Blade Only.....3.65

SS828 2" Paring Blade Only.....3.35

SS826 5" Steak Blade Only.....4.90

CUSTOM DINNERWARE

Crafted from heavy duty top quality stainless. Rivets included for each piece.



SS501 Knife 8-3/4" overall.....2.75

SS502 Fork 7-1/4" overall.....2.50

SS503 Dinner Spoon 7-1/4" overall...2.50

JANTZ/KOVAL CATALOG

Everything you need to make knives
Blades, Fittings, Metals, Tools,
Finishing Supplies and more.

JC45 Catalog.....\$5.00

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TODAY

www.knifemaking.com

evenheat
kiln inc.



Heat treat your own blades with ease.
KF135 13.5 Depth.....850.00
KF180 18.0 Depth.....895.00
KF225 22.5 Depth.....940.00

ELECTRO-CHEM ETCH



Etch metals the easy way. Type or draw a personal logo on stencil material provided. Easy to follow instructions included.
EC302 Personalizer Plus.....179.95

FOREDOM SPECIAL*



Carve, Grind, and Shape with this 1/8 hp reversible ball bearing motor flex shaft kit. Includes electronic foot control, handpiece with 3/32, 1/8, and 1/4" collets plus a special accessory kit to get you started.
FTS24 Foredom Kit.....199.95

KNIFEMAKER'S VISE



Swivels a full 360 degrees, locks in place when the jaw is tightened. Jaws measure 3 1/2" w, 2 1/2" h. Opens to 9" capacity, 9" tall, 11" long and 3 1/2" wide. Base has three holes to bolt to work bench or pedestal. The Base foot is 5" x 6".

JS315 Knifemaker Vise.....49.95

JS316 Optional Tilting Jaws(pr.)12.95

SEND ORDERS TO:
JANTZ SUPPLY
309 W MAIN, DAVIS OK 73030
Phone: 580-369-2316
ADD \$9.95 FOR SHIPPING
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA
PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

steel futures

steel futures

Russ Andrews made Roger Pinnock's list of veteran makers to watch in 2008. "Few makers can finish a carbon steel blade as well as Russ can," Pinnock observed. "His bowies and fighters lean strongly toward graceful and flowing lines, with long clips running almost the entire length of the spine." (SharpByCoop.com photo)

from tight, traditional patterns to some very bold high-contrast stuff."

On the stock-removal side, Ukman picked Daniel Crofts to shine.

"Dan is likely the most accomplished 'new' maker that will ever be on a list like this," Ukman opined. "Apprenticed by Bob Dozier—who told me Dan has ground 14,000 some-odd blades over the last 15 or so years—and in line to one day succeed Bob at Dozier Knives, Dan in his free time is making incredible customs of his own design. Each is of the highest fit and finish but with a primary objective being function."

Collector Larry Abramson named a couple of up-and-comers.

"One guy right off the bat is Andy Fitz. We had a Usual Suspect Network [the Internet knife discussion group] get-together a couple of weeks ago and he was there," Abramson recounted. "I played around with a few of his folders and they are really nice. He's more on the tactical line but he

According to collector Roger Pinnock, another ABS journeyman smith to watch is Craig Camerer.

"Craig has demonstrated a willingness to explore some very innovative blade designs and his work shows tremendous diversity," Pinnock advised. "Whether a traditional clip-point fighter or a bold,

broad-bladed recurve bowie, Craig can hit one out of the park from a design standpoint seemingly at will. Variety also extends to his blade finish as well. He can turn out a superb hand-rubbed satin finish, or present a dramatic hamon on a clay-treated blade against a more subdued matte background. Similarly, his damascus can run the range

**You told us what you wanted
in a tactical knife... WE LISTENED!**



**SLEEKER...
SHARPER...
STRONGER!**



BLACKHAWK Knives offer an outstanding combination of grip, leverage and weapon retention. Their ergonomic standards offer superior grip and unmatched hand protection. The highest quality steel make for extreme tip strength penetration and allow for heavy cutting.

BLACKHAWK Knives... you can bet your life on them!

Check out the full line of
BLACKHAWK Knives online
www.blackhawk.com

BLACKHAWK!

BLACKHAWK PRODUCTS GROUP
6160 Commander Pkwy Norfolk, VA 23502 U.S.A.
Toll Free Order Line 800.694.5263



had a large flipper with him. It flipped very easy, did not feel like a big knife. I should have bought it but didn't.

"Jerry Halfrich makes folders and fixed blades. The fit and finish is excellent, and the knives are razor sharp and nicely priced."

Other up-and-comers or relatively unknown makers tabbed by the interviewed collectors to have breakout years include, in alphabetical order: Karl Anderson, Eduardo Berardo, Dave Bettencourt, Jim Burke, Lucas Burnley, Richard Derespina, Randy Doucette, Kiku Matsuda, Gerry McGinnis, Spencer Reiter, Phillip Patton and Henry Torres.

Inner Glow

Of course, the "makers to watch" should never be limited to up-and-comers or relative unknowns only. Established and/or even veteran makers can qualify as well. An example is ABS journeyman smith Russ Andrews.

"While Russ has developed a strong core following among informed forged-blade collectors, his relatively low volume of production has meant that correspondingly few individuals have had the pleasure of ownership of one of his fine blades," Pinnock explained. "There's a reason that his blades are highly sought after and command a very significant premium on the secondary market, beyond their relative scarcity. Simply put, few makers can finish

a carbon steel blade as well as Russ can.

"Starting off with a blade forged closely to shape and final ground to near perfection, Russ's hand-rubbed finish lends the blade a soft, even glow that makes you want to check for an internal light source. Pick one up and you'll see what I mean. His bowies and fighters lean strongly toward graceful and flowing lines, with long clips running almost the entire length of the spine. It's tough to get that right every time, but he does it."

**"I'm wearing his
bamboo folder
right now."**

—Gary Capraro

Collector Carlos Lopez has his eyes on the knives of another veteran.

"Ken Steigerwalt's new knives are incredible. They are changing quite a bit compared to his older stuff," Lopez observed. "They're much more higher end with incredible quality and finish. They have a lot more carving and flowing lines and are incredibly artistic. I think he is rivaling Wolfgang Loerchner. Ken's work is amazing."

Collector James Johnson is impressed with the work of seasoned makers Don Maxwell and Claude Montjoy.

"I've enjoyed Don's knives for years," Johnson admitted, "but haven't seen much of him for a long time. Lately I have seen a few of his knives and am impressed by his slim, elegant folders that are finished to perfection. Claude's knives, especially his pearl slip joints, always catch my eye. His work is consistently fine and sells for reasonable prices. He also makes some great small fixed blades. Everything I've ever seen of his has had the same great workmanship and choice of fine materials."

Other well-known or accomplished makers—and even a couple (Lin Rhea and Tommy Gann)—who have made these lists before that the interviewed collectors mentioned include, in alphabetical order: J.D. Barth, Thad Buchanan, Jon Christensen, Tom Ferry, Hiroaki Ohta, Josh Smith, Andre Thorburn, Nick Wheeler and Michael Zscherny.

Did we omit your choice or choices? If so, write us at *BLADE*, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990 or e-mail BladeEditor@fwpubs.com and let us know who they are.

For the contact information for the knives pictured in the story see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 99.

BLADE



When advanced technology
becomes reality.

kershaw[®]
K N I V E S
speedsafe[®] assisted
opening technology

NEW07

G-10 OFFSET Designed by Ken Onion

Model 1597G10

Steel.....Metal injection-molded (MIM)

440C stainless-steel with

Chromium Nitride coating

Handle...Black G-10, 3-D machined

Lock.....Stud-lock

Liner.....410 stainless-steel

Blade.....3 3/4 in. (9.5 cm)

Closed...5 1/4 in. (13.3 cm)

Weight...8.5 oz.

MSRP \$299.95

www.kershawknives.com
800.325.2891

tactical tough

tactical tough

A Knife For Every Reason



The latest factory
fixed-blade tactical knives
come in handy no
matter the situation

After combining input from Larry Keen, one of the founding members of TOPS and a former Operational Recon Marine, with an impressive list of criteria compiled by active Marine Corps members in Fallujah, Iraq, the Marine Heat, in 1095 carbon blade steel and a G-10 handle, was born.

By Brendan O'Brien

In baseball he's called a *utility player*—a guy you can fearlessly stick anywhere on the diamond in any situation. Put him in right field because he's comfortable shagging fly balls, or move him to first base because he's just as adept at fielding hard-hit grounders. His usefulness is his versatility.

The world of knives has an equivalent of baseball's utility player and it's known as the *tactical knife*.

When asked what defines a tactical knife, we like to go with Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall of Famer® and Spyderco president Sal Glesser's definition: "A tactical knife is a knife you have to make do with for whatever you need it at the time, whether that means to cut a person out of a wrecked car or defend yourself from an attack."

In theory *any* knife could be classified as a tactical knife. Nonetheless, this story will focus on factory versions of what many term *fixed-blade tactical knives*.

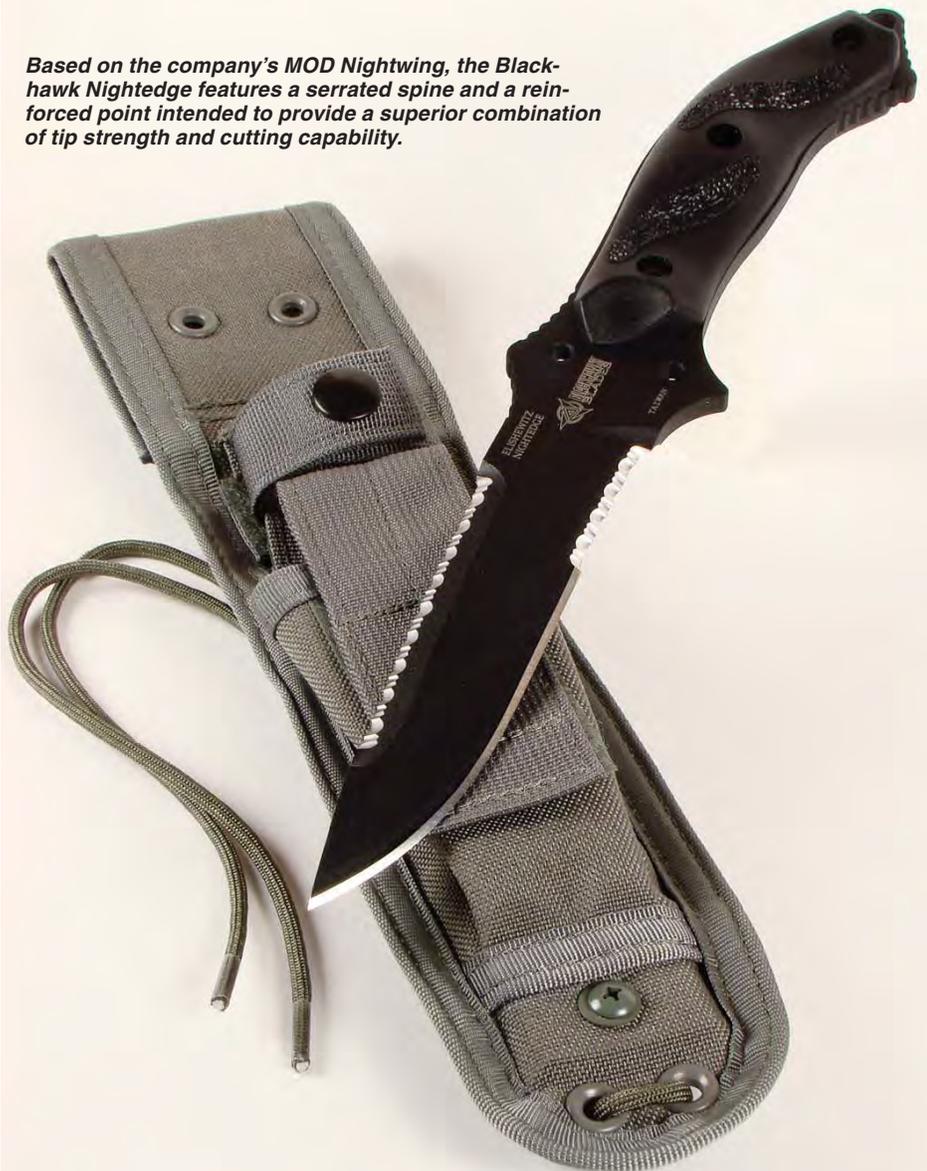
Semper Fi

The folks at TOPS Knives have always prided themselves on providing military personnel and law enforcement with quality knives capable of completing even the most dangerous of tasks. In particular, the company has always maintained a special relationship with the Marine Corps, and that special bond is once again evident on the new TOPS Marine Heat.

By combining design input from Larry Keen, one of the founding members of TOPS and a former Operational Recon Marine, with an impressive list of criteria compiled by active Marine Corps members in Fallujah, Iraq, the company conceived the Marine Heat.

Among the FIBUA (Fighting in Built-Up Urban Areas) criteria deemed necessary was a readily deployable 6-inch blade and a thick, full tang with a strong

Based on the company's MOD Nightwing, the Blackhawk Nightedge features a serrated spine and a reinforced point intended to provide a superior combination of tip strength and cutting capability.



The Triumph N.E.C.K. designed by Pat Crawford for Columbia River Knife & Tool features a non-reflective black EDP coating and an olive-drab, cord-wrapped handle. The belt-clip sheath is Kydex®.



The newest addition to SOG's SEAL Elite series is the SEAL Team Elite. Featuring an AUS 8 stainless steel blade, the SEAL Team Elite offers a Zytel® handle scored with reinforced grip lines.



handle to get a good grip and just enough blade to do some very serious work.”

The 6.5-inch Triumph is available in a satin finish or a non-reflective black EDP coating, the latter model complete with an olive-drab, cord-wrapped handle.

“It’s like a female assassin: sexy and dangerous.”

— Jared West

Each model is beneficial in its own respective way, and Crawford says the situation should dictate when to use which.

“There are always pros and cons to different features,” he notes. “That’s one of the reasons we make so many models and variations. I like the feel of the cord-wrapped handle because it’s easy on the hand when used for heavy work or for long periods of time. The knife without the cord handle has a very low profile under a shirt when worn as a neck knife. On a belt I prefer the cord-wrapped handle and I like the plain, flat steel when worn as a

neck knife.”

The Triumph N.E.C.K. can be carried using either a Kydex belt-clip sheath or the CRKT MercHarness—a paracord harness with adjustable rubber keepers designed by George “Mercop” Matheis.

No matter what model you prefer, odds are you’ll find the Triumph N.E.C.K.—the companion piece to CRKT’s Crawford tactical Triumph Folder—a reliable stout-and-stubby companion.

“I wanted a small fixed-blade knife that could easily be concealed on a belt, under a shirt or coat, and also on a chain worn around the neck,” Crawford says. “The knife can be worn in many different positions on a belt or in a waistband.”

Reclaiming the Night

Rarely do sequels live up to the originals. Just look at *Caddyshack II*, or clear Pepsi. The reason that sequels often bomb is because people are impatient—too quick to reproduce. However, every once in a while you get someone willing to put in the time it takes to make a marked improvement. Michael Janich of Blackhawk Products Group says he hopes that all the work that went into the company’s new Nightedge will make for a great “take two.”

“The Nightedge is actually based on the original MOD Nightwing,” Janich confides. “The Nightwing was offered

NO DULL KNIVES • NO UNINSPIRED

Gotta have it.



CARSON

We do Kit Carson right, and ya gotta have one or more of his many CRKT designs, from the economical M16-10KZ Every Day Carry to the tactical M21-14SF. There’s a Carson folder in every price range, blade steel and build, from Zytel Inter-Frame to aluminum to titanium. See our web site for all the rest.



www.crkt.com
Toll free 1-800-891-3100



CRKT

tactical tough

Pacific

Efficient ~ Tough
~ Exceptional ~

Pacific—
designed to
celebrate the 50th
Anniversary
of 1st Special
Forces Group
(Airborne).

Glass breaker
on handle point

Serrations on
both sides of
cutting edge

Grooved
handle
for extra
grip

Blade:
6 inches
CPM S30V
stainless steel

Handles:
Black canvas
micarta

Sheath:
ACU
Combat
Master by
SpecOps
Brand™

American
Made
Knife of
the Year



Chris Reeve
KNIVES



www.chrisreeve.com

208-375-0367

SHOT Show
Booth #7115



with three different blade profiles—a traditional clip point, a sharpened back edge and a serrated back edge. The feedback we received from operators in the field, as well as the results of our own extensive cutting tests, showed a clear preference for the serrated back edge and reinforced point. That's why we chose that profile for the Nightedge."

It is that design—a serrated spine and reinforced point—that is intended to provide a superior combination of tip strength and cutting capability.

"Unlike traditional false edges which force the blade to taper to the point, the Nightedge's point retains its full thickness just behind the tip," Janich explains. "This gives the point extreme strength and penetrating power."

Conceived by custom knifemaker Allen Elishewitz, one of the most noticeable features of the Nightedge is its dropped handle.

"Allen took painstaking care to ensure that the contours, palm swells and handle

The durable handle of the Boker Arbolito Tacticos Corto features a grooved Micarta® design that provides an excellent grip. The knife is done in 440A stainless blade steel and comes with a black leather sheath and stainless steel clip.



angle of the Nightwing and Nightedge provide outstanding control and exceptional ergonomics for the broadest range of end users," Janich says. "The dropped handle allows the wrist to maintain a more natural angle during use and eliminates the need to 'cam' the hand forward to orient the point and edge. When the Nightedge is displayed at trade shows, it invariably receives lots of positive comments on its ergonomics. To most people it just feels great in the hand."

One in a Million

The last thing most knife companies would compare one of their knives to is a female assassin. Then again, Jared West is not most people and Mantis Knives is not most knife companies.

When quizzed about his favorite features on the company's new MK-F karambit, West was quick to point out what he liked best. "I like its looks," he says. "It's like a female assassin: sexy and dangerous. In fact, that's what its unofficial name should be: The MK-F 'Mrs. Smith.'"

Known for trend-setting designs, Mantis is a knife company to watch. The MK-F features a G-10 handle and is done in 19C37 Sandvik steel. Just like Mantis' designs, the use of Sandvik steel is something that also continues to evolve.

"We're still speaking with John Foster at Sandvik," West says. "They have a variety of stainless compositions, and at this time the 19C37 seems to be the very best they have. We've shown over the past two years that we are a player in the 'knife game,' and Sandvik recognizes that potential."

The MK-F's hook blade is significantly smaller when compared to other karambit blades. "The blade-to-handle ratio is certainly different than most," West offers. "But Mantis prides itself on not being constrained by industry norms. We think this is among the most unique looking knives we've ever dreamt up."

If the feedback West says Mantis has received from its supporters is any indication, then he may be right.

"We started an elite organization called *The Mantis Militia*," he observes. "This is comprised of all customers and all knife enthusiasts who want to take their knife hobby to the next level by becoming involved in the design process. We took into account what our militia said about the MK-1, MK-2 and their offspring, the MK-3, and integrated that into the MK-F."

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 99.

BLADE



2ND ANNUAL DEALER SHOW
2008
APRIL 4 - 5, SAN DIEGO, CA

**COME SEE OVER 50 LEADING MANUFACTURERS OF:
KNIVES, FLASHLIGHTS & PUBLIC SAFETY**

- SEE ALL THE 2008 MODELS UNDER ONE ROOF •
- THE BEST DEALER PRICES OF THE YEAR (Dealer attendees only) •
 - GREAT PRIZES and GIFTS •
 - FREE FOOD AND DRINKS •

SPONSORED BY:



- Over 25,000 items from over 200 vendors.
- No minimum order.
- Same day shipping, if ordered by 12 noon PST.
- Easy to use web interface to place orders, check stock, track shipments & check order status.
- Print invoices, specials or closeouts.
- Pre-order new or hard to get items.
- View our daily news for new arrivals, new items & hot items.
- Drop ship directly to your customers.

**SEE US AT THE SHOT SHOW
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
FEBRUARY 2ND - 5TH 2008
BOOTH# 5781**

DEALERS WANTED / DEALERS ONLY PLEASE

12220 Parkway Centre Drive - Poway, California 92064
Phone 800.367.5900 or 858.715.2500 / Fax 800.367.5903 or 858.715.2525
email. info@moteng.com

WWW.MOTENG.COM



the knife i carry

the knife i carry



"I don't leave home without my Leatherman Tool and Ka-Bar Dozier Folder. I've been carrying a pocketknife since early grade school—back when you could—and I would rather forget my wallet before leaving one of my knives home. I am now 74 years young. The day I keel over you'll find a knife or two on my person."

Lawrence Zimbelman, Davis Junction, Illinois

"I carry a Marble's coke bottle pocketknife. I love the coke-bottle-shaped handle, and the jiggled bone has a warm, homey feel to it. Call it my own personal safety blanket or what have you, but I feel naked if I go somewhere and it's not in my pocket."

Alex Eckenrod, Oxford, North Carolina

Win A Knife!

"My Grohmann Featherweight is with me at all times. Like the name says, it's light as a feather, and I like not having that 'deadweight' feel in my pocket. I use my Grohmann for just about everything, from sharpening pencils to trimming twigs for roasting marshmallows. Whenever the kids need something cut, they come to me and say, 'Dad, where's your knife?' Some might find that bothersome but it makes me feel kind of warm and fuzzy. I wonder what the anti-knifers would say to that?"

Paul Gibbs, Chanute, Kansas

Tell us briefly what knife you carry. Add a little history or an interesting anecdote. Try to include a photograph of you holding your knife. We will publish your comments in an upcoming "The Knife I Carry." Your name will then be entered in a drawing to win a free, high-quality, name-brand pocketknife. The drawing will be held May 15, 2008. Mail to: *BLADE*®, POB 789, Ooltewah, TN 37363-0789 or e-mail BladeEditor@fwpubs.com. If you send your entry by e-mail, please include your mailing address in case you win the drawing for the pocketknife.



NEW
For Discreet CCW
#0424 COLOSSUS™

Main: 8" x 5" x 10" deep
Top: 6" x 5" x 1" thick
Front: 8" x 7" x 1.5" thick
Rear and back CCW pockets
B, G, K \$118.99, DFC \$124.99



NEW
Folding Backpack
#0454 MERLIN™

Folded size: 8" x 5" x 4"
Main: 15" x 12" x 6"
Front pockets: 7" x 5" x 2"
Hydration Reservoir compatible
B, G, K 82.99, DFC 86.99



NEW
For Discreet CCW
#8002 MANTA™

Manta Versipack (Ambidextrous)
Main: 10" x 9" with CCW loop field
Back: 9" x 8" with CCW loop field
B, G, K \$78.99, DFC \$82.99



NEW
For Discreet CCW
#0419 REMORA™

Main: 9" x 7" x 3" with dividers
Front: 6" x 5" x 1" with divider
Ambi. concealable shoulder strap
B, G, K \$88.99, DFC \$93.99



#0517 Pygmy Falcon-II™



www.maxpedition.com

TOLL FREE : 1-877-629-5556

Color Options: Black (B), Green (G), Khaki (K),
ACU-compatible Digital Foliage Camo (DFC)



NEW
#0455 OCTA™

Main: 8" x 5" x 3" with dividers
Front: 6" x 5" x 1.5" with elastic loops
Removal waist strap, modular attachment
B, G, K \$68.99, DFC \$72.99



NEW
#0223 TACTILE™ POUCH - SMALL
#0224 TACTILE™ POUCH - MEDIUM
#0225 TACTILE™ POUCH - LARGE

Ultra Flat General Purpose Utility Pouches
Small TacTile: B, G, K \$22.99, DFC \$24.99
Medium TacTile: B, G, K \$24.99, DFC \$26.99
Large TacTile: B, G, K \$27.99, DFC \$29.99



NEW
#0807 MOIRE™ POUCH 7x5
#0809 MOIRE™ POUCH 8x6

Translucent mesh organizer pouches
1" quick release hook for hanging
Moire Pouch 7x5: Black Mesh \$13.99
Moire Pouch 8x6: Black Mesh \$14.99



NEW
#8001 JANUS™
EXTENSION POCKET

Use as extension strap for Falboy and Jumbo
Main: 8" x 4" x 1.5" with dividers
Splice in two-faced modular pouch
Strap adjustable from 8" to 13"
B, G, K \$35.99, DFC \$37.99



BESTSELLER
For Discreet CCW
#0412 JUMBO™

Jumbo Versipack (Right Side Carry)
Main: 9" x 8" x 3" with internal subdividers
Collapsible 32oz. / 1L Nalgene pocket
B, G, K \$82.99 DFC \$86.99
Also #0413 S-Type Jumbo (Left Side Carry)



BESTSELLER
For Discreet CCW
#0410 MONSOON™

Monsoon Gearslinger
Main: 18" High, tapers from 15" wide at base to 6" wide at top
1600+ cu. in. single shoulder pack
Uses 100 oz. water reservoir
B, G, K \$125.99 DFC \$136.99



BESTSELLER
Fits up to 15.4" laptop (Diagonal Screen Size)
Internal velcro divider
For Discreet CCW
#0605 OPERATOR™

Fully-padded large tactical attaché
Main: 15.5" L x 4" W x 11" D with Velcro Divider
Includes 2" Shoulder Strap and Pad
B, G, K \$121.99 DFC \$132.99



BESTSELLER
For Discreet CCW
#0512 CONDOR-II™

Condor-II hydration backpack
1950 cu. in. / 32 L capacity
Main: 17.5" (H) x 14" (W) x 6.5" (D)
Fits up to 100 oz / 3 L Reservoir
B, G, K 121.99 DFC \$132.99

OFFICIALLY LICENSED

For the first time ever a movie accurate **FULL SIZE** mass reproduction of the original knife used by Sylvester Stallone in **RAMBO® III**

RAMBO® III

ORIGINAL MOVIE RELEASE 1988
INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED

20th Anniversary Edition

2008

MC-RB3A20 | MSRP: \$175



INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED
JOHN RAMBO SIGNATURE EDITION

John Rambo

MC-RB3S | MSRP: \$160



Knives available previously were actually scaled down replicas of the one used in the movie.

Previous Version 16" Overall



Master Cutlery Version 18" Overall



Rambo is a Trademark of StudioCanal Image S.A. All Rights Reserved.

Exclusively Licensed to Hollywood Collectibles Group and Master Cutlery, Inc.

Dealer Inquiries : Master Cutlery, Inc. • 700 Penhorn Avenue • Secaucus, NJ 07094 • Tel: 201.271.7600
To Order: 888.271.7228 • Fax: 201.271.7666 • www.mastercutlery.com • sales@mastercutlery.com

MEYERCO®

Exclusive designs by *Blackie Collins*®

Sovereign knives represent another great design from Blackie Collins.

All three blades feature the cross hatch pattern and CNC machined aluminum handles with concentric flute patterns for added gripping texture. These are the best of the best and, of course, come with the Meyerco® FOREVER! warranty.



MCSV1 - Ridgeback Serpentine



MCSV2 - Ridgeback Modified Spear Point



MCSV3 - Ridgeback Clip Point



We're bringing back the most requested knife we ever produced. Blackie's custom tactical knife featuring 8CR13 stainless steel blades, G-10 handles, CNC machined stainless steel liners and a stainless steel reversible clip with non-glare finish.



MCNTCBH - Also Available in Bead Blasted Blade



MCNTCTH - Also Available in Non-Glare Black Blade

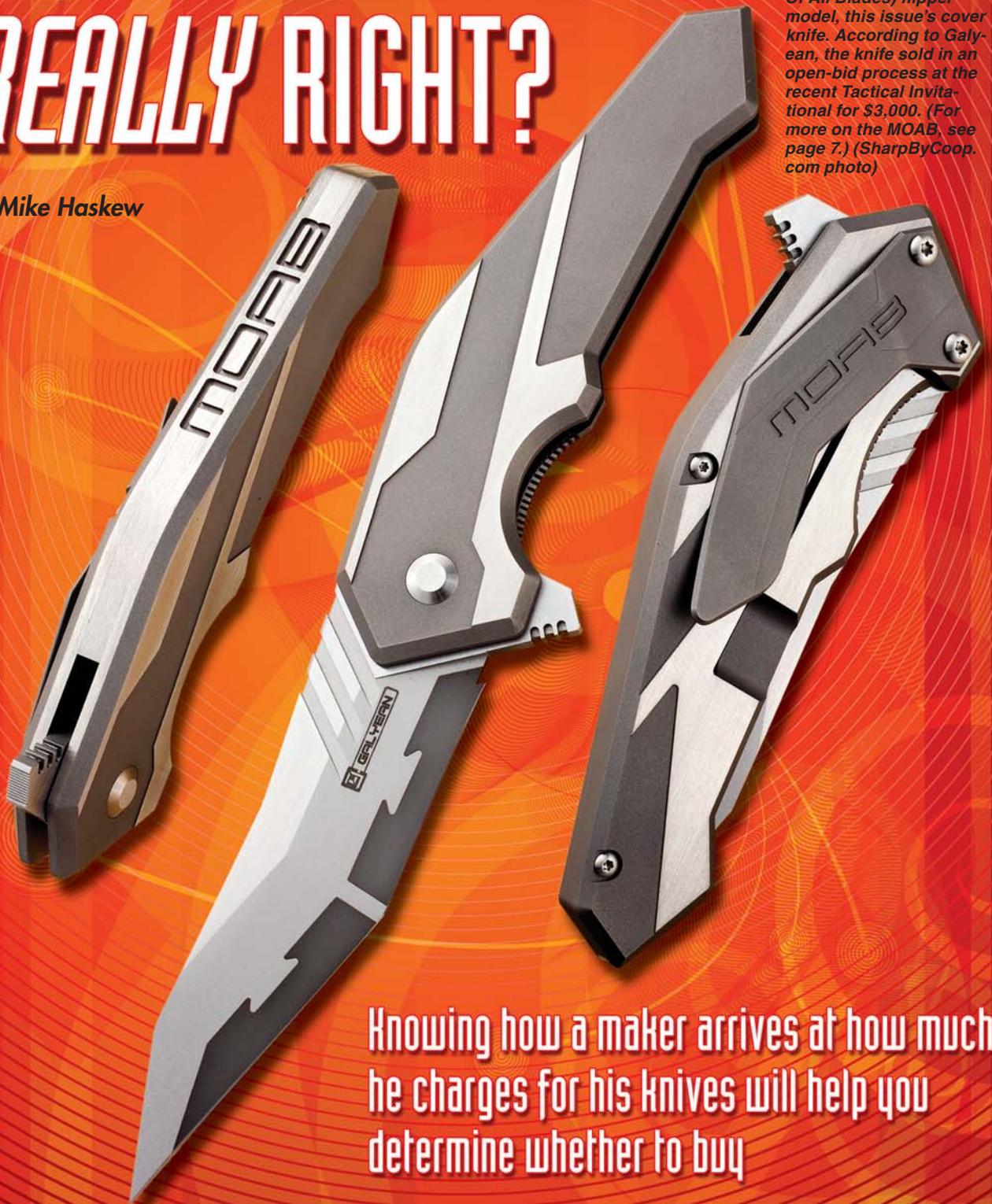
4481 Exchange Service Drive • Dallas, TX 75236
phone: 214-467-8949 • fax: 214-467-9241

www.meyercousa.com

WHEN IS THE PRICE REALLY RIGHT?

By Mike Haskew

Originality is key to a maker getting top dollar for his knives. When it comes to originality, Tim Galyean has it in spades with his "MOAB" (Mother Of All Blades) flipper model, this issue's cover model, this issue's cover knife. According to Galyean, the knife sold in an open-bid process at the recent Tactical Invitational for \$3,000. (For more on the MOAB, see page 7.) (SharpByCoop.com photo)



Knowing how a maker arrives at how much he charges for his knives will help you determine whether to buy

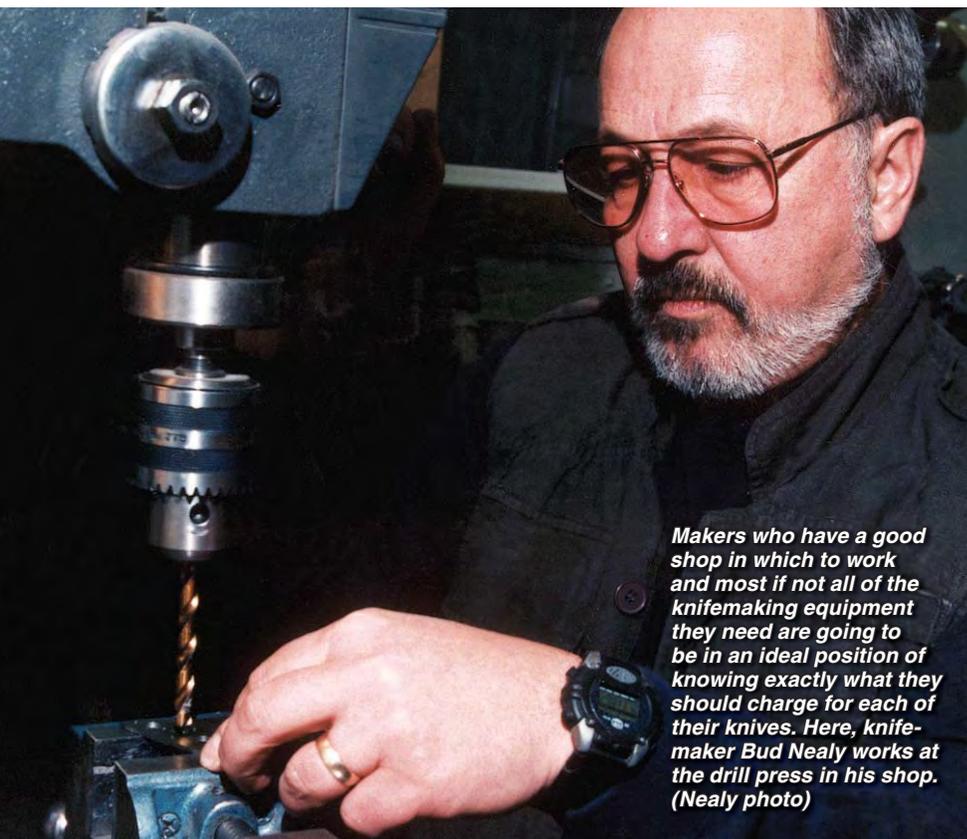


Tony Bose, maker of this five-blade sowbelly folder (his list price: \$1,800), said he made knives for 15 years before ever earning more than \$300 for one model, and that a maker's time in the business is a critical element in pricing. A tribute to Bose's knifemaking longevity was his winning the Red Watson Award at the 2007 Guild Show. The award honors the maker who best exhibits a spirit of cooperation with his fellow Guild members. Tony (left, inset) accepted the honor from Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® Gil Hibben (right) at the Guild Show's business meeting. (SharpByCoop.com knife photo)

One of the classic dilemmas facing custom knifemakers today is determining the right price to charge for each of their knives. Knowing how the makers determine what they charge for their knives will help you decide whether the price is too much, not

enough or just right.

Longevity in the industry, reputation, availability, and the originality of the knife definitely figure into the mix. Particularly for those makers just getting started, the pricing exercise can be frustrating; however, it is absolutely neces-



Makers who have a good shop in which to work and most if not all of the knifemaking equipment they need are going to be in an ideal position of knowing exactly what they should charge for each of their knives. Here, knifemaker Bud Nealy works at the drill press in his shop. (Nealy photo)

KALASHNIKOV 101



- Heavy duty functionality
- Ideal for tactical and outdoor use
- Glass-breaker tip
- Item No. 01B0101
- \$ 99.95

BÖKER PLUS

Boker USA, Inc., 1550 Balsam Street
Lakewood, CO 80214-5917
Phone: (800) 992-6537
Fax: (303) 462-0668
Email: sales@bokerusa.com
Website: www.bokerusa.com
Mo. - Fr. 8:00 am - 4:30 pm (MST)

Whether in your hand or on your belt, SOG is always turning heads!

Bi-Polar™

Double Your Options



The Bi-Polar is the first dual assisted knife with twin blades. Using patented S.A.T., each blade is propelled out once the operator has initiated the blade opening action. It is the perfect combination of might and right with main blade, V-Cutter, and glass breaker.



www.sognives.com | 888-SOG-BEST

collecting



According to purveyor Dan Delavan, makers who are more prosperous and experienced will often pay premium prices to get the best materials for their knives. Such makers choose to buy the higher-end materials with confidence that they will get the cost back in the sale price of the knife. Jot Singh Khalsa employs lapis lazuli for the handle inlay, Julie Warenski-Erickson engraving and damascus by Robert Eggerling in his art folder. (SharpByCoop.com photo)

sary. Tony Bose has made custom knives for nearly 35 years, and he said he remembers sound advice from some time ago.

“A fellow once told me to give knife buyers some bang for their buck,” he commented. “If you’re going to make knives for a living, though, you have to earn enough to pay the bills.

“I have to work every day, a labor of love, and have always believed you should leave some ‘on the top’ so a dealer can make money on a knife, too. If someone can make money on it, they will always come back and buy another. That’s what keeps this old dog from having to get a real job.”

Bose said he sees a maker’s time in business as a critical element in pricing. He recalls making knives for 15 years be-

fore ever earning more than \$300 for one model. Pitfalls include overproduction and a tendency to raise prices significantly in a short period of time. Overproduction can sink demand quickly, while raising prices unduly depresses activity on the secondary market. Conversely, not charging enough can make collectors question the knife’s true value. Bose advises those considering full-time knifemaking to be “at the top of their game” while allowing others to realize some incremental increase in value for their investment.

When veteran knifemaker Kit Carson prices a knife, he said he considers the time, labor and materials, plus one other factor—“being able to sleep at night with what it sells for!” Carson has made knives for over three decades, and, with produc-

tion of less than 100 per year now, his volume is only 20 percent of its one-time peak. Nonetheless, he considers pricing nearly as much a function of external influences as those of the maker himself.

"Prices have risen with inflation," Kit said, "but the cost of a folder today is comparable to what one cost when I was making 500 of them a year. Collectors are what drive that issue. At one time I felt paying your dues was necessary, but, with so many new makers coming on line and the [high] quality of what they're producing, my thoughts have changed. How long he has been a maker just doesn't matter anymore.

"Pricing is one of the toughest things to do. A person that makes knives as a minor hobby can sell a finished knife as cheap as he desires. Whereas, a maker doing it full time and feeding his family will always go to the most he can get for a knife. We're in a free-market society, and if a knife sells for a certain price, then that price must be OK."

**"Overproduction
can sink demand
quickly."**

—the author

Longevity Component

In contrast to Carson's view and in line with Bose's, purveyor Dan Delavan of Costa Mesa, California-based Plaza Cutlery said he believes a maker's longevity is very much a component of pricing.

"If someone is a new maker, then in order to create a base he may under price his knives to attract dealers and get his name out," Delavan reasoned. "If he's established and already has that base to play off, he will get as much as he can get. It also depends on how busy he wants to be. Some don't put out as many knives as others."

According to Delavan, makers who are more prosperous and experienced will often pay premium prices to be sure they get the best materials as well. That difference in material is then reflected in the overall quality of the knife. Such makers choose to buy the higher-end materials with the confidence that they will get the cost back in the sale price of the knife.

"In a lot of cases, guys are knife-makers and not businessmen," Delavan cautioned. "That's part of the challenge when it comes to factoring in time [spent making the knife].

"A dealer and collector base turns and drives the market, and if a maker marks up his knives too much, then all of a sud-

den that market will dry up. When dealers are not buying a maker's knives, then that's an easy way to tell that a maker may have crossed the greedy line. That means that just other than liking the knives the guy makes, there is no profit in it [for the dealer/purveyor]. Some makers do get greedy and price themselves out of the market. The important elements in the maker's pricing are having a certain style, being able to sell consistently, having a name and a following, and not being greedy."

Since there is no real "guide" to pricing, that aspect of the knife business is the most difficult next to making the knife itself. Acknowledging that makers

regularly struggle with pricing, purveyor Les Robertson said he sees them searching for some frame of reference.

"Many makers will ask their fellow makers what they think the price of a particular knife should be," Robertson commented. "This is both good and bad. The maker who understands what it took to make the knife will generally price the knife higher than it should sell for. The new maker feels good because he has the knife priced and usually it's for more money than he would have asked.

"The other technique is for a maker to look at another maker's work and make the judgment for himself as to what the knife should cost. Most times the maker

Marty Miller
marty@mmcustoms.com

800.966.3494

MM CUSTOMS

Purveyor of Fine Knives

www.mmcustoms.com



ALPHA KNIFE SUPPLY™

THE EXCLUSIVE DEALERS OF:

Bark Bone™

Talonite®

Timascus™

All Your Knife Making Needs

Phone: 425.868.5885

Fax: 425.898.7715

www.alphaknifesupply.com



collecting

collecting

doesn't take into account the other maker's position in a particular market."

Though knifemakers may choose to conduct some sort of study to determine how much they should charge according to how long it takes to make the knife, Robertson does not advocate such an approach because the majority of custom knives are made one at a time and the economy of scale will likely never enter properly into the pricing equation.

"My recommendation," he added, "is for knifemakers to determine their 'position' in the market. Should the maker find that he is No. 10, he knows not to price his knife near what the No. 1 maker is asking—regardless of how close [in terms of quality] their work may be. Market position will lead ultimately to value pricing. The price will be considered a bargain by most collectors. Consequently, the maker's initial interaction will be one where the buyer, who already likes the knife, will receive the added benefit of a value price."

Forthright Evaluation

In relation to pricing and determining market position, Robertson suggests that knifemakers take the time to fully con-

duct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Tactics (SWOT) Analysis. A forthright evaluation can have a positive impact on the knifemaker's overall business success. (For more on SWOT Analysis, see page 36 of the January *BLADE*®.)

"Strengths and weaknesses are fair-

"Raising prices unduly depresses activity."

—*the author*

ly self-explanatory," Robertson said. "These categories will include aspects of the maker's ability, equipment—do they have everything they need?—shop—do they have a place where they can work consistently?—family situation, and whether theirs is a full- or part-time job. Any of the aforementioned can be a strength or a weakness. If a weakness, a plan should be made to diminish or address the weakness."

Opportunities consist of areas in which the maker can really begin in-depth analysis to identify the market or markets in which he potentially will have the



Marketing and sales cost money and affect pricing. Bill Siegle marketed his knives at *BLADE Show West*. His list price for his Nessmuk model in 1095 steel and a Micarta® handle: \$220. His contact data: 503.723.7218, geocities.com/siegleknives.

PRO+TECH
(562) 903 - 0678

GODSON AUTOMATIC KNIVES
SUPERIOR STYLE AND QUALITY . . . MADE IN AMERICA



Godson Custom - Mastodon Tooth inlays, Eggerling "Roots" Damascus . . . \$1,000



Godson Custom - Apple Coral Inlays, Eggerling "Turkish" Damascus . . . \$950



Godson Model 707 - Maple Burl Inlays, DLC Black Blade . . . \$300

WWW.PROTECHKNIVES.COM



As purveyor Dan Delavan noted, important elements in a maker's pricing are having a certain style, being able to sell consistently, and having a name and following. An example is Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® D'Holder and his unmistakable stacked-handle fixed blades. (SharpByCoop.com photo)

greatest success. While surveying competitors' prices allows for an analysis of a maker's own pricing, it may also allow for consideration of materials and styles. Opportunities also include marketing and sales efforts, such as attending shows or advertising. These efforts cost money. Consequently, they affect pricing.

“Market position will lead ultimately to value pricing.”

—Les Robertson

“Generally,” Robertson noted, “threats to the maker occur from him not understanding his market. This usually shows up in the form of a newer maker asking established makers about prices. Threats can almost always be dealt with by offering value pricing and better customer service. The best example of this is on-time delivery.”

The SWOT Analysis demonstrates to the knifemaker just where he is in relation to competitors. It provides basic parameters for pricing, while final contributors to an asking price must also include fixed time in the shop and variable costs such as replacing belts on grinders, steel purchases, and travel to shows. Makers who know where they stand in a market

can offer value pricing in that market.

A pricing strategy and a realistic assessment of market make the odds for a knifemaker's long-term success much better, and assist both the seller and buyer in concluding

satisfying and profitable transactions.

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see “Where To Get ‘Em” on page 99.

BLADE

Behold the Wolf...

Wolf Pack™

A COMPANION FOR LIFE

5 SIZES STARTING AT \$92.90

- PROWLER
- STRIKER
- FANG
- TRACKER
- SLASHER

RAZOR SHARP

WILD
OUTDOOR
LEGENDARY
FINLAND

1-800-390-6918
www.kellamknives.com
902 S. Dixie Hwy, Lantana FL 33460

KELLAM KNIVES CO.

BEST JOB IN THE WORLD?

By Dave Rhea

Tom Mayo calls this curvaceous cutter a “retro” TNT. The 3.5-inch blade is CPM 154 stainless and the handle is titanium. Mayo’s list price: \$600. (Terrill Hoffman photo)



Tom Mayo



Mayo leans on an American Straight Needle Stitcher in his shop. The classic sewing machine came from the shop of Mayo’s late knifemaking mentor and dear friend, Glenn Hornby. (Mayo photo)

“Not taking orders” is one of the ways that knifemaker Tom Mayo describes himself.

“I had to stop taking orders to preserve my sanity,” he said from his home in the shadow of Mt. Kaa-la on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. “I am not an organized individual. Not taking orders allows me the freedom to make what I want and not get locked into making the same knife over and over again.”

Mayo has a self-effacing quality to his personality that juxtaposes well with his obvious level of talent and the respect his 26 years as a knifemaker brings. In the literal sense, he is at a place in his life where he does not want to be corralled into anything. By no longer taking orders, he can have the freedom to pursue whatever “floats his boat.”

“A lot of that has to do with my age,” he said candidly. “When I was younger, I had a lot more energy to come in and work 12 or 15 hours at a time, but not anymore. I get tired.”

In fact, Mayo had been a bit ill as of late, leading to the extraction of his gall bladder in March. Then he turned 60 in July. “I was feeling pretty stinking vulnerable—and I think about dying a lot,” he laughed.

Before worrying so much about his mortality, and long before he was a knife guru in the position to have the luxury of not taking orders, he was taking orders of a different kind—making surfboards in Hawaii. After moving to Hawaii in 1972 and getting married, Mayo set up shop and catered to tourists and surfers who came through during the surfing season.

Tom Mayo
Dept. BL3, 67 412 Alahaka St.
Waialua, HI
96791
808.637.6560
www.mayoknives.com

Specialties Utility/tactical folders and some fixed blades

Blade Materials CPM 154 stainless his current favorite; has used CPM S30V and, in the past, Stellite® and Talonite®

Handle Materials Titanium, Timalascus, carbon fiber, various woods and others

Miscellaneous Does several factory/custom collaborations with Buck, including his most famous design, the TNT folder

Sources For Mayo Customs Steel Addiction Knives (Dave Stark), EDC Knives (Duane Weikum), and BladeArt.com (Larry Brahm)

Mayo's List Prices \$500-\$1,500 and up

When
technology
and
nature
share a
common
goal.



kershaw[®]
K N I V E S
flipper opening technology

NEW07

GROOVE

Model 1730

Steel.....Sandvik 13C26 stainless-steel
with 3-D machined grooves

Handle...410 stainless-steel
with Textured G-10 overlays

Lock.....Frame lock

Blade.....3 1/2 in. (8.9 cm)

Closed...4 1/2 in. (11.5 cm)

Weight...5.2 oz.

MSRP \$84.95



Designed by
RJ Martin

www.kershawknives.com
800.325.2891



Smith & Wesson®

NEW MODELS

SWATM
Assisted Opening with Safety



Handle: T6061 Aircraft Aluminum
Blade: 3.15" (8.0cm)
Closed: 4.21" (10.7cm)
Steel: Stainless
Weight: 3.5 oz.
UPC: 028634700035

Includes Pocket Clip
Also available Serrated
Model SWATMS and SWATMS



SWATMB
Assisted Opening with Safety

TAYLOR QUALITY CUTTING TOOLS
BRANDS LLC

1043 Fordtown Road, Kingsport, TN 37663-3211
1-800-251-0254 www.taylorbrandsllc.com

profile in steel

"I never really planned to stay [in Hawaii] but it just worked out that way—you know how life is. It was a great job for the lifestyle I wanted," he grinned. "I could work when the waves weren't good—go surfing in the morning, go to work at 10."

He also tried his hand temporarily at furniture making. Back in the old days, he said, the surfboard industry was seasonal. In January or February, tourists went home and business would always get slow.

"So I decided that I needed a hobby where I could make money and had a couple friends who made furniture, but I never could make money at it," he said. "Plus, I'd sand surfboards all day, then come home



This large-size version of the TNT sports a 3.75-inch blade of spirograph damascus by Devin Thomas. Mayo's list price: \$750. (Terrill Hoffman photo)

WWW.HAYESKNIVES.COM

ad by: armsraised.com

Image - SharpByCoop.com



HAYES

WALLY HAYES

**MASTER
BLADESMITH**

Hand-made knives,
one at a time.

1-519-776-1284



Something new for Mayo is flipper folders. He just made his first two in collaboration with J.L. "Lee" Williams. This one is in Timascus. Note Mayo's "M" in an oval above Williams' stamp. Mayo said that Williams and Tim Galyean—maker of this issue's cover knife—make today's hottest flippers. (Mayo photo)

and sand wood, and I just got tired of doing that. People would ask me [what I did for a living] and I would tell them I was a really good 'abrasive technician.'"

"I could work when the waves weren't good."

—Tom Mayo

Mayo began making knives in 1981. By then he was 35 and had been living in Hawaii almost a decade. "I started looking around for something I could do that I was sure I could make some bucks at,

BOB NEAL

custom knives

~24 Years Experience~

Excellent Selection. World Class Makers. Immediate Delivery.

WWW.BOBNEALCUSTOMKNIVES.COM

email: Bob@bobnealcustomknives.com

P. O. Box 20923 Atlanta, GA 30320 Phone: 770.914.7794 Fax: 770.914.3610

AKA

FEB. 23 & 24, 2008
SAT: 9AM - 5PM SUN: 9AM - 4PM
LITTLE ROCK, AR
Robinson Center Exhibit Hall
424 W. Markham (adjacent to the DoubleTree Hotel)

KNIFE SUPPLIES	SPECIAL SHOW HOTEL RATE:	
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	\$97 SINGLE/DOUBLE	
ADMISSION \$5.00	\$107 TRIPLE	\$117 QUAD
AIRPORT SHUTTLE	800/937-2789	501/372-4371
CUSTOM KNIVES • AWARDS • KNIFE AUCTION		

Arkansas Custom Knife Show Partial List of Tableholders as of 8/30/07:

Mike Allen, TX	Gordon Graham, TX	Chad Nichols, MS	John Walker, AR
Larry Bailey, OH	Chris Jones, AR	John Perry, AR	John White, FL
Jim Baston, AL	Jack Jones, MS	Paul Piccola, TX	Mike Williams, OK
Craig Braschler, MO	Harvey King, KS	Ray Pieper, AL	Curtis Wilson, TX
Sam Butler, AR	Ray Kirk, OK	Clifton Polk, AR	Gary Zweimueller, AR
James Cook, AR	Jim Krause, MO	Rusty Polk, AR	
Gary Crowder, OK	Jerry Lairson, OK	J.W. Randall, LA	SUPPLIERS:
Jim Crowell, AR	Ken Linton, TX	Vernon Red, AR	American Bladesmith Society
Steve Culver, KS	Jim Magee, KS	Lin Rhea, AR	Culpepper & Co.
Jesse Davis, MS	John Martin, OK	Ron Richerson, KY	Emerson Horseshoe
Bill Duff, OK	Peter Martin, WI	Dennis Riley, AR	Forrest Case Co.
Ken Durham, AL	Roger Massey, AR	Les Robertson, GA	Giraffebone.com
Fred Durio, LA	Jerry McDonald, TN	Dickie Robinson, TX	Glendo Corp/GRS Tools
Shawn Ellis, AR	Don McIntosh, TX	George Roth, TX	Green River Leather
Lee Ferguson, AR	Ron Mobbs, AR	Michael Ruth, TX	Knife World
Linda Ferguson, AR	Sidney Moon, LA	Richard Self, TX	Riverside Machine
Jerry Fisk, AR	Gary Mulkey, MO	Marvin Solomon, AR	Pop Knife Supply
John Fitch, AR	Bob Neal, GA	Robert Spradlin, AR	Roland Quimby
Joe Flournoy, AR	James Neilson, PA	Charles Stout, AR	Rowe's Leather
Ronnie Foster, AR	Mark Nevling, IL	Brion Tomberlin, OK	Texas Knifemakers
Brett Gatlin, AR	Corbin Newcomb, MO	Art Tycer, AR	Charles Turnage
Terry Glassco, AR	Ron Newton, AR	Ricardo Vilar, Brazil	

13th Annual Show www.arkansasknifemakers.com
ARKANSAS
CUSTOM KNIFE SHOW

David Etchieson 501/554-2582 email: aka@alliancecable.net

profile in steel

profile in steel



The TMX mid-tech comes in two blade styles, one (bottom) with a slight recurve. The parts are made by Halpern Titanium. The 3.5-inch blades are cut from 5/32-inch-stock CPM 154 stainless. The handle inlays are carbon fiber. Mayo's list prices: \$550 each. (Terrill Hoffman photo)

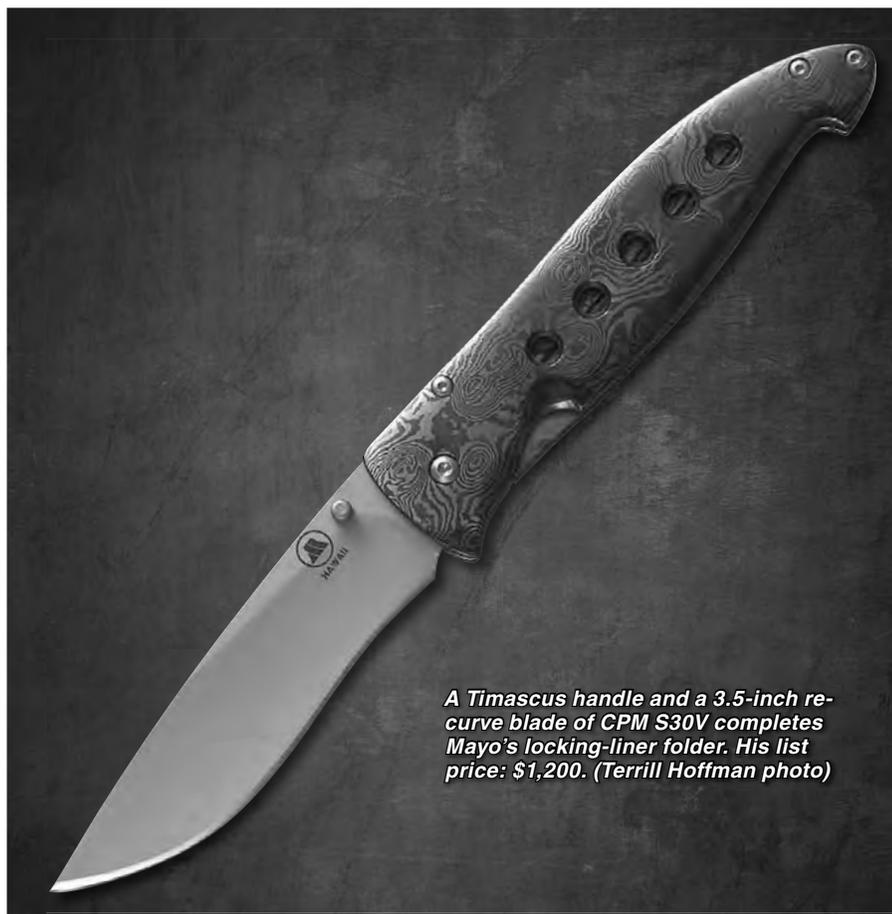
that would be fun and that I could get done fast. I don't have a big, long attention span," he grinned.

Also, he read a *Sports Illustrated* back then with a story on Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® Bob Loveless. "That was the moment I decided that I wanted to be a knifemaker," he enthused.

"He is getting drawn back to classic blade shapes."
—the author

"After about a year of trial and error, I started buying materials from [Los Angeles knifemaker] Glenn Hornby," Mayo continued. "After numerous long talks on the phone, he invited me to come stay at his house for a couple of weeks right before the annual Anaheim Custom Knife Show, the show that was to become BLADE Show West.

"I got the bug and started making knives and became friends with Glenn. I credit him with showing me how to make a well-made knife in the Southern



A Timascus handle and a 3.5-inch recurve blade of CPM S30V completes Mayo's locking-liner folder. His list price: \$1,200. (Terrill Hoffman photo)

You need iron to cut steel

If you're a person who thinks that making a special knife means a bit more than putting a handle on a blank, then you better be prepared to cut some steel. It takes iron to cut steel, and with more than half a ton of iron behind it, the Tormach PCNC 1100 is ready for the task.

Precise computer control, 1.5 hp spindle, and a rock solid frame combine to produce a machine that can follow graceful curves with incredible accuracy, even cutting the toughest materials. Whether creating a complex blade lock out of titanium or engraving a bas-relief scene in CPMS30V, the PCNC 1100 is the tool that can do it all. Let imagination—not your tools—be your only limitation in bringing your ideas to life.

Precise angles and detailed engravings are no problem for the PCNC 1100.



Photo of knife product group, courtesy of MIL-TAC.



Tormach PCNC 1100 features:

- R8 Spindle 1.5 hp variable speed to 4500 RPM
- Standard G code with DXF & HPGL file support
- Composition bonded slideways (similar to Turcite®)
- Computer controlled spindle speed and direction
- Digitizing and tool touch off port
- Easy to use in manual or automatic modes
- Ground ballscrews and single shot lubrication

3 Axis Mill
\$6800

plus shipping



Product information and online ordering at
www.tormach.com



Shown here with optional stand, LCD, keyboard arm, and keyboard

profile in steel

California tradition.”

Sadly, Hornby died suddenly 12 years ago of what Mayo characterizes as an “obscure heart condition.”

“For the next eight years I didn’t go to a show and had just about quit making knives,” he continued. “I just wasn’t interested in going to shows anymore. [Glenn] and I went to every knife show together. I always used to stay at his house and he would drive me to the show.”

Knifemakers Ken Onion and Duane Dwyer eventually encouraged Mayo to start going to the shows again, which got him back on track. Onion also kept telling him to come up with a “signature” Mayo knife, something that anyone from anywhere could tell was made by him.

“I had always wanted to make folders, and had been making a few over the years,” Mayo offered. “Jay Harris showed Stanley Fujisaka and me how to make folders one New Year’s Day many years ago at Stan’s house. Stan went on to make a career out of it. I made about four a year.”

Besides, Mayo noticed that the makers with the big fighters and bowies had to bring piles of suitcases to the shows, while the folder guys brought just one little briefcase. In his typical self-depre-

cating manner, he admitted, “I guess you could say I’m lazy!”

He worked on a few designs and eventually came up with his first TNT prototypes. The TNT became the knife that Mayo is identified with and, thanks to the persistence of his wife of 34 years, Kathy, he finally got a website—which led to the next progression in his career. “Pretty soon I had more orders than I knew what to do with, and had to stop taking them,” he related.

Today, he works with Buck to market mass-production versions of the TNT folder. He has seven collaborations in all with Buck, each sort of a facsimile of a TNT, though the latest is a neck knife in CPM S30V called the “Kaala” after the mountain behind Mayo’s house.

Meanwhile, he indicated that he decided recently that Crucible’s CPM 154 stainless is best for his customs.

“As far as the stuff Crucible is coming out with, I’m really just following the crowd in that. Those guys [at Crucible] are the ones who are really staying on the leading edge,” he praised. “They are constantly coming up with new stuff. Once those guys started doing [powdered metallurgy steel], they bumped

it up four or five notches as far as how good the material is.”

As for what Mayo is doing now, he said he is getting drawn back to classic blade shapes, such as clip points, traditional bowies, daggers and drop points. “These knives do the task they were designed for,” he reasoned. “I don’t need to look any farther.”

Something new for Mayo is a foray into flipper folders. He just made his first two in collaboration with J.L. “Lee” Williams.

“Tim Galyean [the maker of this issue’s cover knife] and Lee are the two hottest flipper makers right now,” Mayo insisted. “They have dialed it in so good the way they have their frame locks and the way they make their detent ball fit. It uses quite a bit of force. You yank [the flipper and the blade] flies out faster than any automatic you’ve ever held in your life. It’s amazing.”

Today, “knife goes on” in Mayo’s sharp little corner of the world.

“Being a one-man shop with no helpers and no computerized equipment, I don’t put out a lot of knives and am still filling orders from years ago,” he observed. “Plus, the time it takes me to get ready for BLADE and the other few shows that I go to every year, there’s little time left over to do much besides work. But I still think I have the best job in the world.”

BLADE

Handle Material - Reconstituted Stone, Micartas, Stabilized Woods, Mother of Pearl, Water Buffalo, Mammoth Ivory, Exotic Woods, plus many more!

Metals - Nickel Silver, Brass, Stainless Steel, Titanium, Damascus, D2, 154CM, O1 Toolsteel, Forging Steels, ATS34, 440C and more

Blade Kits are available for most blades.



Example Shown Above: **Finest Filet Kit - BL546K**
Includes blade, Dymondwood handle material, nickel-silver guard, pins, & thong hole tubing & 30 minute epoxy. Only \$30.95

We put customer service first!



WANT SAME DAY SHIPPING?

Call our Toll-free, Express Hot-line, 1-888-461-8632, before 2 p.m. Central time, Monday-Friday, and all supplies that are in-stock, will be shipped the same day.

***Please ask for same day shipping.**

Heat Treating & Cryogenic Quenching

**Air Quenchable Steel Only for Heat Treat*

Shop on-line 24/7 at www.texasknife.com.

Texas Knifemaker's Supply 10649 Haddington, #180 Houston, TX 77043
Toll-Free 888-461-8632 Fax 713-461-8221 Tel. 713-461-8632

Knifemaking Equipment

Buffing Supplies

Heat Treating Ovens

Mosaic Pins

Etching Equipment

Finished Blades - Stainless

Steel, Carbon Steel, Damascus

Sheaths - Leather, Kydex

Sheath Making Kits &

Supplies, Knife Cases



Catalog \$4.00 (\$10.00 International) or Free if placing order.

BUSSE COMBAT KNIFE CO.

15th Anniversary Steel Heart One



NOW AVAILABLE: WWW.BUSSECOMBAT.COM

What Firefighters Look For in a Knife

Thirteen-year veteran firefighter James McGowan designed the MAK-1 for Columbia River Knife & Tool. McGowan's test knife, the black-handled MAK-1 is the CRKT production model (\$79.99 MSRP), the "728" on the 3Cr13 stainless blade referring to McGowan's fireman's badge number. The orange-handle knife is McGowan's handmade design. Each knife has a chisel pry-bar blade tip, long choil for use with gloves, and a combo glass breaker/battery wrench in the butt. (McGowan photo)



Those who know share their views on
the optimum factory emergency knife

By Mike Haskew



The multi-function blade of the Rescue Tool II from Eickhorn boasts a seatbelt cutter—shown in use here—a half-serrated main edge, safety glass sawback and wrench/water supply key in the tip. The handle has a glass breaker in the butt and the light-colored strip glows in the dark. (Eickhorn photos)

In the midst of a life-and-death situation, it comes down to a knife that is accessible, deployable and versatile. Saving property follows the firefighter's No. 1 role of saving lives, so he depends on his equipment to do the job at hand. Though some specific attributes of a firefighter's knife can come down to personal preference, the reason that a knife goes into a blazing building on a firefighter's hip or in his pocket is clear.

"As you might assume, a knife is a very important tool in general," commented Keith Kaiser, who recently retired from the New York City Fire Department, for which he was a member of Ladder 131 in Brooklyn. "To a firefighter, though, it can be a lifesaver for others as well as himself.

"I was in a fire and was crawling through a hallway when I became caught up in a mess of cord. I had to cut my way out of it. Without a knife handy, it would have at best become a source of untold joking on my behalf, and at worst a dangerous situation in a very dark, very hot, fiery hallway. My knives have also been tested in every way you're told not to use a knife during various situations, such as twisting screws and prying windows."

While cutting away tangled rope or cord is a prime example of the use of a firefighter's knife on the job, many first responders also carry knives to cut seatbelts in order to free accident victims, punch through car windows, pry jammed doors and the like. Consequently, depending on the situation, such features as blade serrations, glass breakers

More Rescue Knives

Other factory fire and rescue knives include: the Benchmade 10105ERT-1; Blade-Tech Responder; Boker Reality-Based Rescue and Boker Chad Los Banos RESCOM; Cold Steel Land & Sea Rescue; Colonial Rescue EMT; Eickhorn RT II; Emerson SARK serrated; Timberline Firefighter; Kershaw Rescue Blur; Meyerco MCRESONE rescue knife; Smith & Wesson 911 First Response Knife and Emergency Tool; SOG Bi-Polar; Spyderco Assist; Surefire Delta Folder; and Swiss Army Brands Rescue Tool. There are others as well.

HI-TECH HUNTING KNIFE

REALTREE hardwoods HD HIGH DEFINITION

REALTREE Hardwoods HD® has 13 natural colors, life-like shadows and photorealistic limbs and leaves. Extreme light to dark contrast creates maximum visual disruption whether or not an animal can see colors.

- Razor sharp 400 Grade Stainless Steel fixed blade.
- Ergonomically designed for perfect palm and thumb placement.
- Full tang construction.
- Overall length - 8.5".
- Heavy-duty black cordura sheath.

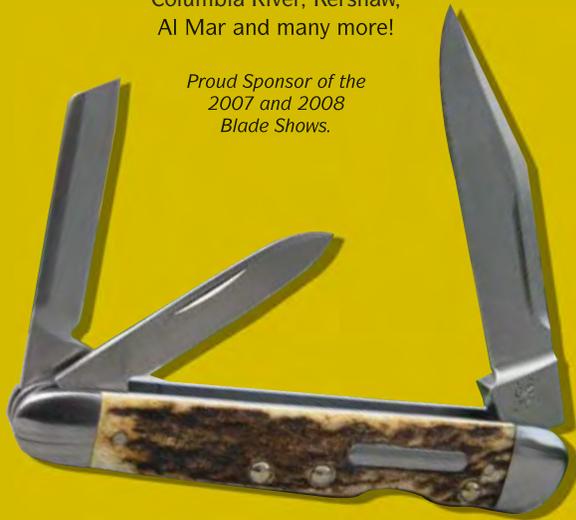
UTICA CUTLERY COMPANY
820 Noyes Street • Utica, NY 13502
Tel: 800-888-4223 • Fax: 315-733-6602
E-Mail: Sales@kutmaster.com
Website: www.kutmaster.com

New Graham Knives

www.newgraham.com

Over 70 brands of knives and accessories in stock everyday.
Including: Spyderco, Benchmade, Case, Chris Reeve,
Cold Steel, Buck, SOG, Fallkniven,
Columbia River, Kershaw,
Al Mar and many more!

Proud Sponsor of the
2007 and 2008
Blade Shows.



The people to call when you need a knife
Toll Free **1.866.333.4445**

rescue knives

rescue knives



The MCRESONE tactical rescue knife from Meyerco has a blunt tip on its one-hand 440A stainless blade to safely slide under a seatbelt, and the serrated edge takes care of the rest. A tungsten carbide tip in the handle serves as a glass breaker. Blade length: 3.5 inches. The handle is G-10. MSRP: \$20.

incorporated into the handle, pointed- or blunt-tip blades, fixed blades or folders, and even a wrench for an oxygen tank, may, in the firefighter's opinion, allow him to be more effective on the job.

Kaiser acknowledges that a blunt-tip blade is appropriate for cutting seatbelts, though he has never used such a blade for the task. "I've responded to many auto accidents, and a blunt tip could be a safety factor for the victim in certain scenarios," he said. "However, I've always preferred a point on my knives to aid in starting a cut on clothing during medical calls or to bore a hole in fabric or some other material. I guess, like most, it's a preference call."

Rick Hinderer of Wooster, Ohio, has been a volunteer firefighter for 11 years and a knifemaker for 20. Designer and maker of the XM-18 and also the designer of the Gerber Hinderer Rescue knife specifically for fire and rescue personnel, Hinderer applies his personal knowledge of what it takes to get the job done in a situation where seconds count.

"The blunt tip is extremely important," he related. "The reason is that as an [Emergency Medical Technician] and

**...SHIT HAPPENS...
...BE READY...VERY READY!**

FDX = FIELD DUTY XTREME

CODE YELLOW COLOR



**Dealer
Inquiries
Welcome**

101%
Made
in
USA

TOPS KNIVES
...BORN IN THE USA...

OVER 200 HARD CORE MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM
Tactical-OPS USA • P. O. Box 2544 Idaho Falls, ID 83403
PH: (208) 542-0113 FAX: (208) 552-2945 • www.topsknives.com





A volunteer firefighter for 11 years and a knifemaker for 20, Rick Hinderer (above) designed the Hinderer Rescue knife for Gerber. The knife has a blunt-tip, serrated blade, a seatbelt cutter that folds into the back of the handle, a glass breaker in the butt equipped with a hole for a lanyard, and an oxygen wrench on the other side of the handle (not shown). A nine-piece bit set contained in a MOLLE sheath is included. According to Hinderer, National Geographic's Adventure Magazine voted the knife one of its 2006 Best of Adventure Gear award winners.



9/11: He Was There

When the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, began to unfold, Keith Kaiser was on the job. As his firehouse responded to the alarm, 11 men rushed to do their duty at the World Trade Center.

"Five of the members of the unit I responded with died, and six of us lived," he remembered. "Just a few seconds separated us. One of the firemen I worked with was a knife collector. During the collapse, I injured my back and was laid up."

Keith did not allow his down time to be unproductive.

"To occupy my mind and time," he remarked, "I had some steel from the World

Trade Center delivered to some knifemakers to be made into a set of seven knives [see "Super Seven Salute 9-11 Firefighters," August 2003 *BLADE*®]. That's how I first really became aware of the knife world outside the local army/navy store."

Pat Crawford, Allen Elishewitz, Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® Gil Hibben, Bob Dozier, Bob Terzuola, Mel Pardue and Jerry Fisk each made a knife in the set to raise money for the New York Firefighters Burn Unit. Kaiser exhibited the knives at the 2003 *BLADE* Show. He said the knives are now on display at the New York State Museum in Albany, New York.

when working around patients, if you happen to accidentally cut a patient your days as an EMT are probably over. You might even get sued. So, you have to have the utmost safety working with a knife around patients. There's no reason to have a sharp tip; safety wise it's a must to have a blunt tip. Rescue knives with sharp tips make me cringe. It's my worst nightmare."

A 13-year veteran firefighter with the city of Toronto, James McGowan of Whitby, Ontario, Canada, designed the MAK-1 (Multiple Access Knife) and the Extrik-8-R seatbelt cutter and multi-tool for Columbia River Knife & Tool. For him, a user-friendly knife is the best tool to have at hand.

"It comes down to durability, strength and corrosion resistance because we're in a wet environment most of the time," he reasoned. "We have a lot of calls with access problems. So, generally, when we get a medical call for someone with breathing problems or an unknown emergency, I'll have a knife in my bunker pants and use it to pry open a door. It's good to have a lightweight, flexible tool to get into doors and keep the damage to property at a minimum."

Fixed or Folding?

Wear and tear on a knife factors into its effectiveness on the job, and in certain situations either a fixed blade or a folder may work better than the other.

"Due to the abuse I put my knives

For the benefit of an interested couple at the center display area of the 2003 BLADE Show, firefighter Keith Kaiser (right) describes the seven-knife set made from one of seven 10-pound pieces of steel from Two World Trade Center.

rescue knives

rescue knives

through, I would much rather have a fixed blade," Kaiser noted. "I keep it accessible on the outside of my bunker gear, and I don't have to bother to open the knife. Fumbling with gloves in the dark is a bad move, in my opinion. I just grip the handle, remove the blade and I'm ready.

"I usually carry a folder in my pocket for backup or when I don't have my bunker gear on," Kaiser continued. "When it comes to a folder, I always go with [one with] a lock of some kind. Even handsome gentleman's knives can be found with a

good lock. Slip joints can be pretty but I would rather have more assurance. Assisted-openers can be very useful, but it really depends on the knife. Some work great in certain situations. Some can be a bit too jumpy for my liking. Automatics can be great, too, in an emergency, but I don't want to realize sometime that my folder is open in my pocket."

Hinderer said he sees the solution to the hand-in-glove dilemma in a folder that can be operated easily.

"With fixed blades, the problem is car-

Opening and closing folders can be a hassle for firefighters wearing gloves. The Ernest Emerson "Wave" feature on the back of the new Spyderco Rescue Wave eases the job of opening the knife, and the 100-percent-serrated, blunt-tip sheepfoot blade of VG-10 stainless makes it safer for cutting seatbelts. MSRP: \$99.95.



Highspeed Tools For
Hardcore Individuals

model: SMF (right) with
digital-camo finish

STRIDER
www.striderknives.com
visit our forum: www.badlandsforums.com

photography / layout ©2005 Shelby Chan



Designed by Canadian firefighter James McGowan and reproduced by CRKT, the Extrik-8-R is a lightweight, skeletal seatbelt cutter that is also an oxygen bottle wrench and has flat- and Phillips-head screwdriver tips. MSRP: \$32.99 (non-reflective black as shown) and \$29.99 (satin finish).



rying them. We carry an immense amount of gear on us, and having one more piece means it may not get carried," he observed. "A folder you can close [while you are wearing gloves] is important. The reason for that is that it's not as important to open the blade as a firefighter at an accident scene as it is to close the blade. If you can't close the blade, you will set it down and then you have a live blade sitting there and the chance that somebody will get hurt."

As noted, McGowan carries both a folder and a fixed blade for a variety of situations he may encounter on the job. "The fixed blade is mainly for access," he began, "and I find that for me the fixed blade is better in an emergency. If I'm trapped and only have one-hand access, a fixed blade is much better than trying to get a folder open and closed. The fixed blade is a chisel tip for prying and twisting, and still being able to do a draw cut with the front of the plain [non-serrated] edge. I also carry a cheap folder and a good folder. The cheap folder is to start a cut, and it's strictly used for cutting. I'm usually tough on knives, and I might pry once or twice [with the folder] and the lock is shot."

Other Features: Yes or No?

Serrations, like other knife features, are generally optional. Hinderer said, "That's up to the person using the knife. I like them because they cut through rope, but

GATEWAY AREA KNIFE CLUB SHOW 2008



JANUARAY 26TH & 27TH 2008

CARPENTER HALL 1401 HAMPTON AVE., ST. LOUIS, MO 63139-3159
SHOW HOURS SATURDAY 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. SUNDAY 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CONTACT PAUL SWIRCK 314.241.6006

FEATURING THE FOLLOWING CUSTOM MAKERS
ALONG WITH 80 ANTIQUE AND FACTORY DEALERS
E. ALLRED, M. ALSDORF, R. BREDON, R. BLANTON,
B. BUXTON, J. COVER, B. CROWDER, C. CAMERER
D. HANSON III, J. HARRISON, C. HAWES,
R. HILL, J. JONES, J. KRAUSE, J. MAGEE,
B. MILLER, J. MULLER, P. MYERS, S. MYERS,
M. NEIVELING, R. NOWLAND, M. PELLEGRIN,
B. STORMER, D. UNGER, L. VOORHIES,
AND SUPPLIES BY JAMES POPLIN



BRIAN TIGHE

Brian Tighe

“Spicy Tighe”

Assisted Opener

\$575.00

905/892-2734

email: tighe@allstream.net

www.briantighe.com

rescue knives rescue knives

we don't cut rope as rescuers much anymore. We cut seat material and upholstery in cars." McGowan and Kaiser agree that serrations have their place on a firefighter's knife but that the maintenance and upkeep can be challenging. "They can do a great job on aggressive cuts," Kaiser stressed, "but they can be a tad more tedious to touch up." For McGowan, sharpening the plain edge is a much simpler task than honing serrations. He added that serrations may even break or chip in a working situation.

Though the need for a glass breaker is not always present, it does come in handy

Chef'sChoice® Diamond Hone® Sharpeners



Model 120



The choice of professionals worldwide!

- The world's most advanced sharpeners, for **fine** edge and **serrated** knives.
- Diamond abrasives and a revolutionary stropping/polishing system, create the most durable, razor sharp edges in seconds.
- Precision guides eliminate all guesswork.
- Safe for quality knives.

For a store near you, call:
800-342-3255
www.chefschoice.com

© 2006 EdgeCraft Corporation, Avondale, PA 19311

**“The blunt tip
is extremely
important.”**

—Rick Hinderer

at times. Hinderer designed a glass breaker in some of his knives.

“We don't break glass on every accident,” he said, “and, in the 10 years I've been running, I may have broken seven or eight side windows. But, if you have it and need it, then it's great. A glass breaker would not be one of the first things I look at, but if you have a design in the knife that includes it and doesn't compromise anything else like strength or prying ability, then go for it.” Kaiser agrees.

“A glass breaker or skull crusher of some sort has no real down side that I can see, as long as it doesn't sacrifice anything else,” he reasoned. “I would rather have it and not use it than need it and not have it. The same thing is true with an oxygen wrench, although I've never been in a situation when one wasn't readily available.”

Quality Tool, Practical Price

One thing Hinderer said he has discovered through the years is that firefighters are not necessarily knife enthusiasts. “Firefighters aren't knife buffs,” he laughed. “I've talked at shows to a lot of firefighters from different departments, and it's interesting to hear their feedback on knives. The knife is a tool for them. They want quality that will do the job at a reasonable price.”

One would expect no less from a group of individuals who put their lives on the line most every day.

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see “Where To Get 'Em” on page 99.

BLADE

the CREATIVE MINDS & HANDS of the

2008 *Grand Masters*

The GRS Grand Masters Program provides a breakthrough opportunity for accomplished engravers to learn the techniques and artistic refinement of world-renowned Masters. Set in a studio environment, participants study directly under the Masters while enjoying the camaraderie of peers. Now in its fourth year, the Grand Masters Program challenges your existing skills, teaches you new engraving methods, and rekindles the passion and inspiration you have for this glorious art.

Belgian Master Engravers Alain Lovenberg and Philippe Grifnée will each teach a 5-day course on consecutive weeks for the Fourth Annual Grand Masters Program. Their work is acclaimed, highly valued and limited. Each of these engraving artists has his own recognizable style with a classic Belgian heritage that is evident and alive. Qualified engravers may apply for either or both courses.

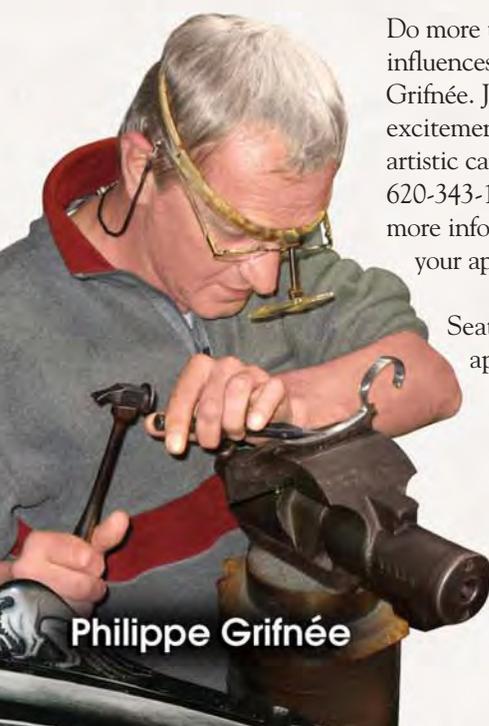
Do more than dream ... enhance your engraving style with the worldly influences and beauty of the Belgian Grand Masters Lovenberg and Grifnée. Join them in October, 2008, to enrich your life with new excitement and capabilities that stay with you for the rest of your artistic career. Contact GRS TODAY: 800-835-3519 in the USA, 620-343-1084 outside the USA, or e-mail glendo@glendo.com. For more information, visit www.grandmastersprogram.com to download your application form and related information.

Seats are limited and the deadline for the application is June 30, 2008. Don't miss this ...

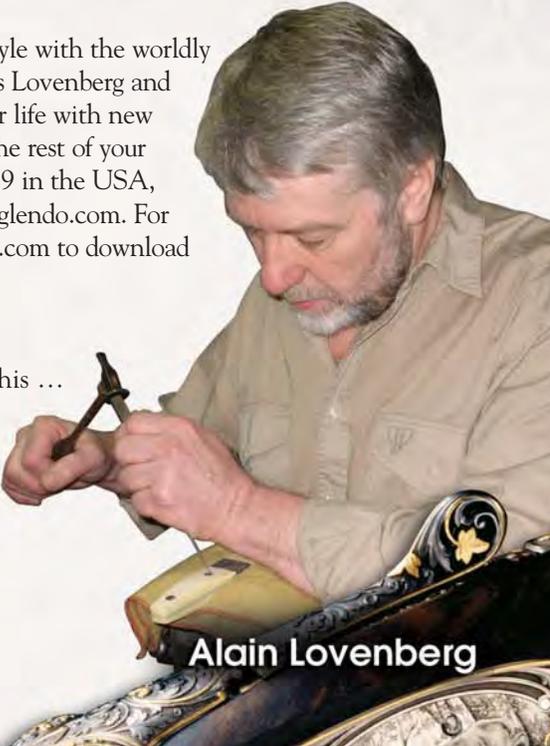
Opportunity of a Lifetime.

GRS • TOOLS
• TECHNIQUES
• TRAINING

Glendo Corporation
900 Overlander Road
Emporia, KS 66801 USA
800-835-3519 • 620-343-1084
glendo@glendo.com
www.grandmastersprogram.com



Philippe Grifnée



Alain Lovenberg

knife jackpot

knife jackpot



Bill Torrance said he bought this knife and sheath made by Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® William Scagel for \$5 at a barn sale in northern Illinois. Torrance added that he later sold the knife on e-Bay for \$10,700. (photo by the author)

Treasure Found In a Barn

Bill Torrance buys a William Scagel knife for \$5 and sells it for \$10,700

By Mike Carter



The blade is marked "W. SCAGEL HANDMADE" and with Scagel's familiar kris. (photo by the author)

If you've heard of someone finding a Rembrandt painting or a letter handwritten by Abraham Lincoln taped to the back of a photo at a yard sale, consider the story of a knife made by Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® William Scagel found in a barn in northern Illinois.

Since losing his job, Bill Torrance filled his time and supplemented his income by going to garage sales, estate sales and local auctions. He frequently found interesting items that he would put on a popular online auction website in hopes of making a few dollars profit.

One Thursday afternoon this past October, a friend called Bill to ask if he had been to a barn sale in nearby Maple Park, Illinois. Bill replied that he would run by the sale the following Saturday afternoon.

"I'll give you five bucks."

—Bill Torrance

He arrived at a farm with signs posted advertising the sale. Inside a dreary, unlighted barn, Bill spied tables of various items and a man watching nearby. The man did not speak as Bill looked around. None of the items were marked with a price and Bill did not see anything

THE 2008 Knife Exposition

American Bladesmith Society

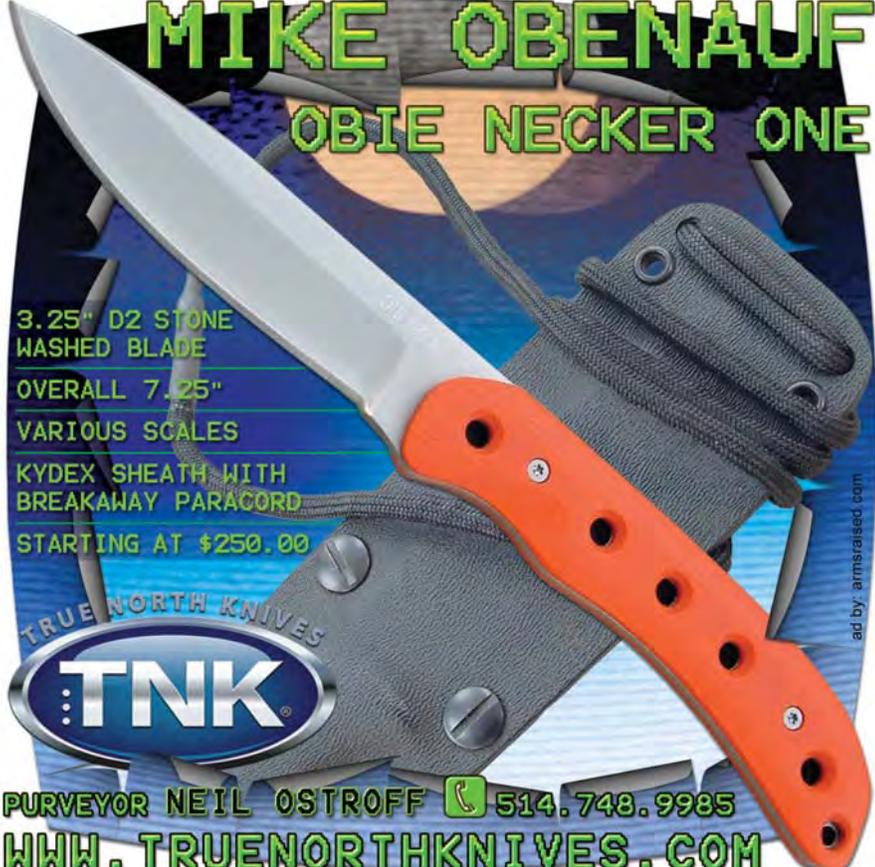
JANUARY 25th and 26th
Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno NV

<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>10AM - 3PM Demonstrations and Seminars</p> <p>4PM - 6PM Knife Preview</p> <p>7PM Banquet</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>10AM - 11AM Knife Preview</p> <p>11AM - 6PM Exposition Open For Sales</p>	<p>Featuring all-forged blades by ABS Master and Journeyman Smiths</p>
---	---	---



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: absknifeexpo.com
or contact: Rick Dunkerley (406) 677-5496

MIKE OBENAU OBIE NECKER ONE



3.25" D2 STONE WASHED BLADE

OVERALL 7.25"

VARIOUS SCALES

KYDEX SHEATH WITH BREAKAWAY PARACORD

STARTING AT \$250.00

TRUE NORTH KNIVES

TNK

PURVEYOR NEIL OSTROFF ☎ 514.748.9985

WWW.TRUENORTHKNIVES.COM

ad by: armsraised.com



1-800-351-8900

JANTZ SUPPLY

MOSAIC PINS & TUBES



1/8" diameter x 12" length
MP840 **MP835** **MP850**
\$14.25 **\$18.50** **\$14.25**



5/32" diameter x 12" length
MP510 **MP530** **MP520**
\$19.95 **\$19.95** **\$19.95**



7/32" diameter x 12" length
MP972 **MP976** **MP785**
\$29.95 **\$29.95** **\$31.50**



1/4" diameter x 12" length
MP945 **MP485** **MP465**
\$34.95 **\$36.50** **\$36.50**

RIVETS, PINS, DRILLS



Brass or nickel silver rivets. Corbys are precision machined with 5/16" slotted heads. Cutlery rivets 5/16" heads, 1/2" long shanks. RD3 rivet drill for corby rivets. RD4 rivet drill for cutlery rivets.

CP601 12 Brass Corby Rivets...**14.64**
CP611 12 NS Corby Rivets.....**25.44**
RD3 Corby Rivet Drill.....**26.95**
RV125 25 Brass Cutlery Rivets...**7.95**
RV225 25 NS Cutlery Rivets.....**8.95**
RD4 Cutlery Rivet Drill.....**26.95**
AB118 12 Brass 1/8" Pins.....**2.95**
AN118 12 NS 1/8" Pins.....**3.50**

LEARN TO MAKE KNIVES GET THESE DVD'S



VL106 Ed Caffrey **VL101** Johnny Stout **VL116** Harvey Dean
VL106 Basic Bladesmithing.....**29.99**
VL101 Fine Art-Hollow Grinding...**29.99**
VL116 Flat Grinding.....**29.99**



VL125 Gene Osborn **VL126** Gene Osborn **VL127** Gene Osborn
VL125 Kit 1-Taper Tang Hunter...**19.99**
VL126 Kit 2-Hidden Tang Hunter...**19.99**
VL127 Kit 3-Lockback Folder.....**19.99**

BISON SKINNER KIT



Pioneer style skinner ground from high carbon stainless. Includes blade dymondwood handle material, pins and nylon sheath.
 8 1/2" overall, blade 3 3/8" x 1/8" thick.
SS635 Bison Skinner Kit.....**12.95**

RAZOR EDGE KITS

440C Stainless Steel Satin Finish Blade. Kit includes blade, brass rivets, tubing, pinned guard, and handle material.

Choctaw Drop Point



8 1/2" overall, blade 3 1/2" x 1 1/8", 9/64" thick
SS441 Blade Only.....**19.95**
SS441K Choctaw Drop Point Kit.....**29.95**

Cherokee Clip Point



8 1/2" overall, blade 3 1/2" x 1 1/8", 9/64" thick.
SS442 Blade Only.....**19.95**
SS442K Cherokee Clip Point Kit.....**29.95**

Chickasaw Skinner



8 1/2" overall, blade 3 1/2" x 1 1/8", 9/64" thick.
SS443 Blade Only.....**19.95**
SS443K Chickasaw Skinner Kit.....**29.95**

ULU BLADES



440 stainless steel. Blades 3 1/4", cutting edge 6", 1/16" thick with 7/32" holes.
SS271 U-Style Ulu.....**5.55**

MIRROR POLISHED KITS

440C Stainless Steel Mirror Polished Blades. Kit includes blade, brass rivets, brass tubing, guard, dymondwood handle material.

Navajo Skinner



8 7/8" overall, blade 4 1/4" x 1 3/8", 5/32" thick.
SS783 Blade Only.....**23.95**
SS783K Navajo Skinner Kit.....**32.95**

Kaw Skinner



7 1/2" overall, blade 3" x 1 3/8", 5/32" thick.
SS782 Blade Only.....**26.95**
SS782K Kaw Skinner Kit.....**34.95**

Apache Hunter



8 1/4" overall, blade 3" x 1 3/32", 5/32" thick.
SS461 Blade Only.....**21.95**
SS461K Apache Hunter Kit.....**30.95**

Cheyenne Hunter



9 1/8" overall, blade 4 1/2" x 1", 5/32" thick.
SS495 Blade Only.....**21.95**
SS495K Cheyenne Hunter Kit.....**30.95**

WEEKEND PROJECTS

440C Stainless Steel Blades. Kits include blades, pins, dymondwood handle material and instructions.

Renaissance Dagger

6 1/4" overall, blade 3 3/4", 1/8" thick.
SS167 Blade Only.....**9.95**
SS167K Renaissance Kit.....**12.95**

Cobra

7 3/8" overall, blade 3 3/4", 1/8" thick.
SS166 Blade Only.....**8.95**
SS166K Cobra Kit.....**11.95**

Sportsman

7 3/8" overall, blade 3 1/2", 1/8" thick.
SS164 Blade Only.....**9.95**
SS164K Sportsman Kit.....**12.95**

PRE-SOLDERED GUARD KIT

8A Stainless Steel Blade with a pre-soldered nickel silver bolster. Kit includes blade, nickel silver rivets, nickel silver tubing, dymondwood handle material and instructions.

Bearcat

8 3/8" overall, blade 3 3/4" x 7/8", 1/8" thick.
SS874 Blade Only.....**19.95**
SS874K Bearcat Kit.....**25.95**

Nevada Drop Point

8" overall, blade 3 3/8" x 1", .144" thick.
SS650 Blade Only.....**19.95**
SS650K Nevada Drop Point Kit.....**25.95**

FILLET KITS AND SHEATHS

8A Stainless steel fillet blades. Each kit includes blade, pins, handle material and instructions. Optional leather sheaths sold separately.

Fisherman's Fillet

12" overall, blade 7", 1/16" thick.
SS910 Blade Only.....**7.95**
SS199K Fisherman's Fillet Kit.....**10.95**

Fisherman's Fillet Sheath

KT101 7" Fillet Sheath.....**15.50**

Alaskan Fillet

16" overall, blade 10 1/2", 1/16" thick.
SS912 Blade Only.....**9.95**
SS912K Alaskan Fillet Kit.....**12.95**

Trout Fillet Blade

Thin and flexible 8A Stainless fillet blade Overall 10-1/2", blade 5-3/4" x .045" thick. Kit contains blade, pins and dymondwood.

SS920 Blade Only.....**9.95**
SS920K Trout Fillet Kit.....**12.95**

Trout Fillet Sheath

Leather sheath ready for the final finish. Use #OS2290 snap setter for completion.

KT117 Trout Fillet Sheath.....**15.50**

JANTZ KOVAL CATALOG
 Everything you need to make knives.
 100 Pages 4000 products, full color
JC45 Catalog.....**5.00**

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TODAY
www.knifemaking.com

LEATHER CRAFTING AND KNIFEMAKING BOOKS



BOH603 **BOH606** **BOH607**
BOH603 Leatherwork Manual.....**12.95**
BOH606 Making Leather Cases.....**16.99**
BOH607 ABC'S of Leatherwork....**4.95**



BOK101 **BOK125** **BOSCK**
BOK101 Richard W. Barney Robert W. Loveless
BOK125 Joe Kertzman
BOSCK Tim McCreight
BOK101 How To Make Knives....**11.95**
BOK125 Blade's-Making Knives...**19.96**
BOSCK Custom Knifemaking.....**17.96**



BOK117 **BORSSK** **BOP301**
BOK117 Wayne Goddard
BORSSK David Boye
BOP301 Jim Hrisoulas
BOK117 \$50 Knife Shop.....**15.95**
BORSSK Step By Step Knifemkg...**19.95**
BOP301 Complete Bladesmith.....**39.95**

LEATHER 8-9 oz.



Top quality vegetable tanned leather.
AG512 12" x 12".....**9.95**
AG524 12" x 24".....**18.95**

DELUXE SNAPSETTER KIT



Easy to use hand snap set. Includes 25 of the #24 standard nickel plated brass snaps.

OS2300 Snap Set Kit**28.95**

AUTOMATIC SEWING AWL KIT



Sews an automatic lock stitch just like a machine. Comes with 2 1/2" yard black thread, one straight and one curved diamond point needle, wrench and instructions.

OS4130 Kit**16.95**

DIAMOND HOLE PUNCHES



One piece forged steel construction for punching holes for sewing or lacing leather. Sharp point, size indicates space between prongs.

WV8065 Single prong punch.....**6.50**
WV8066 4-prong 3/32" punch.....**7.75**
WV8067 4-prong 1/8" punch.....**7.95**

SEND ORDERS TO:
JANTZ SUPPLY

309 W MAIN, DAVIS OK 73030
 Phone- 580-369-2316

ADD \$9.95 FOR SHIPPING



PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

particularly exciting. He picked up an old knife and, noticing that there was no price on it, put it back and continued to browse.

He found some interesting old print blocks and bought them. Bill then asked what the man wanted for the knife. "I don't know, \$15?" was the answer. Bill countered that the amount was more than he was willing to pay.

"Well, what would you offer?"

"I'll give you five bucks."

"Sold."

\$20 or \$30 For It

When Bill got home, he began searching the Internet auction site to see what his newfound loot might be worth. Knowing nothing about custom or collectible knives, he first tried to find something with the same kris symbol on the blade. No luck. His teenage son made out the word "Scagel" on the blade, so Bill tried



The winning bidder, Michael Johnson explained that the knife was made between 1919 and 1929 for Von Lengerke & Antoine, a sporting goods dealer in Chicago owned by Abercrombie & Fitch. The "A" in the "V.L. & A." marking on the blade is partially visible. (photo by the author)

Purveyors and Collectors ART KNIFE OFFERING

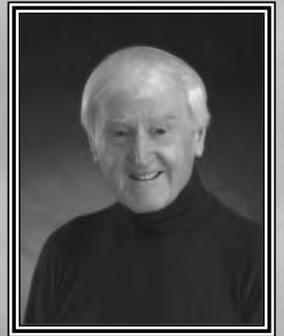
Why do purveyors and collectors buy knives from me? Because I search the field constantly for the best in art knives: at major knife shows, on the web, collectors' estates, eBay, and directly from makers. I buy only the best. I also work with master makers co-designing singular knives.

Recent winners: *Best Art Knife Collaboration* at the 2005 and 2006 Blade Shows and the *Cronk Award* at the 2005 Guild Show.

Several times a year, I search my personal collection of over 400 knives (I simply can't resist the artistry and buy too many knives). I select 50 to 70 knives and place these knives on my Web site. I buy right. I sell right.

People say I have an eye for art knives of enduring aesthetic value. Knives from my collection were chosen to appear on two *Blade Magazine* covers. I know quality assures lasting financial value.

I add 60 or so knives to my Web site three or four times a year, then I send an e-mail notice to my secure list of collectors and purveyors. Do you want to be on my e-mail list? Simply e-mail your request to me. Good things are coming up. Don Guild



GET ON MY LIST NOW

don@guildknives.com

www.GUILDKNIVES.com

Do You Have Knives For Sale?

SMKW is interested in purchasing knife collections, antique and unique knives from collectors, individuals and estates. We also purchase over-stocks and excess inventory from manufacturers, dealers and importers. Please let us know about knife shows and auctions in your area.

Call Jay Parker at 865-428-8137 Mon-Fri

Are You Looking For Knives?

Tune in each week to **KnivesLIVE** for COLLECTIBLES, EXCLUSIVES, SHOW SPECIALS & CLOSEOUTS
Only Available on KnivesLIVE TV!

DIRECTV® - CHANNEL 225 MONDAY 8pm -11pm

DISH NETWORK - CHANNEL 221
MONDAY & FRIDAY 8pm - 11pm



For a **FREE** Catalog visit SMKW online at
www.SmokyMountainKnifeWorks.com or call **1-800-251-9306**

knife jackpot knife jackpot

an Internet search and found several Treeman knives made by Jim Behring that mentioned Scagel and had a similar marking. He learned that some "mint condition" Treeman knives were selling for \$400-\$500. Bill considered his knife to be old and abused and would be happy if he could get \$20 or \$30 for it.

He listed the knife on an online auction as a "Large TREEMAN HAND-MADE Hunting Knife M. SCAGEL CHICAGO." He had misread the "W. Scagel Handmade" stamp. He also noted a partial stamp that read "V.L & [unreadable] Chicago." He started the auction off at \$14.95 and within 15 minutes began getting inquiries asking what his price would be to sell it immediately rather than letting the auction runs its seven-day duration. That piqued Bill's interest, so he decided he would let the auction run its course, thinking maybe he would get as much as \$60 for the knife.

Over the next couple of days, dozens of people called and wrote offering to buy the knife immediately. Others wrote to tell Bill what he had in his possession and explained the history of Scagel knives and their value to collectors. The bids kept climbing, including one of a Harley-Davidson Road King motorcycle in trade.

"Collectors were talking about the knife worldwide."

—*the author*

Bill could not believe what was happening with a \$5 knife that he had planned to use for digging up dandelions. By the third day the bidding had topped \$7,000, and Bill began to worry about how he would collect payment and how he would ship such a valuable item. The most expensive thing that Bill had sold in an auction was a little over \$600 for an accordion. By this time 500 people had added the auction to their "watch lists" and people were telling Bill that collectors were talking about the knife worldwide. By the fourth day bidding cracked the \$10,000 mark and four bidders continued to battle for the prize.

The knife finally sold for \$10,700 on Oct. 28. "I couldn't be more satisfied," Bill said. "The guy that won it e-mailed me and kind of apologized because it didn't go as high as people were telling

LANSKY'S SPORTSMEN'S CLASSICS

For over 25 years, sportsmen all over the world have relied on Lansky Sharpeners for the finest knife and tool sharpening products.

Others have copied many of Lansky's designs, but no one has matched them for ergonomics, ease-of-use and professional results.

The Lansky Controlled-Angle Knife Sharpening System is the top choice for putting a factory-new edge on all your sport and kitchen blades before going afield. The pocket-sized Turnbox sharpener is a sure way to touch up or resharpen blades in the field. The Deluxe Quick Edge Tungsten Carbide Sharpener can sharpen a knife or machete in the field with just 3 or 4 strokes.

Check out the Lansky classics at our favorite outdoor store or visit our on-line catalog at:

www.lansky.com



Controlled-Angle Knife Sharpening System



Deluxe Turnbox Sharpener



Deluxe Quick Edge Tungsten-Carbide Sharpener

An edge above the rest
LANSKY
SHARPENERS

PO BOX 50830, DEPT. BLA
HENDERSON, NV 89016



TRU GRIT KNIFEMAKING SUPPLIES

The leading edge in high performance abrasives and knifemaking supplies. We offer the highest quality products, because we work with the highest caliber knifemakers. Home of the Blaze, Hoggers & Gators!



ABRASIVES

3M, Norton, Hermes, Klingspor, Standard

CUSTOM SIZE BELTS

Micarta Sheets or pairs, G-10 Sheets or pairs, Stabilized Dyed woods, Ironwood, Maple Burl, Pearl, Mammoth, Bone, Buffalo Horn, Sambar Stag

BELT GRINDERS

Burr King, Hardcore, Bader, Wilton, Kalamazoo & Multitool

9" DISC GRINDER



1/2 HP 110V 0-2500 RPM REVERSABLE VARIABLE SPEED. ALSO AVAILABE IN 1/3 HP SINGLE SPEED

BALDOR BUFFERS



BUFFING SUPPLIES STEEL

ATS34, 440C, 416, 154CPM, S30V, 5160, 1075

MOSIAC PIN DAMASCUS

HANDLE MATERIAL
BLADE BLANKS
ETCHING SUPPLIES
BILLS CASES

760 E. Francis St. Unit N, Ontario, CA 91761

(909) 923-4116 * Fax (909) 923-9932 * Out of state (800) 532-3336

Visa - MasterCard - American Express - Discover

Email us at - Trugrit1@aol.com - Call or go online for a Catalog

SHOP ONLINE AT : WWW.TRUGRIT.COM



Johnson indicated that he might restore the missing sheath snap if he could find a comparable replacement. He said the sheath is an original Scagel handmade. (photo by the author)



Johnson said he repaired a broken spacer in the handle. (photo by the author)

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

**W
W
W
·
p
r
o
t
e
c
h
k
n
i
v
e
s
·
c
o
m**



**NEW Monaco Auto - 3.4" blade
Model #551 shown - \$300 retail
Visit our web site for full details
www.protechknives.com**

**100% Made in USA
562.903.0678**

The Raven Combat

7" Blade 12 5/8" overall 530-V Rc 59-60
G-10 Gunner Grip™ Handles
Blackhawk Sheath

\$329.00

Combat Tested in Afghanistan



Simonich Knives LLC

Box 278

Clancy, MT 59634

(406) 933-9151

www.simonichknives.com

E-Mail: christine@simonichknives.com

~Parkers' Knife Collector Service~

~Bulldog Brand Knives~

~Weidmannsheil Sporting Knives~

~ Case Factory Distributor~

For a **FREE** copy
of our current catalog

Please call
(423) 894-5102

Email
bbknife@bellsouth.net

With over 50 years experience in the Cutlery industry,
we strive to offer the best prices for authorized dealers.

We also sell antique knives and "out of production" knives too.



Trout and Bird Model
Sambar Stag Handle
Stainless Bolts
3.75" CPMS 30V Blade



CHARLIE MATHEWS
HARRY MATHEWS

121 Mt. Pisgah Church Rd.
Statesboro, GA 30458

912-865-9098

www.twinblades.com
twinblades@bulloch.net

Striking Sterling Silver Tsuba Pendants

Our sterling silver
made in the USA
Tsuba pendants are
a great gift idea for
anyone who loves
knives and swords.



Crane Tsuba \$85.00

Visit us at
Underhilljewelers.com
or call us at
206-933-0533
9am to 5pm PST
Monday-Saturday

knife jackpot knife jackpot

me. And the thing is, I felt humbled because it was so far above and beyond, and there was no disappointment because people were saying that it could go to \$20,000. I didn't even know what it was, didn't have a clue. If [the man at the barn sale] had said 'Nah, I gotta get \$15,' I would have left the knife lying on the table.

**"I didn't even
know what
it was."**

—Bill Torrance

"The thing is, I really feel like I kind of saved something because this was the last day of the sale, the last hour, and the guy was already throwing stuff in crates and just tossing them back in the barn. I can just imagine [the knife] lying in the bottom of a milk crate, you know, sitting in snow, and I don't think it would have survived another winter." Bill said he had heard through a mutual friend the original seller had heard about the sale and his reaction was, "Good for him."

Bill indicated that the stroke of good fortune could not have come at a better time. He and his wife had been struggling financially and the unexpected windfall was certainly very welcome. He said he felt there was some karma at work. "Everything had to line up perfect," he noted, "because it was the last day of the sale and I'm sure a hundred people went to that sale and, probably out of that hundred, 50 of them picked that knife up, looked at it and put it back down."

Winning Bidder

Michael Johnson, a long-time collector from South Carolina, placed the winning bid. He said that he had immediately recognized it as an original Scagel. He added that he had already repaired a broken spacer in the knife's handle and would probably restore the missing snap on the sheath if he could find a comparable replacement. He said the sheath is also an original, handmade by Scagel.

Mr. Johnson went on to explain that the knife was made between 1919 and 1929 for Von Lengerke & Antoine, a sporting goods dealer in Chicago owned by Abercrombie & Fitch. "Scagel never made a knife for VL&A after the Depression [1929]," he noted. "It's a rare

knife from the aspect that [the blades of] most Scagel knives were 4.5-5.5 inches. This actually is an 8.25-inch blade and that's just really unheard of. [Scagel] made much bigger knives than this from time to time, but very few."

Mr. Johnson said that the knife is another addition to his 40-year collection, which includes knives by Scagel, Bo Randall, Bill Moran and Bob Lovelless, Cutlery Hall Of Famers all. "You could have blown me over when I got it for what I got it for," he said. "I expected it to go for sixteen, seventeen, eighteen thousand dollars."

And so another rare example of legendary knifemaker Bill Scagel's work has been found, saved and preserved. Hundreds of knife enthusiasts around the world followed the auction saga and made it a hot topic of discussion on the online knife forums. Bill and Jan Torrance celebrated a happier Christmas than they had anticipated, and Michael Johnson added another rare knife to his collection.

As for this writer and knife collector, I will frequent more garage sales, searching shoulder to shoulder with other treasure hunters, hoping to find another discarded and unrecognized piece of knifemaking history.

BLADE

World's Finest
Gerstner® Collector's Chests

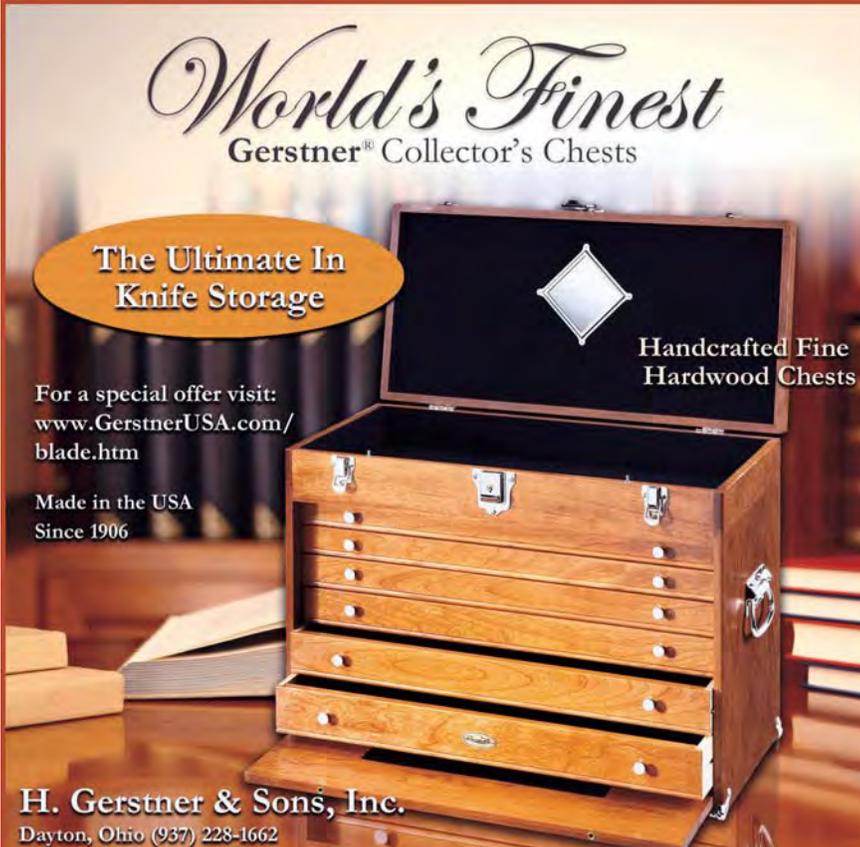
**The Ultimate In
Knife Storage**

Handcrafted Fine
Hardwood Chests

For a special offer visit:
[www.GerstnerUSA.com/
blade.htm](http://www.GerstnerUSA.com/blade.htm)

Made in the USA
Since 1906

H. Gerstner & Sons, Inc.
Dayton, Ohio (937) 228-1662




- DiamondBlade's Patented Friction Forging® process creates the sharpest, toughest, longest lasting knife edge ever manufactured
- Corrosion proof edge zone eliminates chemical etch dulling
- Differentially hardened and tempered blade has an edge zone hardness of Rockwell (RHc) 65-68 and spine hardness of RHc 42-45
- Custom features include tapered tang & perfectly fitted hand-crafted handles



*Friction Forged® knives were
chosen by Field & Stream as the
"Best of the Best" for 2007!*

"I've been testing the Friction Forged® blades for close to two months now and they get sharper and stay sharp longer than anything I've tested. I've cut rope, leather, whittled on wood and skinned a wild boar and cut it up for the freezer with a Friction Forged® knife. I've never had a knife go more than 80 cuts on a rope and still shave but the Friction Forged® blade went to over 300 cuts and was still shaving sharp."

Wayne Goddard, Master Bladesmith, American Bladesmith Society

"DiamondBlade's Friction Forged blades are probably the biggest legitimate improvement in the knife industry in over 40 years"

*Dr. Tracy Nelson, Phd, Mechanical Engineering Dept.
Brigham Young University*



Pride & Prestige Through Performance

www.diamondbladeknives.com

3100 Airport Dr. • Denison, TX 75020 • USA
Phone: 903-786-8044 • Fax: 903-786-7371

BLADE

The World's #1 Knife Publication

700 East State St.
Iola, WI 54990-0001
PH. 715-445-4612
Fax: 715-445-4087
www.blademag.com

Missy Beyer,
Advertising Sales
ext. 642
e-mail:
missy.beyer@fwpubs.com

Bruce Wolberg
Advertising Sales
ext. 403
e-mail:
bruce.wolberg@fwpubs.com

Where to NET 'EM

A.G. Russell Knives, Inc.
www.agrussell.com
ag@agrussell.com

Angel Sword
www.angelsword.com
info@angelsword.com

Arizona Custom Knives
www.arizonacustomknives.com
sharptalk@bellsouth.net

Ars Cultri
Custom Knives - handmade knives
www.arscultri.com
info@arscultri.com

ArtisanIdeas.com
Bladesmithing Books & DVDs
info@ArtisanIdeas.com

Artknives.com
www.artknives.com
fred@artknives.com

Atlanta Cutlery
www.atlantacutlery.com
atlcut@mindspring.com

Automatic Knives & Italian Switchblades
"Retail & Wholesale"
www.knives4wholesale.com
sales@knives4wholesale.com

Autumns Edge
www.AutumnsEdge.com
sales@autumnsedge.com

Beckwith's Blades
www.beckwithsblades.com
info@beckwithsblades.com

Benchmark
www.benchmark.com
Benchmark_Update@Benchmark.com

Benchmark/National Knife
Distributors
www.nkdi.com
nkdi@nkdi.com

Best Blade
www.bestblade.com
info@bestblade.com

Blade Art Inc.
www.bladeart.com
info@bladeart.com

Blade HQ, LLC
www.bladehq.com
cam@bladehq.com

Bladegallery.com
www.bladegallery.com
Omalley@bladegallery.com

Bob Neal Custom Knives
www.bobnealcustomknives.com
bob@bobnealcustomknives.com

Brian Tighe
www.tigheknives.com
tighe@allstream.net

Buckeye Engraving
www.steelhandstamps.com
stamps@steelhandstamps.com
Manufacturer of Custom
Hand Stamps

Busse Combat Knife Company
www.bussecombat.com
busse@bright.net

C.A.S. Iberia
www.casiberia.com
cas@casiberia.com

Canada's Knife Zone
Online Knife & Sword Store www.
knifezone.ca
sales@knifezone.ca

Carlson Knives
www.carlsonknives.com
kellycarlson@tds.net

Classic Knife Kits
www.knifekits.com
info@knifekits.com

Cobra Imports
Swords, Knives, Armor
www.cobraimports.com
cobraimports@aol.com

Condor Tool & Knife, Inc.
www.condork.com
arlan@hughes.net

Culpepper, Inc.
www.knifehandles.com
www.stingrayproducts.com
mopco@earthlink.net

Custom Knife Gallery of Colorado
www.customknifegallery.com
bob_glassman@yahoo.com

Custom Knife Consignment
www.customknifeconsignment.com
bob@customknifeconsignment.com

CustomKnives.com
www.customknives.com
atbarr@alltel.net

Custom Leather Knife Sheaths
www.customsheaths.com
rschrap@aol.com

Dantes Knifeworks
www.dantesknife.com
sales@dantesknife.com

Don Hanson III
Sunfish Forge
www.sunfishforge.com
www.donhansonknives.com

DLT Trading Company
www.dltradingcompany.com
customerservice@
dltradingcompany.com

Bob Dozier Knives
www.dozierknives.com
info@dozierknives.com

EDC Depot
www.EDCdepot.com
The Solution to your Every Day
Carry Needs
marc@EDCdepot.com

EdgeDealer.com
www.edgedealer.com
edgedealer1@yahoo.com

Dave Ellis - "CA. 1st ABS M.S."
www.exquisiteknives.com
ellis@mastersmith.com

Emerson Knives
www.emersonknives.com
info@emersonknives.com

Ernie Lyle - Knifemaker
www.ernestlyleknives.com
ernestlyle@msn.com

Flames N' Knives
www.Flames-N-Knives.com
Steve@flames-n-knives.com

John Fraps
www.frapsknives.com
jfraps@att.net

Frost Cutlery
www.frostcutlery.com
knives@frostcutlery.com

Georgia Knifemakers' Guild
www.georgiaknifemakersguild.com
"Member List, Web sites and
Galleries"

Grand Prairie Knives
www.gpknives.com
gpk@gpknives.com

Great Lakes Custom Knives
www.greatlakescustomknives.com
bud@greatlakescustomknives.com

Guild Knives - Selling
Custom Collection, Don Guild
www.guildknives.com

Halpern Titanium
www.halperntitanium.com
info@halperntitanium.com

Hawkins Knife Making Supplies
www.hawkinsknifemakingsupplies.com
sales@hawkinsknifemakingsupplies.com

Hoffman Knives - Selling
Top Quality Collection - Walt
www.hoffmanknives.com

Toll Free 800-272-5233

Jays Knives/American Edge
www.jaysknives.com
jay@jaysknives.com

Knife Center of the Internet
www.knifecenter.com
info@knifecenter.com

Knife Mart
www.knifemart.com
sales@knifemart.com

KnifePurveyor.com
www.knifepurveyor.com
mtonato@knifepurveyor.com

Kniveshipfree.com
www.kniveshipfree.com
sales@kniveshipfree.com

KnifeShows.com
www.knifeshows.com
tedmerchant@comcast.net

Knives Plus
www.KnivesPlus.com
KnivesPlus@KnivesPlus.com

Last Legend Competition Blades
www.lastlegend.com
sales@lastlegend.com

Lee's Cutlery
www.LeesCutlery.com
beeneJL43@earthlink.net

Legendary Knifemakers.com
www.legendaryknifemakers.com
We Buy Collections

Lightfoot Knives
www.lightfootknives.com
pitbull@lightfootknives.com

Lone Wolf Knives
www.lonewolfknives.com
sales@lonewolfknives.com

Mackrill Knives
www.mackrill.co.za
info@mackrill.co.za

Mantis Knives
www.MantisKnives.com
gwest@mantis.bz

Marzittelli Custom Knives
www.marzknives.com
info@marzknives.com

Mastersmiths
www.beautifulblades.com
bill@beautifulblades.com

Matt D. Tactical, LLC
www.mattdtactical.com
Strider dealer/gun parts
matt@mattdtactical.com

Moore Cutlery
www.moorecutlery.com
gary@moorecutlery.com

Moulton Knives
www.moultonknives.com
dusty@moultonknives.com

Museum Replicas
www.museumreplicas.com
musrep@mindspring.com

www.myknifedealer.com
Lynn O. Olson
blade@myknifedealer.com

**Neilson's Mountain Hollow
J & Tess Neilson**
www.mountainhollow.net
mountainhollow@epix.net

New Graham Knives
www.NewGraham.com
mdye@newgraham.com

Northwest School of Knifemaking
Bronxknifeworks.com
bronks@bronxknifeworks.com

Ohare Knives
sean@ohareknives.com
www.ohareknives.com

Only Fine Knives
www.onlyfineknives.com
**Specializing in William Henry,
Chris Reeve, Strider and Custom
Handmade**

Oso Famoso
Fossil Ivory-Mammoth Bark Knife Scales
<http://www.osofamoso.com>
oso@osofamoso.com

Peter Martin Knives
www.PeterMartinKnives.com
martinknives@hotmail.com

Pocket Knife World
www.pocketknifeworld.com
owner@pocketknifeworld.com

Quintessential Cutlery
Grazyna Shaw Custom Knife Purveyor
www.quintcut.com
gshaw@quintcut.com

Darrel Ralph
www.darrelralph.com
darrel@darrelralph.com

Ray Rogers Handcrafted Knives
www.rayrogers.com
knives@rayrogers.com

Uncle Al
www.riversidemachine.net
uncleal2@alltel.net

Robertson's Custom Cutlery
www.robertsoncustomcutlery.com
customknives@comcast.net

Ruth Knives
Mike Ruth ABS Journeyman
www.ruthknives.com
mike@ruthknives.com

Shepherd Hills Cutlery
www.casexx.com
info@shephills.com

Smoky Mountain Knife Works
www.SmokyMountainKnifeworks.com
webmaster@smkw.com

Sooner State Knives
www.soonerstateknives.com
ssknives@swbell.net

Steel Addiction Custom Knives
www.SteelAddictionKnives.com
davestark@steeladdictionknives.com

Peter Steyn
www.petersteynknives.com
info@petersteynknives.com

Johnny Stout
www.stoutknives.com
johnny@stoutknives.com

Swamp Rat Knives
www.swamprat.com
info@swamprat.com

www.swords.ca
Canada's Best Online Knife Store
Great Prices • In Stock • Shipping Now
inquiries@swords.ca

The Knifery
Canada's #1 Knife Store
www.theknifery.com
knifery@telus.net

The Cutting Edge®
www.cuttingedge.com
ce_info@cuttingedge.com
The aftermarket for Knives

The Sword Armory
www.swordarmory.com
sales@swordarmory.com

Toolshop
www.toolshop.de
info@toolshop.de

True North Knives
www.truenorthknives.com
info@truenorthknives.com

Twin Blades
www.twinxblades.com
twinblades@bulloch.net

Daniel Winkler
Master Bladesmith
www.winklerknives.com
daniel@winklerknives.com

World Knives, Ltd.
www.worldknives.com
**Featuring a unique selection of
exotic imported knives from over
20 countries worldwide.**

Richard S. Wright
www.richardswright.com
rswswitchblades@hotmail.com

A variant of the white tenite handle material used by Randall Made Knives was this off-white or light beige version. According to the author, it is not known how many knives were handled in the material, nor for how long. The knife is a Model 14. (photo courtesy of the author)



A Randall Handle EVOLUTION

*The handles on full-tang
Randall knives from the
Vietnam era run the gamut
in materials and colors*

By Robert E. Hunt

This time I will examine material that was used to handle Randall full-tang models, which will include some of the same knives explored in previous installments of "Randall Answer Men." The focus will be on the catalog offerings and will steer clear of special knives that may in some cases provide an exception to the examples cited.

Sporting nylon handles, the Models 14 and 15 left the Randall Shop for examination by the U.S. Marine Corps Equipment Board. The handles probably were white at the time and now show a yellowish ivory tone some 50 years later, where they are exhibited in the Randall Museum at Randall Made Knives (RMK) in Orlando, Florida. Three bolts, or screws, more or less located equidistant from each other, held the handle material in place.

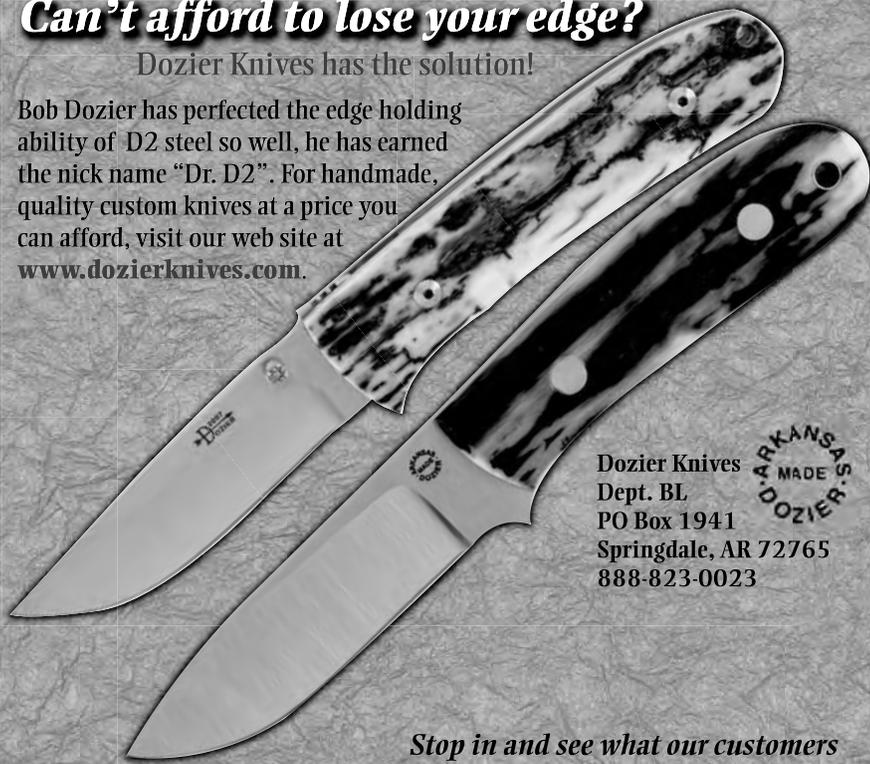
The nylon no doubt was selected for practical reasons. It was presumed that RMK would find another material in its place should the knives be mass-produced, which was the original intent. In fact, one of the few negative comments on the Randall submissions was directed at the handle's material and design. The handle was considered marginal by the USMC Equipment Board, "in that the finger grips are

The 1961 Randall catalog showed the Models 14, 15 and 16 with green tenite handles, each affixed with two bolts instead of the three bolts shown with the white-tenite-handle models in the 1959 catalog. The 1961 catalog also identified the color of green by name. The knife is a Model 14. (photo courtesy of the author)

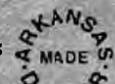
Can't afford to lose your edge?

Dozier Knives has the solution!

Bob Dozier has perfected the edge holding ability of D2 steel so well, he has earned the nick name "Dr. D2". For handmade, quality custom knives at a price you can afford, visit our web site at www.dozierknives.com.



Dozier Knives
Dept. BL
PO Box 1941
Springdale, AR 72765
888-823-0023



Stop in and see what our customers are saying on our discussion forum
www.dozierknives.com/forum

INSURANCE

For The Knife Collector

Your homeowners insurance is rarely enough to cover your collectibles. We've provided economical, dependable insurance since 1966.

- Our insurance carrier is AM Best's rated A+ (Superior).
- We insure knives, edged weapons...and scores of other collectibles. And we offer you "one-stop" service for practically everything you collect.

• **Personal Attention.** Consumer friendly service. Dedicated staff. Network of expert assistance in valuing collectibles at time of loss. You won't deal with someone who doesn't know the collectibles business.

- See our website (or contact us) for full information, including standard exclusions.



CIA

Collectibles Insurance Agency

11350 McCormick Road • Suite 700 • Hunt Valley, MD 21031
E-Mail: info@insurecollectibles.com



More Info? Call Toll Free:

1-888-837-9537 Fax: (410) 876-9233 or

Visit: www.collectinsure.com

KNIVES
AND MORE

Bonds House 702.870.2347
Of Cutlery LAS VEGAS, NV.



Boker Collectables



Al-Mar/Gerber

Largest Dealer On The West Coast

Knives-Plus

Retail cutlery and cutlery accessories since 1987

EXCELLENT MAILORDER PRICES & SELECTION

CALL FOR YOUR FREE CATALOG

800-687-6202

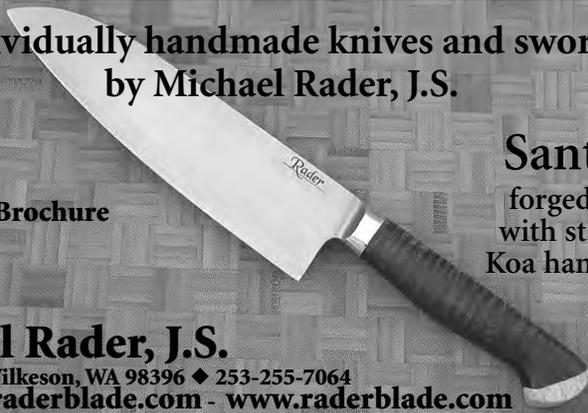
KNIVES PLUS®

Retail cutlery and cutlery accessories since 1987
2467 I 40 West, Amarillo, TX 79109

www.knivesplus.com

**Individually handmade knives and swords
by Michael Rader, J.S.**

◆ Free Brochure



Santoku
forged 52100
with stabilized
Koa handle \$595

Michael Rader, J.S.

PO Box 393, Wilkeson, WA 98396 ◆ 253-255-7064
michael@raderblade.com - www.raderblade.com

Buckeye Engraving

*Custom Stamps manufactured
to fit your needs*

*Visit our Web site
for more information or
to request a quote.*

**Quality Custom
Marking Products**

www.steelhandstamps.com



Hand Stamps, Dies & Brands for
Professional Craftsmen & Hobbyists...
Leaving a Lasting Impression

Phone: 330.677.5685 Fax: 330.677.3936

randall answer men
randall answer men

not compatible to all hands," and that the smooth material lacked gripping surface and was deemed too brittle and probably slippery in wet hands.

If you examine the handles closely, the indentations appear shallow and, as most will attest, nylon can be slippery to grip. This is, of course, a moot point, for despite the critical comments, the knife received the best review by far of the three examples submitted. Nonetheless, the Board's evaluations would prove to be insightful. Images of the knives are on pages 40-41 of this writer's book, *Randall Knives, Rare, Unique and Experimental*.

At some point between the decision of the Board to conclude the testing and the initial offering of the knives as the Randall models "Airman" and "Attack," tenite, an injection-molded plastic, was procured and substituted in place of the nylon. The tenite was white in the classic sense, and grooved to allow finger purchase like the original, though perhaps somewhat more deeply contoured. Illustrations appear in the catalogs of the mid-1950s depicting white tenite on both knives. At this point it is well to remember that after the Board's decision to quit the search due to lack of funding, there was some lag time before the knives were introduced in any numbers through the customer base, as the USA was not at war then.

The selection and ultimate acquisition of the white tenite was undoubtedly dictated by demand, which was not great at the time, so it is impossible to estimate how many knives were handled in it. Add to this the fact that there is another variant of "white" tenite, an "off white" or light beige in tone, which also appeared, either simultaneously or subsequently, and was used on both models during the period. It is difficult to discover from the available records either how many knives were made or exactly how long the material was used to handle them.

Green Tenite

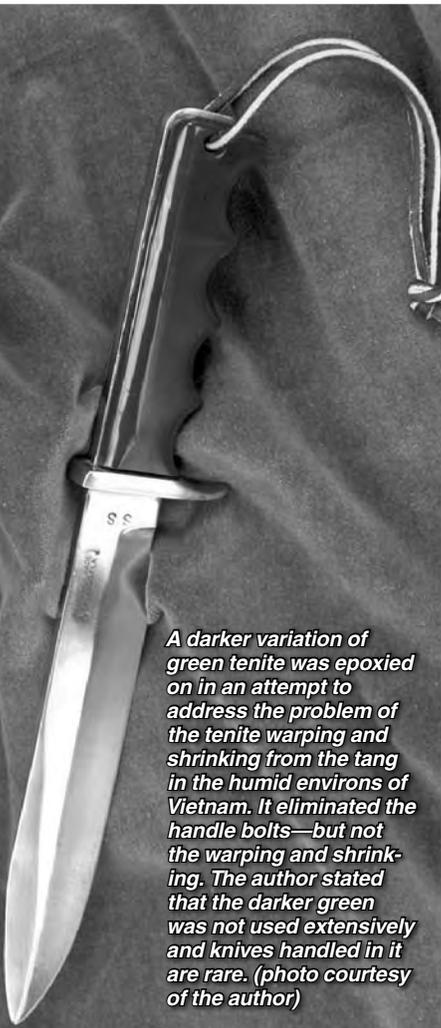
From this point, the focus is on the more commonly recognized replacement for white tenite—the green variety. Many examples on early knives have surfaced. They closely resemble the design features of the originals while bearing a handle that is green in color. What's more, for the first time, at least in any numbers, the Solingen blade is represented and offered in the catalog at a reduced price.

Green tenite made its first Randall catalog appearance in 1959, though bear in mind that a single publication often spanned several years with only a date change indicating the difference. The 1959 issue illustrated a Model 14 and 15 with the usual three bolts in white tenite and introduced the Model 16, depicting it

with a green tenite handle with two bolts, but does not reference the color by name. In the 1961 catalog, all three models are shown handled in green tenite, each held fast with two bolts. It also identifies the color green by name.

Once green tenite was established as a handle material, it prevailed for several years and remained in the RMK catalogs until the 17th printing in 1965, when Micarta® was introduced, depicted and offered as an option. Green tenite was still the standard material as stated in the text. So, from 1959 until at least 1965, green tenite was listed in the catalogs.

What led to the substitution of Micarta for tenite was the unprecedented demand for the knives initiated by the wartime buildup in Vietnam, which increased exposure of tenite to the rigors of a humid climate, resulting in the material warping and shrinking away from the tang. It is probably accurate to say that RMK was long aware of this problem and, in attempting to remedy it, introduced one other variation of green tenite along the way. A darker material of a seemingly harder consistency, it was epoxied onto the tang, resulting in the elimination of the two remaining bolts but not the warping and shrinking.



A darker variation of green tenite was epoxied on in an attempt to address the problem of the tenite warping and shrinking from the tang in the humid environs of Vietnam. It eliminated the handle bolts—but not the warping and shrinking. The author stated that the darker green was not used extensively and knives handled in it are rare. (photo courtesy of the author)

The KNIFE CENTER of the INTERNET

The Original and Largest Catalog of Cutlery on the Web

WWW.KNIFECENTER.COM

The Only FULLY SEARCHABLE Database
of the Cutlery Industry

800-338-6799

5111 Berwyn Rd., Ste. 110, College Park, MD 20740-4132

www.levineknives.com



- Specializing in folders
- The rising stars
- The best makers
- Fair prices

Dealer of Handmade Knives

Phone: (203) 438-5294

PO Box 416 • Ridgefield, CT 06877

GARY LEVINE FINE KNIVES

Bradley's Blades



CPM-M4 Blade Steel

817-596-2894

www.bradleysblades.com

gaylebradley@bradleysblades.com



Gayle Bradley, Maker

1383 Old Garner Road

Weatherford, TX 76088-8720

WWW.NEWYORKCUSTOMKNIVES.COM

NEW YORK CUSTOM KNIVES

HOME OF THE
MINIATURE
EDGE



HANK RUMMELL

914-213-5977

HANK@NEWYORKCUSTOMKNIVES.COM

KNIFE AND GUN FINISHING SUPPLIES

Order Line
1-800-972-1192

Customer Service
928-537-8877

STABILIZING -- OUR SPECIALTY SINCE 1990

B LADES	G UARDS	H ANDLES	S OLDER	B OOKS	A DHESIVES
H OW TO DVD'S	G RINDERS	B ELTS	DC MOTORS	E TCHING MACHINES	B UFFERS
B UFFS	H ORN	I VORY	B ONE	F LITZ	S CRIBES
S CREWS	T APS	D RILLS	S HEATHS	P OMMELS	R IVETS
S TABILIZED W OOD	K NIFE C ASES	H ERMES A BRASIVES	S TEEL & B LADES	416 S TAINLESS	1080 S TEEL
CM P OWDERED S TEEL	154	440C	1095	D2	P URE N ICKEL

1972 Forest Ave
Lakeside AZ 85929

www.knifeandgun.com
csinfo@knifeandgun.com

randall answer men
randall answer men

Examples of the replacement tenite can be found on all three of the aforementioned models, with no extended tang, the thong hole drilled through the handle. A deeper green in tone, the replacement tenite was not used to the extent of the original type and knives so equipped can therefore be considered more difficult to find.

The 18th printing of the catalog depicts the four full-tang models—including the “Astro”—handled in Micarta, with any reference to tenite omitted. This begins the Micarta run that was initiated at least officially by the catalog inclusion, showing clear images of what has become known as *brown Micarta*. This does not chronicle the early transition to the depicted material, however, as during the tenite period other types of Micarta had been tested and used as handle material on Randall knives.

One prominent example is the Astro knives that were handled in a tan Micarta. This appears to begin and end Randall’s “official” use of the tan color, as it does not surface again on Randall knives. Sometime between the Astro experience (1963-64) and the aforementioned 18th catalog printing in 1967, another brown variation of a deep reddish tone and having a canvas-like visual texture made an appearance



New Dates!!! **February 15-17, 2008** *New Dates!!!*

Pasadena Conference Center

Lower Level Conference Bldg • 300 East Green Street, Pasadena

California's Largest, Oldest & Finest Knife Show

Door Prize - Double Blade Trapper Knife by Bill Rupel

Friday 12:00-7:00 Saturday 10:00-6:00 Sunday 10:00-4:00

For Additional Information visit our web site sclblades.com or call (562) 225-9703

Custom Knives • Cutlery Knives • Antique Knives • Swords
Razors • Supplies and Equipment • Prize Winning Collections
Continuous Raffles and Demonstrations
Free Knife Appraisals

Special Events in 2008!!!

Knife Throwing by Bob Karp
Rope Cutting and Knife Making
Demonstrations

Special appearance by Chef Andy Matsuda
(kitchen cutlery demonstrations)

Wood Carving by California Wood Carvers
Amateur Knife Making Contest Open to Public

American Blade Smith Society
presents

special exhibition section by members
and ongoing demonstrations
with Red St. Cyr



The 18th printing of the Randall catalog in 1967 was the first to depict Randall knives with brown Micarta® handles. (photo courtesy of the author)

and was used on Randall knives. An example is on pages 100-101 of your author's book, *Randall Military Models*.

Fade To Black

Following the adoption of brown Micarta as the standard on the full-tang knives, another color was introduced that eventually led to the final selection of black Micarta as the standard handle material for all full-tang Randall models.

There was another type with a more marbled appearance and a grain that seems to run in another direction. The version also varied in tone, initially from medium brown eventually to black. Here is where the confusion arises, as the near brown-tone, black-veined material, which though visually distinctive from brown Micarta, confuses both the inexperienced collector and casual observer.

Nonetheless, the black Micarta with the marbled brownish tone had a short lifespan despite the fact that it had the same characteristics as the knives handled in brown Micarta. The characteristics include a filled screw hole, or a low "S," or even on one knife that I have seen, a double "S" stamp, and may have even been accompanied by a Johnson split-back sheath with large rivets.

If the marbled brownish tone had remained constant and not varied to black as it is recognized today, there might be another identifiable type instead of merely a transitional material that more than likely represented a color variation in the shipment received from the supplier. As this color variation was not around long enough to be illustrated in the catalog, it disappeared from the scene, giving way to the standard material found on all the full-tang knives, now known as *black Micarta*.

Color Progression

Look for white tenite with its "off-white" variation on the earliest full-tang knives, followed by green tenite a few years later. The exact time span is unknown; only the catalog references are adequately documented by years. The knives had bolted-on handles and showed either three or two screws in catalog illustrations.

The green variety came in two identifiable tones: a bright green on the extended-tang models followed by a more subdued darker green on the non-extended tangs. The latter material was epoxied onto the tang without the use of screws and had a wrist-thong hole drilled through the handle.

Brown Micarta followed and was illustrated for a prolonged period in the catalogs, actually extending beyond the time when it was still available as represented by the catalog images. It was replaced by black Micarta, which in its subtle variations shortly became the standard for all Randall full-tang knives to the present day.

BLADE



WWW.BLADEGALLERY.COM

SEATTLE, WA

one-of-a-kind knives
by the best makers
in the world

877-562-5233

competitive prices
knowledgeable service
best selection on the web

Mammoth by Cliff Parker

the online source for fine custom knives



Steel Addiction Custom Knives

Come Feed Your Addiction ! We Buy Sell And Trade

Large Selection of Custom Knives In Stock We Ship World-Wide

Featuring G&G Hawk Knives The New Ram II

WWW.SteelAddictionKnives.com

Dave Stark 909 731 3903

CONCLUSION

TOUGHEST WHEN SUPER THIN

HIGHER-ALLOY TOOL VS. STAINLESS STEELS, AND HOW TO GAUGE IF A STEEL IS REALLY TOUGH ENOUGH

By Dan Farr
ABS journeyman smith

A common test is using a knife to chop something that is hard—though not harder than the blade steel itself. The author chops eighth-inch brass rod on his workbench. He said the rod provides an impact over a small area and is consistent in size and hardness. (photo by the author)



Though it is no longer involved in cutting competitions, the ABS made a wise decision when it settled on a standard cutting competition knife with a 10-inch blade and a 15-inch overall length. An example of this standard is this collaboration between three-time BLADE Show World Cutting Competition champ Reggie Barker and John Fitch. By creating a standard, the ABS helped propel the handmade knife industry toward higher-performance knives. (Chuck Ward photo)

Higher-alloy tool steels are typically specialized to increase the blade's wear resistance, toughness, or the ability to remain hard at high working temperatures. I am convinced that knife-makers do not use tool steels enough. Tool steels do not move easily under the hammer and so are not used by most bladesmiths, and are not stainless enough to interest the majority of stock-removal makers.

The "S"-series tool steels have phenomenal toughness, yet are so specialized for impact strength that they lack the balance of properties to produce good knives. The "H"-series tool steels are specialized to stay hard when heated. Other than maybe three-time BLADE Show World Championship Cutting Competition titleholder Reggie Barker, not many of us have to worry about generating heat while cutting! The "H"-series steels fall prey to specialization and lack the wear resistance to make good knives.

Some common tool steels that make good knives, listed in order of increasing Charpy toughness, include D2, A2, CPM M4, O1, CPM3V, L6 and W2. While the



You just cannot generate the blade speed and high impact needed with a short blade. Consequently, resistance to chipping is not the main concern when choosing a steel for hunting knives. Tom Krein used D2 tool steel for the 2.75-inch blade of his bird-and-trout knife. (Chuck Ward photo)

~ ED FOWLER ~
Willow Bow Ranch
P.O. Box 1519 • Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-9815
eafwb@wyoming.com

To my eye this is an elegant fighting knife, the double convex grind design was influenced by historic knife makers I admire greatly, Michael Price's father, Rudy Ruana and Bill Scagel.

I dedicate this knife to the men and women governed by integrity based on rational principles who have fought for justice throughout all time. Integrity that does not consist of loyalty to one's subjective whims, but loyalty to rational principles they know as valid and honest, those who stand for their rational judgment over the politically correct atmosphere of the time.

www.edfowler.com
Talk about it at: www.knifetalkonline.com

Frost Cutlery
Celebrate 35 years of the world's finest cutlery!

HR-5001
Smooth Stag Bowie
14 3/4" overall

Call 1-800-251-7768 to locate a dealer in your area.

Call and ask about our other best selling knife brands or visit our websites:
<http://www.frostcutlery.com>
<http://www.cutlerycorner.net>

FF-1091AB
Small Toothpick
3" closed

35th ANNIVERSARY 1972-2007

Frost Family

(BUCKCREEK) German Bull FELD PRO Steel Warrior

Rich McDonald

Custom Knives
&
Tomahawks

Recreating the past
for the future

4590 Kirk Rd.
Columbiana, OH 44408
Phone (330) 482-0007
Web site:
www.longknivesandleather.com

Color Brochure
\$3.00

blade steels

Charpy tests indicate quite a wide range in this group, all make excellent, tough knives. I will go out on a limb and state that I believe the steels with the highest performance potential (a phrase I borrow from Warren Osborne)—meaning they are able to endure cutting tests employing the thinnest edge with enough wear resistance to maintain sharpness—are in this group. A contestant will likely choose one of these steels if he/she wants to participate in cutting competitions. Keep in mind, the difference between first and worst in competition may be having an edge just a couple thousandths of an inch thinner.

When heat treating a tool steel in the average knife shop, the “sweet spot”—the point where the steel neither chips nor deforms—exists but is not easy to find. The more complex tool and stainless steels have tempering ranges from 350°-1,000°F. There is a zone from 500°-800°F where increasing temperature actually *reduces* toughness. Consequently, such steels are usually tempered from 300°-500°F or 700°-1,000°F.

Luckily, steel manufacturers do a lot of testing and many publish their data on their websites. As Scott Devanna of Crucible Steel noted, “Most steels are developed with specific industrial applications in mind. As is usually the case, other applications are always found where a specific steel can also perform well—especially



ohare knives

Sean O'Hare

867-695-2619
sean@ohareknives.com
www.ohareknives.com

THE SPARROW

PO Box 374, Fort Simpson, NT, X0E 0N0



Sily

阳江市喜力实业有限公司
YANGJIANG SILY ENTERPRISE CO. LTD

AB0930
Overall: 210mm
Folded: 120mm
Weight: 215g

USD1.8/PC

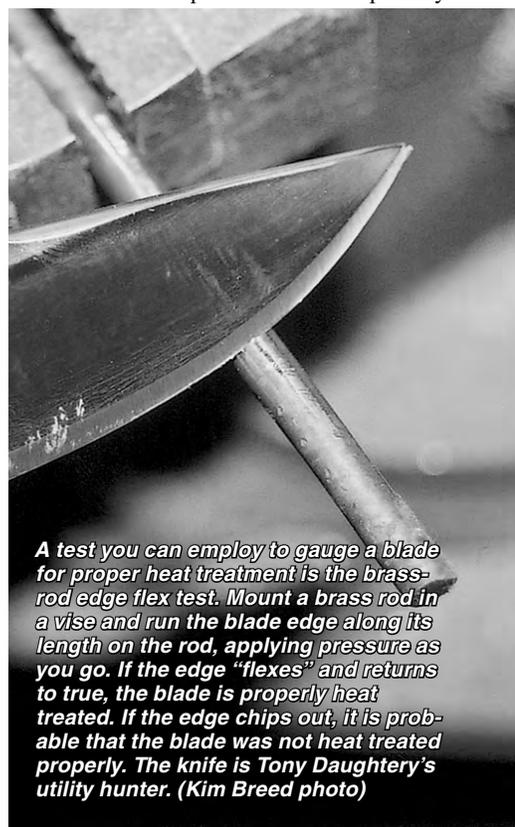
AB0980.....\$1.59/PC

AB0014.....\$0.99/PC

ADD: No. 54, Road 7, Huaqiao Xincun, Yangjiang City, Guangdong, China.
<http://www.chinaknives.net> E-mail: sily-peter@163.com Contact: Peter

LONE STAR WHOLESALE
GREAT PRICES
DEALERS ONLY 806-356-9540
MOST MAJOR BRANDS

Resale Certificate or FFL Required
Lone Star Wholesale, PO BOX 587,
Amarillo, TX 79105 FAX 806-359-1603.
All FAX Correspondence, please include
Tax info, and phone number.



A test you can employ to gauge a blade for proper heat treatment is the brass-rod edge flex test. Mount a brass rod in a vise and run the blade edge along its length on the rod, applying pressure as you go. If the edge “flexes” and returns to true, the blade is properly heat treated. If the edge chips out, it is probable that the blade was not heat treated properly. The knife is Tony Daughtery's utility hunter. (Kim Breed photo)



Some of the common tool steels that make good knives, listed in order of increasing Charpy toughness, include D2, A2, CPM M4, O1, CPM3V, L6 and W2. As the author noted, "I will go out on a limb and state that I believe the steels with the highest performance potential (a phrase I borrow from Warren Osborne)—meaning they are able to endure cutting tests employing the thinnest edge with enough wear resistance to maintain sharpness—are in this group." Here, Michael Eubanks uses a cutter of CPM M4 made by Osborne to cut the 1.5-inch rope in the 2007 Guild Show cutting competition.

when the heat-treat procedure is adjusted to improve specific properties. For example, lower austenitizing temperatures will improve toughness and certain tempering temperatures will improve toughness and/or wear resistance."

Stainless Steels

The 400 series of stainless steels do not rank high in impact testing. According to Devanna, "This is a direct result of the necessary alloying elements to make [such steels truly] stainless." The lower carbon 400 stainless steels are tougher and more corrosion resistant, but give up wear resistance. It is back to the balancing act and how much toughness is necessary.

If you include folders, where toughness is not paramount, I own more stainless knives than carbon steel. I carry a folder made by R.J. Martin every day, and it has a blade of CPM S30V. I have tested (read that as *abused*) it regularly and would absolutely trust it in a life-threatening situation. In fact, as R.J. states, "I have never had a blade failure in any stainless CPM alloy—S30V, S60V, S90V or CPM154." Many times, exceptional toughness is not needed in the steel. On occasion, edge holding trumps impact resistance. If the knife is so tough that it cannot be broken by hand power, it is tough enough.

A most interesting development in blade steels is Crucible's CPM (Crucible Particle Metallurgy) process. Crucible is actually able to enhance all three properties—wear resistance, corrosion resistance and toughness—using the CPM production process! The resulting steels, such as S30V (see the chart on page 71), are proving to have an excellent balance of properties.

Common Tests

Since most of you do not have a Charpy tester in the basement, what are the common tests makers use to judge their knives that you might best be able to reproduce? The brass-rod edge flex test is one. I have

seen it done and it makes good sense to me, though I have tried it and cannot see the flex consistently. It is probably due to my lack of keen eyesight or the insufficient lighting in my shop.

The other common test is using a knife to chop something that is hard—though not harder than the blade steel itself. I chop eighth-inch brass rod on my workbench. The rod provides an impact over a small area and is consistent in size and hardness.

For me, one of the most enjoyable things about teaching bladesmithing in my shop is watching a student take a

knife he has put so much time into and deliver a milquetoast tap with it on the brass rod. I "kindly offer" to help out, take the knife and make a dramatic swing. When the blade hits the bench, all the tools jump an inch in the air, and the cut-off end of the brass rod goes ping-pong around the shop. I have not had a student's blade chip yet!

How much of a concern is toughness in knife design? If you are interested in making and/or using swords, it may be your No. 1 criterion when selecting the steel and the heat treat. The speed of the sword blade generates tremendous impact energy.

Conversely, the other end of the spectrum is a hunting knife with a 3-inch blade. You just cannot generate the blade speed and high impact needed with a short blade.



"Handles With Care"
from
**MASECRAFT
SUPPLY COMPANY**

**Pearl, Horn, Bone, Exotic Woods, Micarta,
G-10's, Carbon Fiber, Celluloid, India Stag,
ImiStag, Pearl Laminated Veneer Sheets,
COLORPLY Laminated Wood Veneer,
Imitation Pearl, Ivory Alternative, Recon Stone
and a lot More.**

Call to order our catalog
P.O. Box 423 BL
254 Amity St., Meriden, CT 06450
Phone: (203) 238-3049
www.masecraftsupply.com
E-mail: masecraft@masecraftsupply.necoxmail.com





<http://www.valiantarmouryswords.com> VA54-203 Mugendai
 1-877-SWORDS-4 VA54-202 Arai Mizu
 VA54-201 Ko Buke
 Kyoumou Tora VA54-200

VALIANT ARMOURY
 TRADITIONAL DESIGNS
 MODERN MATERIALS
 REAL SWORDS

Imperial Arms
The New Practical Collection

To become a dealer contact sales@valiantarmouryswords.com



SK KNIVES
 Bigfork, MT
www.skknives.com

Steven Kelly
 Specializing in Performance
 Hunting Knives
406-837-1489
skknives@hotmail.com

Viper Recurve

FRESH STEEL
 William Henry Fine Knives
 20+ Alaskan Knifemakers
 Custom Kydex

Rob Criswell	Al Polkowski
John M. Smith	Randall Knives
Neil Blackwood	Steve Voorhis
Ruana Knives	Trace Rinaldi
L.A. McConnell	Stan Fujisaka
Allen Elishewitz	Darrell Ralph
Gaetan Beauchamp	Joe Kious

and many more!

NORTHERN KNIVES
 Anchorage, AK
907-569-1800
northernknives.net



LIGHTFOOT KNIVES
CATCH DOG
 Blade: 4" Hollow ground BG-42
 Carbon Fiber Bolsters, G-10 Scales
 Titanium Liners, Skull Cracker on butt
 Price: \$495.00 US

EXTREME JEWELRY
 CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW!
WWW.LIGHTFOOTKNIVES.COM 780.846.2812

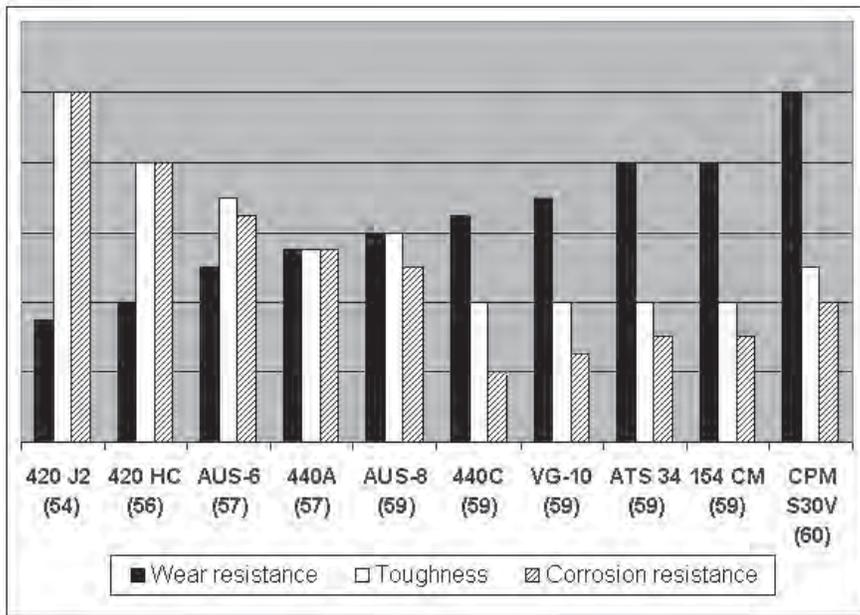
blade steels

If you doubt it, try chopping 2x4s for speed with a lightweight 3-inch blade. (Here's a hint: You won't be timed in seconds.) Hence, resistance to chipping is not the main concern when choosing a steel for hunting knives.

Though it is no longer involved in cutting competitions, the ABS made a wise decision when it settled on a standard cutting competition knife with a 10-inch blade and a 15-inch overall length. By creating a standard, the ABS helped propel the hand-made knife industry toward higher-performance knives. Now there are meaningful comparisons for all to see. The competition knife is one that is within all makers'

ABS master smith Kevin Cashen—here showing his form during the 2003 BLADE Show World Championship Cutting Competition—said, "It comes down to the same old balancing act that we have always struggled with in knives—toughness vs. strength or abrasion resistance. We can have toughness but often have to sacrifice some edge holding to do it, the inverse being greater abrasion resistance and edge holding but less toughness."





The 400 series of stainless steels do not rank high in impact testing. According to Scott Devanna of Crucible Steel, "This is a direct result of the necessary alloying elements to make [such steels truly] stainless." The lower carbon 400 stainless steels are tougher and more corrosion resistant, but give up wear resistance. It is back to the balancing act and how much toughness is necessary. (chart courtesy of Crucible Steel)

abilities, requires minimal equipment, and is practical for general and varied use.

ABS master smith Jerry Fisk has demonstrated in a way that can be both fun and frustrating that there is no limit to the tests

that can be concocted using common, inexpensive materials. An interesting result is that any of the often-used knife steels—simple, tool or stainless—can make a serviceable competition-style knife. ABS

master smith Kevin Cashen summed it up well when he said, "It comes down to the same old balancing act that we have always struggled with in knives—toughness vs. strength or abrasion resistance. We can have toughness but often have to sacrifice some edge holding to do it, the inverse being greater abrasion resistance and edge holding but less toughness."

Ask The Tough Questions

Ultimately, as knife buyers/users, you must discuss with the maker your expectations for the performance of the knives you order, the intended use and the level of care you are willing to expend to maintain them. Ask makers hard questions about their heat-treating controls. Find out what steels they are comfortable using and do not get hung up on stainless vs. carbon. Find out how they test their blades before they offer them to the public. It is a great source of endless debate, and knife enthusiasts never tire of talking about it!

Author's note: I would like to thank Kevin Cashen, R.J. Martin, Warren Osborne and Scott Devanna for their valuable thoughts and information used in the story.

For the contact information for the knives and knifemakers in the story, see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 99.

BLADE

BOOTH #20015
in Las Vegas SHOT Show



You will know the new truth in the next.....
"SILVER STEEL"

www.kanetsune.com

KITASHO COMPANY LTD.
5-1-11, Sakae-machi, Seki City, Gifu Pref.,
JAPAN 501-3253 info@kt-kitasho.co.jp





According to American Primitive Knives 1770-1870, this bowie is "of both dramatic design and extraordinary craftsmanship. Unlike any other blade I have ever seen, this one thickens toward the point—in other words, it was deliberately made to be slightly blade heavy." Blade length: 9.62 inches. Overall length: 13.75 inches. (photo from American Primitive Knives 1770-1870, by Gordon Minnis



By Ed Fowler
BLADE® field editor

3 Favorite Knife Books

*The author shares a trio of works that helped
spark his voyage into the world of knives*

These are three of the author's favorite knife books. (Fowler photo)



I do not believe that I am the first to shake my head as many in the world of knives flock to achieve the newest steel, or pay homage to the hottest maker and the most beautiful art knife ever. While I consider myself a newcomer to the world of knives, I still wonder what the purpose of much of the new stuff is and question the great attraction to the new models.

One of my heroes, Gen. George Patton, once made a statement that I read in the 1960s and still replays in my mind on a regular basis. While I do not have the exact quote, I will have to recite it as to the best of my recollection: "When the word spread that Samson had whipped the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass, the demand for this new and superior weapon was so great that no donkey for hundreds of miles dare bray, for when located his life would be sacrificed to supply armies with this new and glorious weapon."

As I look through the pages of recent books about knives, most of the photos are of "safe queens" that will never see a piece of rope, open a package, cut bailing twine, or know a good hunt or work of any kind. They are sought after for their beauty and, to many, they are attractive and command a significant portion of the custom knife market. I do not mean to degrade them, for any knife that is loved or used in the world of knives is a valuable asset to our community.

I welcome the fantasy knives also for, like all loves of man, the dream is probably much more significant than the reality. If a knife implies *cut* even in the wildest extreme, the true patriot in the world of knives will respect her place in our community. As knife enthusiasts, our personal

preferences are not at issue in this discussion. In the world of knives we have our honest, devoted, hardworking partners in life, mothers and grandmothers, beauty contestants and ladies of the night, as does any civilization.

I have been a fan of lady knife for as long as I can remember. I have studied knives and the materials that they are made of in my venue extensively, and continue to learn new and wondrous attributes of the knife in honest service to man on a regular basis. My dreams were established through literature—Excalibur, Tarzan and the Iron Mistress—in about that order. The knowledge to bring these dreams to life did not come from new factory produced knives, new steels, new designs or what was in fashion during my lifetime; such knives feed the dreams of others.

The makers who have influenced me greatly are those who made knives during the times when the knife was man's most essential tool and a critical aspect of his survival. Most of these knives were made long before I was born. I have been very lucky, for when I was ready to see and hear their message, the knives of great historical makers have come to me. The John Andrew Clinton knife, which most probably was made by Michael Price's father, the William Scagel fish knife, the fighter by Rudy Ruana and the Huber bowie, all of which I have written about in the past in "Knife Talk," are prime examples. As these knives came to me I was able to hold, study and hear the message they carried.

Still, there are many thousands of knives that I will never be able to hold, for the best were either used until they were

no more or are in private collections or museums that I probably will never visit. As knife enthusiasts, we are all lucky to be able to view many extraordinary knives through some special timeless books and the eyes of their authors who felt a need to preserve the knowledge through the knives that interested them.

Up Anchor

My first voyage was guided by Harold Peterson, author of *American Knives*, which was advertised as "The First History and Collector's Guide" to knives. Printed in 1957, the book discusses the knives of steel and their history that accompanied man during the past 1,000 years on America's frontiers. Through his eyes and thoughts I read about and saw my first Huber knife, my first Ames rifleman's knife, and saw a photo of a young Bill Moran forging a blade.

Another of my favorites is *American Primitive Knives 1770-1870*, by Gordon Minnis (1983). To borrow his words and add mine, Gordon is a dedicated student of one narrow realm of knives made in America. Called *primitive knives*, they did their job at a time when the common man needed a knife, or made his own or visited a blacksmith and traded for one.

Some disregard these primitive knives as they have no empirical documentation recording those who made them and when. A lack of official documentation does not concern me; many of the men who fought in the Civil War had no birth certificates but, like their knives that had no factory names or patent dates, they were there.

Dating these knives today is not an exact science. It is an art that requires different skills than searching records in the patent office. Students of primitive knives will always make some errors, but the lack of official documentation should not rob knife enthusiasts of the chance to admire and learn from honest handmade knives of history. Frontier blacksmiths, gunsmiths and anyone who wanted could work with steel. The farm smithy and village blacksmith shop were the 18th-century equivalent of the 21st-century computer to the youth and industry of today. Knives made out of necessity are a significant part of the heritage of the world of knives.

There are those empirical types who cannot see the simple beauty and honesty of a well-made knife—or any old undocumented knife for that matter—that was made out of need using any materials that were available to do a job that most men alive today have never considered.

If you wish to explore with other authors, the bibliography in Gordon's book has some outstanding references.

Last on my favorite list is *The Knife in Homespun America* by Madison Grant (1984). He is another great author who chose to write about knives that were, for

NO DULL KNIVES • NO UNINSPIRED TOOLS • VALUE ALWAYS

Gotta have it.

ZillaTool™

Meet the monster tool.

Yes, ya gotta have a Zilla-Tool™. Locking spring-loaded pliers, wire cutter, combo serrated knife, screwdriver with two hex bits, clip. Get all the details on our web site.

The latest inspired design from I.D. Works™ also includes a nylon sheath and the CRKT Limited Lifetime Warranty. **\$39.99 MSRP**

i.D. Works™
INSPIRED DESIGN WORKS
www.crkt.com
Toll free 1-800-891-3100



knife talk



The author said his father found this old dagger, liked it and beaded a sheath for it in the 1950s, doing the beading simply because he liked the old, unsigned piece. "I have no idea how old the knife is or who made it," the author stated, "but her charms caught my father's fancy and he devoted the time to compliment the original owner." (Fowler photo)

the most part, made in America from 1750 to 1875, a time when the machine began to replace the individual maker.

As with any work about the art of man and his tools, fixing absolute dates, times and places for undocumented artifacts is subject to error. As Mr. Grant states in the preface to his work, "All readers have the privilege as well as the obligation to reach personal conclusions where dissent appears to be equitable."

A journey through the pages of Mr. Grant's book can be very rewarding to any student who can enjoy a history of a craft where dates do not really matter. There is one special knife noted in this book that I hope to be able to obtain permission to write about in the near future, as well as many other knives that are highly interesting to me.

Every knife in the three books was made, used and cherished by folks who came before us. The authors and others have provided me

with a treasure of information and continue to do so as I am able to understand the messages that await my understanding.

I am extremely grateful that these and other authors took the time to share their thoughts with us, for without them and the knives of history, the world of knives would be an extremely shallow pond.

Yours truly,

Ed Fowler

Author's note: On page 47 of my story "Always Encourage the New Knifemaker" in the December BLADE®, the address for Arthur Dean is listed incorrectly. His correct address: Dept. BL3, 2101 So. State St. No. 26, Ykiah, CA 95482.

BLADE

A MUST for Bladesmithing

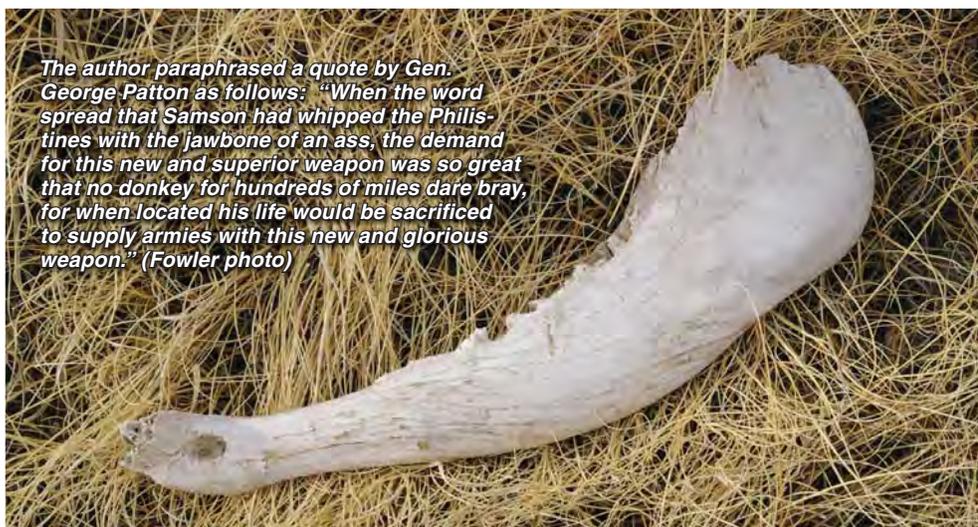
Quick and Efficient

Reaches 2350 Degrees

Many Models to Choose From

Fire Your Forge Today!
Call for Free Catalog
800-446-6498

NC Tool Co. Inc.
6133 Hunt Road
Pleasant Garden, NC 27313
336/674-5654 • Web site: www.nctoolco.com



The author paraphrased a quote by Gen. George Patton as follows: "When the word spread that Samson had whipped the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass, the demand for this new and superior weapon was so great that no donkey for hundreds of miles dare bray, for when located his life would be sacrificed to supply armies with this new and glorious weapon." (Fowler photo)

SPECIAL SHOT SHOW OFFER SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND SAVE 66%



Blade magazine is the world's #1 knife publication, covering all aspects of the industry—knifemaking, how-to's, collecting, legislation/knife rights and much more. Inside each issue, you'll find:

- coverage of the hottest and most collectible handmade knives and their value
- complete listings of the industry's most important shows and events
- collector tips from the experts
- profiles of the hottest knifemakers and knife companies
- and so much more!

GET A FULL YEAR OF **BLADE**

FOR JUST
\$ 19.98!
(THAT'S 12 ISSUES)

Or call 877-485-6426 (outside the U.S. and Canada, call 386-246-3419) — Mention Offer Code J8AHA1.

Or mail orders to Subscription Processing,
P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast FL 32142-0235

In Canada, add \$17 (includes GST/HST). Outside the U.S. and Canada, add \$28. Outside the U.S., remit payment in U.S. funds with order. Please allow 4-6 weeks for first-issue delivery. Annual newsstand rate \$59.88. Published monthly.



2008 BLADE SHOW

May 30 – June 1, 2008
In Atlanta's Cobb Galleria Centre

SHOW OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

Friday, May 30: 2pm - 7pm Saturday, May 31: 9am - 6pm
Sunday, June 1: 9am - 4pm

Show Highlights

- American Bladesmith Society Annual Convention
- Special Knifemakers Guild Section
- FREE "Super Seminars"
- Blade Magazine's 2008 Knives of the Year™ and Handmade Awards™
- 2008 BLADE Magazine Cutlery Industry Hall-of-Fame Inductions
- The Nation's Top Collections
- Over 600 Knifemaker and Antique Tables and Manufacturers' Booths
- All Major Knifemaking Suppliers

You could WIN A PRIZE
like this one donated by
SAR KNIVES



For more information on SAR Knives see
"Where to Get Em."

2008 Hotel Reservations

Renaissance Waverly Hotel

Phone: **(770) 953-4500**

Mention the Blade Show for
Special Rate

Book early as rooms do sell out!

for additional information contact
2008 BLADE SHOW

700 East State Street
Iola, WI 54990-0001
(877) 746-9757

Fax: (715) 445-4087

E-mail: mary.lutz@fwpubs.com

FOR UPDATED INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO:

<http://www.bladeshow.com>

8.3" Microtech Ultratec CF \$380

8.6" Drop Point or Tanto Point Gerber Military \$169

8" Open Plain or Serrated Double Action Lone Wolf Lobo Auto \$199

7" Open Lone Wolf Double Duty \$185

Cocobolo Double Duty \$195

9.25" Paragon Cobra Auto \$159

8" Open Pro-Tech Tactical SWAT \$185

9.25" Open Protech 921 Godfather Auto \$215

10.6" Open Pro-Tech Walter Brend Auto \$250

6.6" Pro-Tech Brend 2 Tuxedo \$220

7.3" Open Double Action: Manual or Auto Open S&W S.W.A.T. \$65 2/\$119

7.75" S&W Auto \$45 / 2 \$85

6" S&W 6" Auto \$42 / 2 \$80

8.1" Open CRKT Anubis Auto \$80

9.25" Front Open Microtech HALO 2 DLC \$429

7.5" Microtech Troodon S/E \$389

8" Black Blade + \$10 SOG Tactical Auto \$109

7.6" Open Lone Wolf Diablo \$210

8.5" Mini-Rukus Auto \$235

7.4" Blk Blade + \$5 Mini-Reflex Auto 2550 \$165

8.46" Blk Blade + \$5 Benchmade AFO 9050S \$209

7.7" Benchmade 9130 Auto \$209

7.1" Mel Pardue Auto 3550SBT \$170

8.19" Drop Point or Tanto Point H&K Axis Auto \$215

7.75" Open Plain or Serrated Double Action Auto Boker PLUS \$75 2/\$145

8.25" CRKT Pharaoh Auto \$80

5.75" Open Hubertus Stag Classic \$135

Piranha Excalibur Auto \$389

Colors: Black, Red, Blue, Purple
7.9" Front Open

Double Edge, Single Edge or Tanto Point
Blk Blade + \$10

7.4" Colors: Black, Red, Blue, Green, Purple Piranha Pocket Auto \$119

6.6" Piranha Mini-Guard Auto \$129

7.7" Blk Blade + \$10 Piranha Bodyguard Auto \$129

M-724 Military Rescue Knife
W/Blk Blades \$63 2/\$119

Orange Handle \$50 2/\$95
Randall King

Swift Striker 1 9.2" Auto \$150
Swift Striker 2 7.2" Auto \$145

4.9" Open Randall King Mini Auto \$119

7.8" Open Boker Tactical Auto \$109 2/\$209

7.5" Tanto or Drop Pt Boker Reality Auto \$79 2/\$150

7.5" Open KALS 74 Auto \$38 2/\$69

11" Overall Cryogenic Heat Treated 440-C Rc 58 11.75" Overall

ROTON USA TALON DAGGER \$199 "Black As The Ace Of Spades"

ROTON USA KODIAK M-7BLK \$209

MON-SAT 8:AM 7:PM MST
Color Pix & Info \$2 To Address
"Reasonable prices & fast service since 1984...
...We're ready when you are"
Super Market For Knives
Thousands in Stock
www.knifemart.com

UPS Shipping \$10+ \$2 ea Addn'l Knife. CC/MO to:
KNIFE MART
596 W. 300 S.
HEYBURN, ID 83336



BLADE SHOWS

KNIVES WANTED



- IMMEDIATE PAYMENT FOR KNIVES
- NO COLLECTION TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL
- CUSTOM / ANTIQUE / COMMEMORATIVES
- A FAIR AND REPUTABLE DEALER FOR OVER 25 YEARS

BLUE RIDGE KNIVES 

166 ADWOLFE RD. • DEPT BL • MARION, VA 24354
PHONE 276-783-6143 • FAX 276-783-9298
WWW.BLUERIDGEKNIVES.NET

Randall Made Knives



**P.O. Box 1988
Orlando, Florida 32802**

WRITE FOR 40-PAGE FULL COLOR CATALOG - PRICE \$2.00
INTL. MAILING - CATALOG US \$6.00 <http://www.randallknives.com>



LOVELESS KNIVES

- Buy - Sell - Trade -

706-896-2292 24 Hrs.

Call or Write:
J.W. Denton
102 N. Main St., Box 429
Hiawassee, GA
30546-0429 FAX 706-896-1212 • E-mail: jwdenton@alltel.net

Associate Member
Knifemakers Guild




Dick Faust
CUSTOM KNIVES

624 Kings Highway North
Rochester, NY 14617
585-544-1948

HEAVY DUTY HUNTER

dickfaustknives@mac.com www.knifeshows.com/faust

"Knife Making Sanding Belts"

LOWEST PRICES

Top Quality Cloth Belts A/O

Size	Any grit
1" x 30"	.70¢ ea.
1" x 42"	.70¢ ea.
2" x 48"	\$1.15 ea.
2" x 60"	\$1.40 ea.
2" x 72"	\$1.70 ea.
4" x 36"	\$1.20 ea.
6" x 48"	\$2.90 ea.

Special Prices

9" x 11"
Sil Carbide
Wet & Dry
180-2500g.
\$21.00
/100

Special

1" x 42"
Blue Zirconia Belts
120, 100, 80 or 60
grit
\$1.00 ea.

* Belts (any-size) sheets, discs, rolls, etc.
Available in A/O - sil-carbide, Zirconia,
Cork, Scotch-brite material

G.L. Pearce Abrasive Co.

(Abrasive specialist)

12771 Rt. 536

Punxsutawney, PA 15767

No Catalogs Available At This Time

814-938-2379 for info

800-938-0021 purchases only

VISA, MasterCard, C.O.D.

shipping & handling \$8.95



What do Chris Deringer (Canada)... Thomas Gerner (Australia) ... Heather & Kevin Harvey (South Africa)... Jim Jackson (England) ... Jean-Paul Thevenot (France) *have in common?*

They and many other great ABS master smiths studied at the *W. F. Moran School of Bladesmithing* in Washington, Arkansas!!

YOU can follow in their footsteps.....

Contact: Mr. Scotty Hayes

ABS School Director • Texarkana College

2400 North Robison Road • Texarkana, TX 75501

903-838-4541 • shayes@texarkanacollege.edu

AMERICAN BLADESMITH SOCIETY

Japanese Knife Direct.com

Fine Japanese Knives direct from Japan
With 750 years of sword-making history and tradition, we offer the finest brand knives direct from Seki, Japan at the great saving prices.
HATTORI, HIRO, SEKI-CUT, MCUSTA, SAJI & MORE

www.JapaneseKnifeDirect.com

The Original Razel

Extreme Utility
in Your Pocket

3/16" thick
S30V, 154CM,
CPM 154CM
Kydex or Leather

423-715-1125 or 423-715-7391
www.Grahamknives.com

Trout Measure of Quality
Custom Made Knives

George Trout
P.O. Box 13 Cuba Ohio 45114
Ph. 937-382-2331
gandjtrout@msn.com

Making A D-Guard Bowie

DVD \$45 + 5 S&H

With Harvey Dean
ABS Mastersmith

CENTER CROSS INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS

(817)281-5424
5325 TOPPER DR, NRH TX 76180
WWW.KNIFEMAKINGVIDEOS.COM

O'Machearley
Custom Knives & Sheaths
Since 1999

"The Duke"

Michael O'Machearley
129 Lawnview Dr.,
Wilmington, OH 45117
(937)728-2818

www.omachearleycustomknives.com

BARK RIVER KNIFE & TOOL
Designed for a lifetime



Queen Cutlery Company

BROWNING

Schattsmorden
• Cutlery Co.

Scagel M.S.A. Co.

Northwoods

ONTARIO knife COMPANY

DLT Trading Company
 P.O. Box 674
 Menominee, MI 49858
www.dlstradingcompany.com
 Call Toll Free
877-622-2397

THE VERY BEST OF THE VERY BEST

Loveless - Warenski - Ence - Friedly - Blanchard - Carter -
 Boguszewski - Koji Hara - Masao T - Likarich - Fuegen
 Hibben - Rigney - Stan Fugisaka - Cordova - and many more
 ... From the collection of Dave Nittinger • California Mortgage Broker

Now at www.nittingerknives.com • dnknives@aol.com • 818-883-8655 x14

www.KnivesShipFree.com

Everything Ships FREE!



Beautiful Custom Knives
 Quality Factory Knives
 Sharpening Accessories

\$5 off orders over \$100 for Blade Magazine Readers
 Just enter "blademag" as your Coupon Code during Checkout
www.KnivesShipFree.com (918) 440-1311

Finest Quality Superior Service

Popular Blade Material
 440C, 440V, ATS-34, 154 CM,
 BG-42, 52100, D-2, 0-1, A-2, 1084,
 15N20, Nickel 200, Damascus.

Guard Bolster & Liners
 304, 416, 410, Nickel Silver, Titanium,
 Brass, Copper and Aluminum.

Handle Material
 Colored G-10, Carbon Fiber, Colored
 Phenolics, Natural Woods,
 Dymondwood®, Horn, Bone and
 Reconstructed Stone.

Pocket Knife Supplies
 Steel Balls, Washers, Thumbbobs, 6
 Splines and Hex Screws, Clips, Mokume,
 Mosaic Bolsters and Pivot Pins.

Machinery
 Heat Treat Supplies, Tools, Handle Bolts,
 Polishing Supplies, Engraving Supplies,
 Abrasive Belts, Blades, Books & Videos.

Catalogs \$5.00 U.S.A.
 * \$8.00 outside U.S.A.

**SHEFFIELD KNIFEMAKERS
 SUPPLY INC.**
 P.O. Box 741107, Orange City, FL 32774-1107
 Phone: 386-775-6453 • Fax: 386-774-5754
 Web: <http://www.sheffieldsupply.com>
 E-mail: sheffsup@totcon.com

Waterjet Cutting Service
Maximize Material Yield
Titanium and Blade Steel
In Stock

Call For A Quote
www.halperntitanium.com
Introductory Offer For 10 Sets

Ph: 888-283-8627 • Fax: 413-289-2372
 Email: info@halperntitanium.com

 **HALPERN TITANIUM, INC.** 
 P.O. Box 214 • Three Rivers, MA 01080

*The Israeli
 combat
 knife*



DU STAR

www.dustar-knife.com
shayaziz@zahav.net.il

WANTED:
HARVEY McBURNETTE
FOLDERS
QUICK PAYMENT

Call, send pictures/knives:
**KNIFEMASTERS CUSTOM
 KNIVES (EST. 1963)**
 P.O. Box 208, Westport,
 CT, 06881 USA
 203-226-5211
 Fax: 203-226-5312

Dustar Israeli Combat Knives
William Henry Knives
Benchmade Knives
Micro-Tech Knives
Tops Knives
Lone Wolf Knives

J.T.'S Knife Shop
 264 East Main Street
 Port Jervis, NY 12771
 Toll Free 877-364-9114
www.jtknives.com

BLACKSMITHS DEPOT

All your Metalworking Needs!



Induction Forge!



Kayne and Son
100 Daniel Ridge Rd
Candler, NC 28715
(828) 667-8868

www.blacksmithsdepot.com

FOR DEALERS ONLY! FOR DEALERS ONLY! FOR DEALERS ONLY!



National

Knife Distributors, Inc.



BUCK
KNIVES



kershaw
KNIVES

SCHRADE



KA-BAR

COLUMBIA RIVER KNIFE



BUKER **MAGNUM**
YOUR KNIVES MADE IN SOLINGEN

TAYLOR BRANDS LLC

Smith & Wesson

VICTORINOX

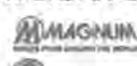
Frost Cutlery

COLD STEEL
World's Strongest, Sharpest Knives

AUTOMATIC & AUTOMATIC CONVERSIONS



BUCK
KNIVES



Smith & Wesson

SCHRADE

BUKER
YOUR KNIVES MADE IN SOLINGEN

Call Us Toll Free!

800-447-4342

- Brand Names
- Courteous Operators
- Dependable Sales Staff
- Quick Service

120 W. Trade St. Forest City, NC 28043 Ph. 828-245-4321 - Fax 828-245-5121

E-mail us: nkdi@nkdi.com or Visit our website: www.nkdi.com



DAVID LANG
CUSTOM KNIVES



6153 Cumulus Circle, Kearns, Utah 84118
E-mail: dknifeguy@msn.com
Phone: 801.968.4265
Cell: 801.809.1241

17th Annual Greater Shenandoah Valley Knife Show

Fri.-Sun. April 4, 5, & 6, 2008

Rockingham Co. Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA
For Show & Booth Info Contact

Jim Marshall

434-263-6393 • clubmail@svkc.org

www.svkc.org

Henry Torres
Journeyman Bladesmith



2329 Moody Ave.
Clovis, CA 93619
559-297-5279
www.htknives.com
henry@htknives.com

Rocking K. Knives



Antiqued
Star Concho Sheath
By
Jan Kiley

3" ATS34
Hunter

1325 Florida Lane
Chino Valley, AZ 86323
PH: 928-636-2076

Jerry E. Johnson
Knifemaker



P.O. Box 491
Spring City, Utah 84662
(435) 462-3688 • (435) 851-3604
Custom designs Considered

FREE KNIFE CATALOG

A complete catalog of knives and swords, including Damascus knives, collectors knives, tactical and work knives, and much more.



MAGNUM BOKER
BAUMWERK · SOLINGEN

SPRING / SUMMER CATALOG 2007

To request a free catalog of knives, either call (toll-free) 1-800-835-6433 ext. 18, write to Boker USA, Inc., 1550 Balsam Street, Lakewood, CO 80214-5917, or visit our website at www.bokerusa.com.

MOONBLADES CUSTOM KNIVES

**BEST BOWIE KNIFE
2007 KNIFE EXPO**

MIKE MOONEY
480.987.3576 • Cell 480.244.7768
19432 E. Cloud Road • Queen Creek, AZ 85242
www.moonblades.com • mike@moonblades.com

ITAC

Integral Tacticals
hand forged, clay tempered
beautiful hamons

8778-KNIVES
Store located at 403 E 55th St., NYC
www.beautifulblades.com

MASTERSMITHS

JAPANESE SWORD REPAIRS

AND HANDLE WRAPPING
BY THE WORLD'S #1
SWORD RESTORATION SERVICE.

FRED LOHMAN CO.
3405 N.E. Broadway
Portland, OR 97232 USA
Tel: (503) 282-4567
E-mail: Lohman@katana4u.com
www.JAPANESE-SWORDS.com

Edmund Davidson

**The Integral-
The Ultimate
Hand Tool**

Now Offering
CPM 154 - CM

Loveless
Design
Straight
Hunter

3345 Virginia Ave.
Goshen, VA 24439
Phone: 540-997-5651
www.edmunddavidson.com

Don't miss the next

BLADE Magazine

APR. '08	DEC. 19, 2007
MAY. '08	JAN. 16, 2008
JUN. '08	FEB. 20, 2008
JUL. '08	MAR. 19, 2008
AUG. '08	APR. 23, 2008
SEP. '08	MAY 21, 2008
OCT. '08	JUN. 18, 2008
NOV. '08	JUL. 23, 2008

**ORDER YOUR
ADVERTISING TODAY!**

700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001
1-800-272-5233
FAX (715) 445-4087

Missy Beyer, Advertising Sales
x642, missy.beyer@fwpubs.com

Bruce Wolberg, Advertising Sales
x403, bruce.wolberg@fwpubs.com

BLADES · KNIVES · TOMAHAWKS

100+ Blades Styles...Same Day Shipping!

Genuine Damascus Knife Blades

5" Clip Point Bowie

No. 5435-101-500 **\$29.75** Ea.

Send \$4.00 Today for 123 pg. Color Catalog and FREE Subscription to a Bi-Monthly Sales Flyer.

Crazy Crow 1-800-786-6210
www.crazycrow.com

P.O. Box 847 D-32 Pittsboro, TX 75076
Dealer Inquiries Invited

Truncali Custom Knives

www.truncaliknives.com

Hunting Knives Lock Back Folders
Locking Liner Folders Automatic Folders

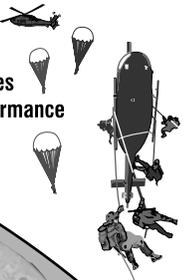
Pete Truncali (214) 763-7127
ptiii@truncaliknives.com
Garland, Texas



www.topsknives.com

TOPS KNIVES

- Real Men
- Real Steel
- Real Stories
- Real Performance



*** ACTION IS A WORD WE UNDERSTAND ***



Longhorn Bowie
STEEL EAGLE 111A



DART

ARMEGEDDON



Bill Hill



COMBAT ALLEY



B.E.S.T.

MARINE HEAT



STORM RIDER

PASAYTEN



LARRY KEEN



SHOWDOWN DELTA



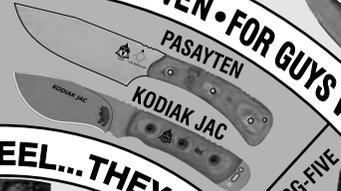
PRESAS LEGACY

WORTAC 5



URBAN DEFENDER

SUDDEN IMPACT



KODIAK JAC

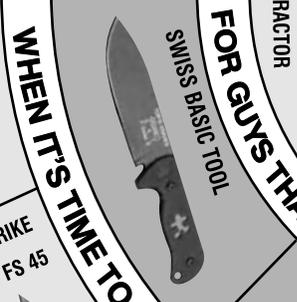
SG-FIVE



RECON XLII



FIRE STRIKE
FS 46 FS 45



MINI EXTRACTOR

SWISS BASIC TOOL



SPECIAL OPS

TRUST TOPS

SAW

SAW



WHISPER



CALIF. COBRA

RANGER'S EDGE



BOOTLEGGER



MAK 7

SCREAMING EAGLE



Dan McLaughlin

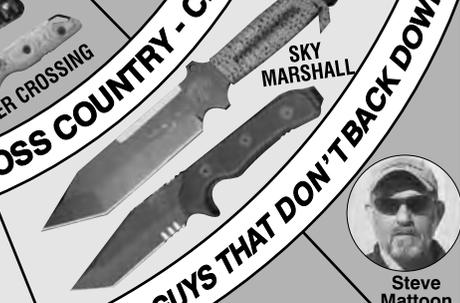


UTE XL



FIRE HAWKE

BORDER CROSSING



SKY MARSHALL



Steve Mattoon



TRACKER SCOUT

TOM BROWN TRACKER



HAWK RECOY



JOINT SPEC OPS

CQT=CLOSE QUARTERS TACTICAL

CQT 711

CQT 303

CQT GENT-X



TACTICAL-OPS USA
 P. O. Box 2544
 Idaho Falls, ID 83403
 Phone:(208) 542-0113
 FAX: 552-2945
 www.topsknives.com

CALL FOR A COLOR CATALOG...
 DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

...BORN IN THE USA...

BLADE

THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION

MAGAZINE CLASSIFIED
HEADINGS AVAILABLE

CLASSIFIED ADS

Only 60¢ per word

Minimum charge is \$9.00 per ad.

800-942-0673

CLASSIFIED FREQUENCY DISCOUNT

(Consecutive Issues Only Of The Same Ad.)

1-2 Issues No Discount; 3-6 Issues 15%; 7-12 Issues 20%

ANTIQUARY FACTORY KNIVES

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6010 American Knife Co. | 6135 Grohmann |
| 6020 Baldwin Cutlery Co. | 6140 Heimerdinger Cutlery Co. |
| 6025 Belknap Hardware Co. | 6150 Henry Sears 1865 |
| 6030 Bertram (C) Cutlery Co. | 6175 John Pringle, Belknap |
| 6035 Boker Germany | 6200 Klaas, Robert |
| 6040 Boker USA | 6210 Lackawanna Cutlery Co. |
| 6045 Bruckman (E) Cutlery | 6225 Marble Arms & Manf Co. |
| 6050 Bruckmann, Solingen | 6235 Napanoch Knife Co. |
| 6055 Burkinshaw Knife Co. | 6254 Ontario Knife Co. |
| 6060 Camillus | 6262 Pal Cutlery Co. |
| 6065 Canton Cutlery Co. | 6282 Russell Barlows |
| 6070 Case Brothers | 6300 Utica |
| 6075 Cattaraugus | 6310 Wade & Butcher |
| 6080 Central City Knife Co. | 6325 Misc. Antique Factory Knives |
| 6090 Christy Knife Co. | FACTORY BRANDS |
| 6095 Colonial Cutlery Co. | 6340 Al Mar |
| 6100 Cripple Creek, USA | 6380 Barreaux Machetes Inc. |
| 6105 Diamond Edge | 6390 Bear MGC |
| 6110 Eagle Pocket Knife Co. | 6398 Benchmark |
| 6120 Eye Brand Knives | 6421 Blue Mountain Turquoise |
| 6125 George Wostenholm | 6424 Boker |
| 6130 Gerber Legendary Blade | 6448 Buck |

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 6466 Bulldog | 7290 Diving |
| 6476 C.A.S. Iberia Inc | 7322 Fighters |
| 6480 Camillus | 7334 Folding |
| 6486 Case | 7338 Folding (Multi-Blade) |
| 6492 Case Classics | 7344 Fruit |
| 6510 Cold Steel | 7374 Hunting (Folders) |
| 6523 Columbia River Knife & Tool | 7376 Hunting (Straight) |
| 6530 Cripple Creek | 7420 Machetes |
| 6580 Fairbairn-Sykes | 7450 Navy |
| 6586 Fight'n Rooster | 7460 Office |
| 6614 Gerber | 7466 One-Hand |
| 6650 Henckels | 7526 Razors |
| 6660 IBCA/ABCA | 7532 Rifleman's |
| 6700 Ka-Bar | 7540 Scout |
| 6766 Marble's | 7546 Senator |
| 6842 Puma | 7576 Sog (Type) |
| 6860 Queen | 7602 Swords |
| 6876 Remington | 7622 Tool/Pliers |
| 6940 Smith & Wesson | 7628 Toothpick |
| 6944 Sog Specialty | 7640 Trench |
| 6952 Spyderco | 7650 Utility |
| 7000 Tops | 7660 Wharncliffe |
| 7040 Valley Forge | 7666 Whittler |
| 7046 Victorinox | 7674 Misc. Knife Types/Patterns |
| 7084 Winchester | HANDMADES |
| 7090 Misc. Factory Brands | 7718 Bartrug (Hugh) |
| KNIFE TYPES / PATTERNS | 7778 Bose (Tony) |
| 7100 Advertising | 7785 Boye (David) |
| 7126 Baseball Bat | 7792 Burke (Dan) |
| 7132 Bayonets | 7800 Centofante (Frank) |
| 7138 Bolos | 7818 Cooper (John Nelson) |
| 7144 Boot | 7825 Corbit (Jerry) |
| 7152 Bowies | 7888 Davis (Terry) |
| 7158 Bowies (Antique) | 7928 Emerson (Ernest) |
| 7180 Camp | 7958 Fisk (Jerry) |
| 7232 Commemoratives / Limited Editions | 7980 Fowler (Ed) |
| | 8020 Gilbreath (Randall) |

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 8030 Goddard (Wayne) | 9710 Catalogs / Mail Order Lists |
| 8128 Holder (D') | 9712 Cigar Cutters |
| 8188 Hudson (Robbin) | 9715 Collectible Advertisements |
| 8348 Lile (Jimmy) | 9720 Collections |
| 8400 Loveless (Bob) | 9730 Dealers Wanted |
| 8450 Moran (Bill) | 9735 Design Services |
| 8708 Randall | 9738 Distr Wanted |
| 8788 Ruana (Rudy) | 9740 Engraving |
| 8808 Scagel (William) | 9750 Factory Reps Wanted |
| 8880 Shadley (Eugene) | 9770 Handle Materials |
| 8900 Smith (J.D.) | 9780 Heat Treating |
| 8968 Terzuola (Robert) | 9790 Knife Boxes / Containers |
| 9000 Tighe (Brian) | 9800 Knife Cases / Displays |
| 9100 Walker (Michael) | 9810 Knife Clubs / Societies |
| 9150 Warenski (Buster) | 9825 Knife Rolls |
| 9170 Wile (Peter) | 9840 Knifemaking Equipment |
| 9180 Yellowhorse (David) | 9850 Knifemaking Instruction |
| 9224 Miscellaneous Handmade | 9875 Knifemaking Supplies |
| MILITARY | 9890 Knife Shops |
| 9310 Civil War | 9895 Knife Shows |
| 9365 Korean | 9900 Leather / Sheaths |
| 9405 Vietnam | 9915 Manufacturers Wanted |
| 9432 WWI | 9924 Memorabilia (Knife) |
| 9445 WWII - German | 9935 Multiple Brands For Sale |
| 9450 WWII - Japanese | 9936 Multiple Brands Wanted |
| 9465 WWII - USA | 9938 Oils & Lubricants |
| 9470 WWII - Miscellaneous | 9940 Original Catalogs |
| 9475 Miscellaneous Military | 9945 Repair (Knife) |
| MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS / SERVICES | 9965 Sales / Auctions |
| 9680 Agency Wanted | 9975 Scrimshaw |
| 9685 Appraisal Services | 9980 Services, Miscellaneous |
| 9690 Auction Services | 9985 Sharpening / Sharpeners |
| 9700 Books / Magazines / Videos | 9988 Show Cases |
| 9705 Buy / Sell / Trade | 9991 Steels |
| | 9993 Tobacco Products |
| | 9996 Miscellaneous Products |



BLADE LIST

6340

AL MAR

AL MAR Knives. Buy, sell, trade. 1 or 100. Stu Shaw 772-285-3755. Email: stushaw@comcast.net

6448

BUCK

BUCK KNIVES on consignment. To sell or for list of knives to buy, call Larry Oden. 765-472-2323 weekday eves or Sat. References available.

6486

CASE

OLDER CASE pocketknives for sale. XX, USA, 10 Dot and others. Clean outstanding knives with pretty handles. Please call or write. Charlie Mattox, PO Box 1565, Gallatin, TN 37066. Mobile phone: 615-419-5669. www.mattoxknife.com

WANTED: CASE pocketknives especially 10 Dot and older. Check with Charlie before you sell. Call or write. Charlie Mattox, PO Box 1565, Gallatin, TN 37066. Mobile phone 615-419-5669. http://www.mattoxknife.com

7100

ADVERTISING

BLADE SALE, your #1 source for brand name Knives, Swords and Kitchen cutlery at discount prices. We carry over 60 manufactures of knives. www.bladesale.com

SELL YOUR knives online- Balance Digital specializes in knife photography, web design, and website maintenance for knife makers and dealers. Call Rob today: 760-815-6131 or visit www.balancedigital.com.

8450

MORAN (BILL)

MORAN KNIVES bought, traded and sold by collector. Bob 415-768-4821.

8808

SCAGEL (WILLIAM)

SCAGEL KNIVES and axes wanted: Gordon White, PO Box 181, Cuthbert, GA 39840. 229-732-6982 anytime.

9224

MISCELLANEOUS HANDMADE

FRANCINE ETCHED Knives. Formerly David Boye Knives Gallery. Made by Todd Kopp from Boye Dendritic Steel & Boye Dendritic Cobalt ...Continuing the Tradition. Basics. Outdoor Knives. Kitchen Cutlery. Cutlery, Carving, & Table/Steak Sets. Blades Plain or Etched with Original Artwork. 1-800-557-1525. francine@francineetchings.com www.francineetchings.com

ONE OF a kind hand made rustic knives by Bob Rose. Most are just \$100. See them at http://tinyurl.com/54ma6 Call 610-273-1151. Email: medit8@meditationsociety.com

WANTED: SCAGEL, R.H. Ruana, Randall, Loveless, Morseth, Remington, and Marbles knives and axes. Any Heiser knife or axe sheaths. 229-732-6982, anytime. Gordon White, Box 181, Cuthbert, GA 39840.

9705

BUY, SELL, TRADE

ALPHA KNIFESTORE "Support Our Troops" APO/FPO Christmas Shipping www.mysharpknife.com FREE \$50 Drawing Every Month Boot Knives/Endura4/Leek

FOR SALE: Antlers (deer, elk, moose), buckskins, tanned furs, etc. Over 150,000 items. Complete Internet catalog (pictures). http://www.hideandfur.com

GOT PROTECTION? Keep yourself and your family safe! Complete selection of high quality products for personal and home protection. Affiliate program for Web site owners also offered. http://www.iceandprotected.com.

LEE'S CUTLERY knives for work, sport, pleasure & collecting. For a wide variety of knives, check out www.leescutlery.com

SELLING BUCK, Randall, Case, Custom, and more. Great selection. Call Gary 727-515-2479 or see us on the web: www.nelsoncustomknives.com

WANTED: ANY condition handmade knives; Randall, Scagel, Ruana, F.S. Richtig, Morseth, Bone, Cooper, Loveless, Moran, Lile, etc. Also military knives and pocketknives, watches. Send description and price to: Angelo Solino, 6 Wesley Court N, Huntington, NY 11743. 631-423-1729.

9710

CATALOGS/MAIL ORDER LISTS

COLLECTOR KNIVES- Queen, Schatt & Morgan, Ka-Bar, Remington and Case. Send \$2 for our catalog. S & S and Sons Cutlery, Po Box 501C Lomita, CA 90717 PH 310-326-3869 or www.snsandsonscutlery.com.

9780

HEAT TREATING

HEAT TREATING/ Tempering all steels. Bearclaw Knives, P.O. Box 1391, La Porte, TX 77572-1391. Call for prices 281-587-6080.

9790

KNIFE BOXES/ CONTAINERS

DISPLAY CASES: Oak, Walnut, wood, glass, standard or custom sizes. 28 page catalog. Send \$1. Woodland Products, 61292 CR 7, Elkhart, IN 46517.

9840

KNIFEMAKING EQUIPMENT

GRINDER PLANET 2"x72" knifegrinder plans for the no weld grinder sander. Easy, low cost build! No welding or machining required. 15 pages CAD, 27 page assembly manual, \$25. Get this and other knife making supplies from: Midwest Knifemakers Supply LLC. www.midwestknifemakers.com

TWO POWERFUL machines designed for grinding and polishing. 2 HP Dayton motor. Belts 2" x 72" \$600 ea. 941-627-9468

9850

KNIFEMAKING INSTRUCTION

NEW ENGLAND School of Metalwork conducts workshops throughout the year featuring blacksmithing, bladesmithing and pattern welding. Spacious, up to date facility. www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com or 888-753-7502.

9875 KNIFEMAKING SUPPLIES

ANTI-SCALE COATING protects steel up to 2300 F. during heat treating. Water based, easy to apply, easy to remove, cost effective. Available in pint and gallon containers. Contact Advanced Technical Products, 508 Northland Blvd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45240. Phone: 513-851-6858. E-mail: ATP_Supply@hotmail.com

BUY WHOLESALE "Cheyenne Bowie" knife blank. 440c Steel. Heavy construction. 13-1/4". Double hilt Mirror polished. \$24 VISA/MC EKnifeSupply 828-389-2575.

BUY WHOLESALE Classic "Patrick Henry" Bowie 440c steel. 14" overall brass guard Coffin style handle Semi Polished \$24. VISA/MC EKnifeSupply 828-389-2575.

BUY WHOLESALE S8 or S9 Drop Point and "Wyoming Skinner" 440c steel, heavy construction. 7-1/2" Mirror Polished \$12 each. VISA/MC EKnifeSupply 828-389-2575.

BUY WHOLESALE Drop Point (S23) or Clip Point (s21)Hidden tang 440c steel, sharp, heavy construction. 9-1/2" Mirror Polished \$11 each. VISA/MC EKnifeSupply 828-389-2575.

EVERYTHING FOR the knifemaker. Steel, handle material, hammers, tongs, forges, all kinds of tools. Contact: Uncle Al 870-642-7643 or e-mail: unclal2@alltel.net

STEEL STAMPS: Personalize knives with a Buckeye Stamp. Manufactured to fit your needs and made per your artwork with name, logo or design. Standard-letter name stamps also available. Buckeye Engraving 330-677-5685 www.steelhandstamps.com.

STEEL TANG Stamps: Mark your knives with your name, logo or design. Quality hand-cut hardened steel stamps made to your specifications. "If it's worth making, it's worth marking." Established 1898. Henry A. Evers, Corp. 72 Oxford St., Providence, RI 02905. 800-553-8377.

9890 KNIFE SHOPS

ALPHA KNIFESTORE We ship APO/FPO "2007 Military Mail Christmas Mailing Dates" at www.mysharpknife.com Tactical & Fighting Knives/Titanium/ZDP/Rukus/Osborne

CANADA'S ONLINE knife source is now www.SWORDS.CA. Great prices, in stock, ships now. Ph. 1-866-371-7973. www.SWORDS.CA.

KNIFESUPPLY.COM- ALL Major Brand Knives at Rock Bottom Prices! America's #1 Knife Supply. http://www.KnifeSupply.com

WWW.KNIFEMANIA.NET THE Knife Superstore! Cutlery, hunting and fishing knives, swords and MORE!

40% OFF MSRP on most items. Hart Knives is your wholesale to the public knife source. www.hartknives.com

9900 LEATHER/ SHEATHS

CUSTOM LEATHER Knife Sheaths in your design or mine. Write or call: Robert Schrap, 7024 W. Wells St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213. 414-771-6472 or knifesheaths@aol.com

9975 SCRIMSHAW

CUSTOM SCRIMSHAW by Juanita Rae Conover. Single or full color. Wildlife a specialty. Exceptional quality. Call for sample pictures and turn around information. PO Box 70442, Eugene, OR 97401, 541-747-1726 or juanitaraeconover@yahoo.com

9980 SERVICES, MISCELLANEOUS

SELL YOUR knives online- Balance Digital specializes in knife photography, web design, and website maintenance for knife makers and dealers. Call Rob today: 760-815-6131 or visit www.balancedigital.com.

9996 MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS

SELL YOUR knives online- Balance Digital specializes in knife photography, web design, and website maintenance for knife makers and dealers. Call Rob today: 760-815-6131 or visit www.balancedigital.com.

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

A	Du-Star Knife 80	Koval Knives & Supplies 52	Reno ABS Show 51
A.G. Russell Knives, Inc. 123	E	L	Rocking K Knives 81
Al Mar Knives 99	Edgecraft Corporation 46	Lambert, Kirby 110	Rummell, Hank 63
Alpha Knife Supply 31	F	Lang, David 81	S
American Bladesmith Society	Fallkniven 118	Lansky Sharpeners 54	Sheffield Knifemakers Supply
..... 79	Faust, Dick 78	Lightfoot Knives 70	Inc 80
Arkansas Custom Knife Show	Finer Points 32, 55, 93	Lohman Company 82	Shenandoah hValley Knife Coll
..... 37	Fowler, Ed 67	Lone Star Wholesale 68	..... 81
B	Frost Cutlery 67	Lone Wolf Knives 115	Sheperd Hills Walnut 2
Beckwith's Blades 110	G	M	Simonich Knives, LLC 56
Benchmark Knife Co. 14	G. L. Pearce Abrasive Co. 79	Magnum USA 82, 98	SK Knives 70
Blackhawk Products Group.. 16	Gary Levine Fine Knives 63	Mantis Knives, Inc. 11	Smith's Abrasives 121
Blade Art 47	Gateway Area Knife Club Show	Masecraft Supply 69	Smoky Mountain Knife Works
Bladegallery.com 65	..... 47	Master Cutlery 9, 26	Inc 53
Blade Show 2008 76	George Trout 79	Mastersmiths 82	SOG Specialty Knives Inc. ... 30
Blade Show West 2008 120	Gerstner & Sons 57	Maxpedition Hard-Use Gear 25	Southern California Blades... 64
Blue Ridge Knives 78, 112	Girafefbone.com 110	McDonald, Rich 68	Steel Addiction Custom Knives
Bob Dozier Knives 61	Glendo Corp. 49	Meyerco 27	..... 65
Bob Neal Custom Knives 37	Graham Knives 79	MM Customs 31	Strider Knives 46
Boker USA 29	Guild, Don 53	Moki Knife Company 8	T
Bond's House of Cutlery 62	H	Mooney, Mike 82	Taylor Cutlery 36
Bowie Corporation 80	Halpern Titanium 80	Moteng International Inc 23	Texas Knifemakers Supply ... 40
Bradley's Blades 63	Hanson, Don 110	Myknifedealer.com 111	Tighe, Brian 48
Britton, Tim 8	Hawkins Knife Making Supplies	N	Tool Logic 106
Buck Knives 3	..... 111	National Knife Distributors... 81	Tops 44, 83
Buckeye Engraving 62	Hayes, Wally 36	NC Tool Company 74	Tormach LLC 39
Burger Knives 95	J	New Graham Knives 44	Torres, Henry 81
Burr King Mfg Co. Inc. 133	Jantz Supply 15	Nittingner Knives/VenturaGr. 80	Tu-Grit 54
Busse Combat Knife Co. 41	Johnson, Jerry 81	Nordic Knives 112	True North Knives 5, 7, 51
C	JT's Knife Shop 80	Northern Knives 70	Truncali Custom Knives 82
C.A.S. Iberia 124	K	O	Twin Blades 56
Center Cross Video 79	Kayne Custom Hardware Inc.	O'Machearley Custom Knives	U
Chopra, Deepak 92	..... 81	..... 79	Underhill Jewelers 56
Chris Reeve Knives 22	Kellam Knives Worldwide Inc.	O'Hare Knives 68	Utica Cutlery 43
Circ Promotions-KP 75	..... 33	Only Fine Knives 119	V
Collectibles Insurance Agency	Kencrest/Hara/Mucsta.. 79, 114	P	Valiant Armory 70
..... 61	Kershaw Knives 17, 35	Paragon Industries 98	W
Columbia River Knife & Tool	Kitasho Company, Ltd 71	Paragon Sporting Goods... 111	William Henry Knives 5
..... 20, 21, 74, 121	Knife & Gun Finishing Supplies	Parkers' Knife Collector Service	Wright, Richard 58
Condor Tool & Knife, Inc. 20	..... 64	..... 56	Y
Crawford, Pat 95	Knife Center of the Internet .. 63	Plaza Cutlery 113	Yangjiang Sily Enterprise Co
Culpepper, Inc. 120	Knife Depot 111	R	..... 68
Custom Knife Company 80	Knife Mart 77	Rader, Michael 62	
D	Knife kits.com 105	Randall Made Knives 78	
Davidson, Edmund 82	Knives Plus 62	Reddick Enterprises 82	
Denton, J W 78	Knivesshipfree.com 80	Red Hill Corporation 99	
Diamondblade LLC 57			

The advertisers' index is provided as a reader service. Occasional last-minute changes may result in ads appearing on pages other than those listed here. The publisher assumes no liability for omissions or errors.

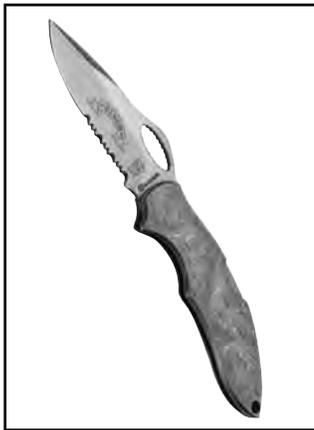


what's new

Get There In a Cinch With Boker Folder

Lightning-fast deployment is the calling card of Boker's Cinch Fastback Roper. A stainless steel handle and a partially serrated blade of AUS-8 stainless highlight the handy knife.

For more information contact Boker USA, attn: D. Weidner, Dept. BL3, 1550 Balsam St., Lakewood, CO 80214-5917 303.462.0662, info@bokerusa.com.



Whittler Salutes 35th KC Club Anniversary

Honoring the 35th anniversary of the Knife Collectors Club, A.G. Russell Knives introduces the limited-edition Cattaraugus Two-Blade Whittler. The 2 3/8-inch blades are 14-4CrMO stainless steel.

For more information contact A.G. Russell Knives, attn: D. Myers, Dept. BL3, 2900 S. 26 St., Rogers, AR 72758 800.255.9034 www.agrussell.com.



African Blackwood Beautiful on Handle

John White's impressive straight knife offering features a 7.5-inch ladder pattern damascus blade in 1084 with an African blackwood handle.

For more information contact John White, Dept. BL3, 3308 Regatta Dr., Niceville, FL 32578 850.729.9174.



Newton's Auto Offers Trick Opening Function

Ron Newton's Sea Tortoise "trick"-function interframe auto features antique tortoise shell inlays with gold foil backing, a mosaic damascus blade and Celtic knot engraving by the maker.

For more information contact Ron Newton, Dept. BL3, 223 Ridge Ln., London, AR 72847 479.293.3001 rnewton@cei.net.



JB1 Has Shroud Cutter, Oxygen Tank Wrench

The JB1, a military shroud cutter from Kershaw's Zero Tolerance knife line, features a 270-degree cutting notch as well as a built-in O2-oxygen tank wrench and nylon jump-rated sheath.

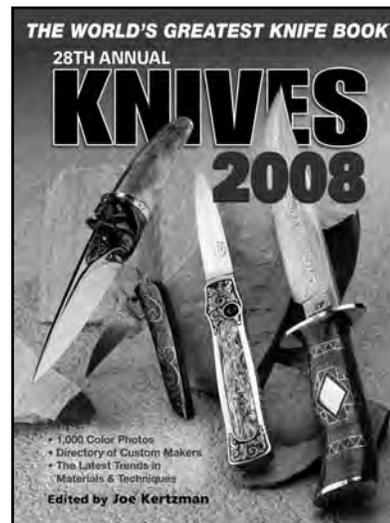
For more information contact Kershaw, attn: T. Welk, Dept. BL3, 18600 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062 503.682.1966, www.kershawknives.com.



Check Out The Knife Industry's Good Book

Long regarded as the knife industry's most complete publication, *Knives 2008* once again offers over 1,000 color photos and a comprehensive directory of custom makers.

For more details contact Krause Publications at 800.258.0929 or visit www.krausebooks.com.



Inky Makes a Mark For George Baartman

Inky is one of the latest offerings from George Baartman. Done in Devin Thomas damascus, the knife features a pearl handle with filework on the back.

For more information contact George Baartman, Dept. BL3, POB 116, Bela-Bela 0480, Limpopo, South Africa, 27.14.736.4036.



Graves Dagger Sports Pre-Ban Handle Ivory

Dan Graves' new dagger is done in his own 1095 and nickel damascus. The handle is pre-ban elephant ivory, and the pins are done in sterling silver.

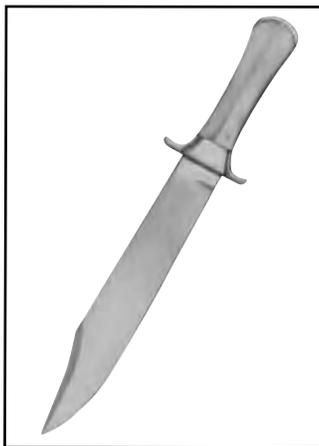
For more information contact Dan Graves, 318.865.8166 www.knifemaker.com.



Atlanta Cutlery Boasts One Big Bad Bowie

Intimidating in size alone, the Bone Grip Bowie from Atlanta Cutlery measures 18 inches overall, and features a full-profile tang, a bone handle and a capped steel guard.

For more information contact Atlanta Cutlery, Dept. BL3, Box 839, Conyers, GA 30012 800.883.0300 www.atlantacutlery.com.



New Sharpener is Quick and Convenient

The Diamond Edge Pro from Smith's Abrasives includes interlocking diamond abrasive wheels for fast and simultaneous sharpening on both sides of a knife blade.

For more information contact Smith Abrasives, attn: R. Smith, Dept. BL3, 1700 Sleepy Valley Rd., Hot Springs, AR 71901 800.221.4156.



Hembrook Hunter Hot in Fiery Damascus

The head of a friendly feline is engraved on brass and sets off the fiery damascus blade of Ron Hembrook's greenstone-handle hunter.

For more information contact Ron Hembrook, Dept. BL3, POB 201, Neosho, WI 53059 920.625.3607 knifemkr@nconnect.net, www.hembrookcustomknives.com.



Stainless Damascus, Scrim Top Off Hunter

Devin Thomas stainless steel twist damascus highlights the blade of Marvin Solomon's hunter, while beautiful scrimshaw brings the handle to life.

For more information contact Marvin Solomon, Dept. BL3, 23570 Cold Springs Rd., Paron, AR 72122 501.821.3170 mardot@swbell.net, www.coldspringsforge.com.



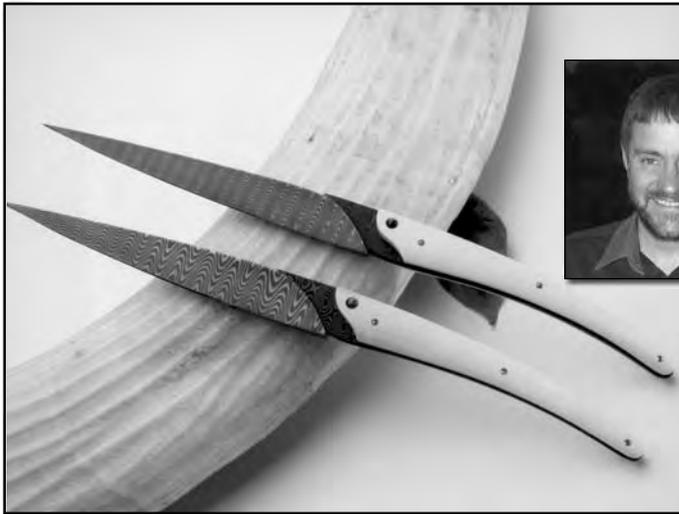


knifemaker knifemaker showcase showcase

"Knifemaker Showcase" spotlights the photographs of knives sent by any and all custom knifemakers to *BLADE*® for filing in the Knifemakers' Archive. The Knifemakers' Archive is the most complete collection of photographs of knifemakers' knives and information in the world. If you are a custom knifemaker and have not sent us a photo (the better quality the photo, the better chance it has of getting in the magazine), write to: *BLADE*, c/o F+W/Krause Publications, 700 E. State, Iola, WI 54990 BladeEditor@fwpubs.com. Please include a close-up mug shot of yourself with your knife picture.

Ed Lary

Since selling his first knife in 1972, Ed Lary has done all his cutting, grinding, heat treating, polishing and sheath and display making in his Mosinee, Wisconsin, shop. He uses D2 and ATS-34 steels, as well as Peter Martin damascus. "I prefer natural materials and incorporate the beauty of nature into my display pieces," Lary says. "I enjoy filework creations and my hand engraving for accent." Both of the hippo tusks for the handle and sheath of his beautiful "A Breath From The Veldt" (right) were in his collection and were both scrimmed by a now-deceased African named Lovemore from Messina, Zimbabwe, Africa. The knife received the Judges Award at the 2007 Badger Knife Club Show. Lary's list price: \$5,500. His address: 651 Rangeline Rd., Dept. BL3, Mosinee, WI 54455 715.693.3940 laryblades@hotmail.com. (Bob Glassman photo)



Bertie Rietveld

The blades of Bertie Rietveld are fast becoming things of South African legend. Rietveld recently received "Best Knifemaker" at the South African Knife Show for a record fifth consecutive year. He started forging his own damascus in 1991 and reportedly was the first producer of stainless steel damascus in South Africa, having made his first stainless steel damascus in 1997.

After establishing his engineering company Batavia Eng. in 1988, the company downsized in 2000 so Rietveld could spend more time on his passion for knifemaking. He became a full-time maker in 2006. His "Twiggy" models (left) feature ladder pattern, carved and colored damascus with white mammoth ivory handles. His list price: \$480 each. His address: POB 53, Dept. BL3, Magaliesburg, 1791 South Africa 27.83.232.8766 www.rietveldknives.com.

Dave Ricke

A lifelong love of deer hunting led to Dave Ricke's appreciation for high-quality knives and, upon reading an article about Bob Loveless and seeing what was possible, Ricke became addicted to producing his own blades. "After 20-plus years of knifemaking I have come to realize a fine blade can come from many types of steel," Ricke notes. "The way the blade is heat treated is more important." He says he heat treats his blades in an atmosphere of still air at all times during the process and his blades are subzero quenched at -172°F. The blades are then double tempered, resulting in a Rockwell hardness of 58-61 Rc, depending on the type of steel. His "Cowboy Bowie" (right) is done in 440C and a sambar stag handle. His list price for a similar piece: \$650. His address: 1209 Adams St., Dept. BL3, West Bend, WI 53090 262.334.5739.



Wolfgang Dell

Like many before him, Wolfgang Dell started his knifemaking career out of necessity. "Before a paddle trip on the Mulchatna River in Alaska I was looking for a big knife, preferably a bowie," he says. "I was unable to find something reasonable so I made my own. It was big and heavy and I still like it to this day." Since then the German maker's career has taken off and he says he now has customers in Australia, Mexico, Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany and the United States. Dell hesitates to commit himself to a certain style because, "There are too many forms, materials, ideas and impressions which influence me." His integral hunter is done in Damasteel twist damascus with ivory scales. His address: Am Alten Berg 9, Dept. BL3, 73277 Owen-Teck, Germany 0049.07021.81802 www.dell-knives.de.



Tom Overeynder

Tom Overeynder's father-in-law set the spark for his knifemaking that has lasted and grown brighter over the past 30 years. "As a kid I made a few knives that were very crude, mostly from large nails and bridge spikes that I heated up and forged to shape. Handles were pine and tape," Overeynder recalls. "Well, things changed after seeing the folders made by my father-in-law." Overeynder has been a full-time maker since 2001 after spending 36 years as a machinist for Vought Aircraft in Dallas, Texas. He says he has never been without an order for the past 30 years. He makes collector-grade folders—both traditional multi-blades and lockbacks of his own design. His Model 21 doctor's knife (left) is done in CPM 154 stainless with stainless steel liners. His list price: about \$3,000. His address: 1800 S. Davis Dr., Dept. BL3, Arlington, TX 76013 817.277.4812 www.overeynderknives.com. (SharpByCoop.com photo)



Steven Skiff

Steven Skiff's interest in knifemaking evolved after he completed a hatchet for his son 10 years ago. "This led to making a few hunting knives for family and friends and, encouraged by the acceptance of these knives, I started attending knife shows with various models of straight blades and lockbacks," he observes. Today he focuses on making straight blades and locking-liner folders. He says he prefers using CPM 154, as well as damascus patterns from Devin Thomas and Damasteel. "To me the most important aspect of knifemaking is the overall fit and finish of each knife," Skiff stresses. "Satisfying the discriminating customer is always my goal and source of personal satisfaction." His blue mammoth folding dagger features a blade and bolsters of Thomas damascus. Skiff's list price: \$1,500. His address: Skiff Made Blades, POB 537, Dept. BL3, Broadalbin, NY 12025 518.883.4875 www.skiffmadeblades.com. (SharpByCoop.com photo)



'07 recap

'07 recap



BLADE's®

Stories Of The Year

The knives, people and events that made 2007 a year to remember

By BLADE® staff



Editor's note: Each of the following vignettes is headed by 1) the actual month in which most of the events/stories occurred and/or 2) the issue of BLADE® in which the events/stories were reported. Where available, each subject is followed in parenthesis by the page number of the issue in which the related story appeared.



Month: JAN. '07 Issue: MARCH '07

Newsmakers: 25th anniversary of the Jimmy Lile First Blood Rambo knife (26), auction of the Bill Moran estate (66) and United Cutlery files for Chapter 11 (120). **Trends:** Factory knives made in China (42). **Steels:** Wayne Goddard's D2 classification system (101). **What's New:** Mantis MF-4CM (122). **How-To's:** How to mark your blade (60). **Makers To Watch:** Andre Andersson, Ron Best, Bill Burke, Bill Buxton, John Conway, Jerry Corbit, Jeff Driscoll, Shawn Ellis, Gordon Graham, Anders Hedlund, Don McIntosh, Fred Ott, Michael Rader, Lin Rhea, Raymond Richard and Wade Tiensvold (12). **Testing:** Smith's 3-In-1 Sharpener (104) and the Kershaw Shun chef's knife (116). **Profiles:** Moki (20) and Lin Rhea (34). **Deaths In The Family:** Bob Miller (120) and Bill Compton (121). **Cover:** Andre Andersson's Scandinavian fighter.



Month: FEB. '07 Issue: APRIL '07

Newsmakers: Hottest tactical folders of the hottest custom tactical folder makers (12) and National Knife Museum re-opens at a new site (96). **Your Knife Rights:** Free State Project Buck custom Vanguard promotes knife rights (62). **Trends:** Factory rescue knives (22). **Design:** The plunge cut (28). **Steels:** The knifemakers' top damascus makers (49). **How-To's:** How to heat treat (102). **History:** Memory lane: the 1972 Guild Show (80). **Testing:** Should more be done to evaluate blade failure? (84) and Steve Knott's humpback skinner (92). **Profiles:**

Meyerco (42) and Jon and Josh Graham (56). **Hot Handmade:** Stan Wilson's first-ever butterfly knife (114). **Cover:** Rick Hinderer's XM-18.



Month: MARCH '07 Issue: MAY '07

Trends: Modern interpretations of the hawkbill blade shape (100). **Soldiers' Knives:** "THE" Knife of the Iraq War (42). **What's New:** Latest factory knives from the '07 SHOT Show (12) and newest knifemaking DVDs (48). **What's Hot:** User-grade forged knives (20). **International Knives:** Knives of the Japan Knife Guild Show (34). **How-To's:** How to drill the pipe hawk smoke hole (86). **Vintage Knives:** The Randall Diver (62) and antique agricultural advertising pocket-knives (80). **Testing:** Dan's Whetstone Arkansas Sticks (53), hunters' shears (92) and Spencer Reiter's Super Hornet (104). **Profiles:** Knives of Alaska (28) and Hans Weinmueller (56). **Hot Handmade:** Matthew Lerch's "Persian" folder (106). **Cover:** Columbia River Knife & Tool's Kit Carson M4 factory/custom collaboration.



Month: APRIL '07 Issue: JUNE '07

Newsmakers: Camillus shuts down (111). **Trends:** Knives with sex appeal (34). **How-To's:** How to sharpen free-hand (42), how to make meteorite damascus (91), and how to flare tubes for lanyard holes (46). **Steel Guru:** Paul Bos (94). **Collecting:** Collector secrets to custom knives (49). **History:** The Scagel-Ruana connection (56). **Testing:** Top chef tests top factory kitchen knives (12), Cutting tough stuff: the ultimate blade gauge? (80) and D. Hoskins' Galactic Warrior (62). **Knife Maintenance:** Latest knife maintenance products (86). **Profiles:** John Young (24) and Swamp Rat (28). **Your Knife Rights:** Arkansas repeals blade-length-limit law (111). **Hot Handmade:** Tim Galyean/J.L. Williams Scorpion Junkyard Dog (114). **Deaths In**

Forum.BladeMag.Com

Deepak Chopra Cutlery & Accessories, Inc.

A True Microtech Distributor

Who supports his dealers with Honesty and Integrity

Celebrating
Our 10 Year Anniversary
Providing the best quality cutlery in the world for 10 years.



Also handling the following product lines.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Al Mar | Masters Of Defense |
| Arc Flash Light | Merc Worx |
| Autotech Knives | Microtech |
| Black Hawk | Mission Knife and Tool |
| Boker | Ontario Knives |
| Buck Knives | Paragon |
| California Knives | Peak LED Solutions |
| Camillus | Phantom Knives |
| Case | Photon Micro Lights |
| Chris Reeves | Piranha Knives |
| Wayne Clark | Protech Knives |
| CMG Lighting Tools | Rob Dalton |
| Cold Steel | Round Eye Knife And Tool |
| Colt Knives | Ryan Wilson Tactical Knives |
| Columbia River Knife and Tool | S.O.G. |
| Barry Dawson | Sheffield Knives |
| Delta Z Knives | Simonich Knives |
| Desert Knife Works | Smith And Wesson Knives |
| Emerson | Spyderco |
| Extremema Ratio | Super Knife |
| G.G. and G. | SWAT |
| G.T. Knives | Ti Knives |
| Gatco | Timberline |
| Gerber | Tool Logic |
| Inova | TOPS Knives |
| Jungle | Victorinox |
| KABAR | Wenger Swiss Army |
| KATZ | Woodard Knives |
| Kershaw | Xikar |
| Lansky | |
| Longbow | |

Columbia River and Buck Conversions

Wholesale only, information on a retail location also available. Ready for immediate delivery. Limited quantities available.

Phone: 925-454-0595
Fax: 925-454-0289

deepak@deepakcutlery.com



www.deepakcutlery.com
12 noon - 8 pm PST

'07 recap

The Family: George Herron (10, 20) and Dan Wright (111). Cover: A.G. Russell Damascus Chef's Knife.



Month: MAY '07 Issue: JULY '07

Makers To Watch: Up-and-coming custom tactical makers (12). Trends: Compact factory assisted openers (24). How-To's: How to find the best custom knife purveyor for you (88), and how to give the surface of your blade that old-time patina (42). Steel: Crucible: the knife industry's steel team (49). Vintage Knives: Antique pocketknives of Montgomery Wards (56). Reel Steel: The movie knives of John Wayne (80). Testing: Edge Pro Apex sharpener (46) and William Henry Knives GenTac (102). Profiles: Rick Hinderer (34) and Albion (42). Changing Of The Guard: *BLADE*® loses Managing Editor Joe Kertzman to a promotion in the F+W/Krause book department, and associate editor Brendan O'Brien joins the staff (65). Hot Handmade: Michael Almquist's "Snake Tooth" (114). Cover: Matt Cucchiara's "Escapade."



Month: JUNE '07 Issue: AUG. '07

Newsmakers: How the knife industry can reinvent itself (68), Makers' kids who make knives (50) and *BLADE* Show preview (12). Handle Materials: Mammoth tooth ivory (42). How-To's: How to sharpen a straight razor (56), how two leaders in the field make mosaic damascus (90) and how to apply the mustard finish (126). Sheaths: The latest in hi-tech and traditional carry options (134). Knife Previews: Factory knives that will debut at the *BLADE* Show (74). Collecting: Bo Randall's favorite Randall collectible (122). Testing: Lucas Burnley's Kwaikens (38). Profiles: Bill Ruple (22) and Entrek

USA (28). Opinion: If you had only two knives to survive with, what would they be? (140) Hot Handmade: Bill Miller's "Eagle" (146). Cover: Jim Walker's ABS master smith auction knife.



Month: JULY '07 Issue: SEPT. '07

Trends: Engraved/carved titanium folders (102). Newsmakers: High-bred hybrids: the mid-tech phenomenon continues (20), and Personal CNC: the future of knifemaking? (49) Collecting: Loveless knives continue to top the charts (56). Bladesmithing Equipment: Little Giant power hammers (78). What's Hot: Cut 'n crash axes (12). How-To's: Borax: which ones, why and when (38). Testing: Tony Daughtery's utility hunter (26), ChefsChoice motorized sharpeners (46), and six of the latest factory tactical folders go head-to-head (82). Vintage Knives: Cool pocketknife names (90). Profiles: Gil Hibben celebrates 50 years of knifemaking (30), and Angel Sword (42). Hot Handmade: Wesley Davis' "Oops" damascus (114). Cover: TOPS' Fireman's Backup axe.



Month: AUG. '07 Issue: OCT. '07

Newsmakers: DiamondBlade's new Friction Forged blades could revolutionize sharpness and edge holding (12), and *BLADE* Show West to hold its first-ever cutting competition (46). Handmade Valves: How aftermarket value affects primary price (92). What's Hot: The latest in Japanese blades (20), newest factory hunting knives for the fall (30), and hottest knives of the hottest ABS smiths (104). How-To's: Five key heat-treating questions (38). Testing: How the latest factory/custom collaborations stack up (56) and Condor Tool & Knife's Combat Machete (64). Profiles: Pierre Reverdy (42) and Jeff Hall/Nemesis Knives (80). Reel Steel: The Top 10 sword movies of all time (84). Your Knife Rights: Flathead screwdriver called

a “dirk or dagger” in California (90). Hot Handmade: Jim Arbuckle’s “Temporal Distortion.” Cover: DiamondBlade’s Friction-Forged Goddard hunter.



Month: SEPT. '07 Issue: NOV. '07

Newsmakers: The Blade Magazine 2007 Knives Of The Year® (12); Dan Dennehy enters the Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall Of Fame® (46); the ABS' annual top knives and individual awards (80); *BLADE*® starts its own Internet discussion forum (92); and Reggie Barker wins a record third *BLADE* Show World Championship Cutting Competition (100). What's New: Factory knives that debuted at the *BLADE* Show (50). Knife Shows: 2007 *BLADE* Show review (26). How-To's: Old shotgun barrels for blades: yes or no? (93) Testing: Eddie Lee's repro of George Herron's Carolina Curve design (62), and how DiamondBlade's Friction-Forged steel performs (86). Profiles: Ford Swauger (20) and Joel Davis (34). Hot Handmade: Richard Sexstone's "Hubble & Saturn" folder (106). Death In The Family: Frank Buster (10). Cover: Kershaw's Tyrade.



Month: OCT. '07 Issue: DEC. '07

Newsmakers: Can you make a living making knives? (12). Trends: Custom folding daggers (26). What's New: The latest assisted openers (50), the newest sharpeners (80) and what's "now" in scrimshaw (100). Knife Shows: Guild Show recap (57). How-To's: How to sharpen the Wayne Goddard way (62) and how to grind forged blades (88). Testing: MIL-TAC CS-1 (32). Vintage Knives: Capt. Ingraham's escape and survival Randall knife (36). Profiles: Tool Logic (20) and Mike Williams (42). Hot Handmade: Dan Burke's smoker's knife (106). Cover: Joe Kious' two-door pocket lock folding dagger engraved in gold by Ron Skaggs.



Month: NOV. '07 Issue: JAN. '08

Newsmakers: Bob Loveless knife sets price record for handmade knives (12). Trends: Short knives with big blades (50). Custom Knives: The leading sole-authorship makers (98) and things that every maker who tries to sell a knife should know (36). Knifemaking Supplies: Top sources for all things sharp (56). Sheaths: Those who make both knives and sheaths of premier quality (80). Opinion: A little knife revolution never hurt anybody (86). Legendary Knives: Bad Bob's Knife (92). Testing: Hewlett's diamond rod sharpeners (32) and Graham Knives' Ringed Razel (42). Profiles: Mcusta Knives USA (20) and Todd Begg (26). Hot Handmade: Jeffrey Cornwell's "Pearl Diver." (106) Death In The Family: Hank Reinhardt. Cover: Todd Begg's "The Grond."



Month: DEC. '07 Issue: FEB. '08

Newsmakers: Gil Hibben's knife for the new Lionsgate movie, *Rambo*® (12) and the 2007 *BLADE*handmade™ Awards (26). What's New: The latest in custom gent's knives (50). Knife Shows: *BLADE* Show West recap (56). Knife Accessories: Knife bags: how to carry and store knives (62). Your Knife Rights: New York court calls Liner-Locks™ gravity knives (32). Collecting: How to boost the collector market (80). Steels: At the leanest of geometries, why carbon steels out cut stainless (36). What's Cuttin': Ted Ott wins first-ever *BLADE* Show West cutting competition (46). Testing: Chris Reeve Knives' Inyoni (92) and the latest steel-type sharpeners go steel-to-steel (98). Profiles: David Brodziak (84) and Simonich Knives (20). Hot Handmade: Joe Olson's "Guitar Junkie." (106) Death In The Family: Bob Lum. Cover: Gil Hibben's "J.R." for the new movie, *Rambo*.

BLADE

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

**W
W
W
·
P
r
o
t
e
c
h
k
n
i
v
e
s
·
c
o
m**



**NEW Monaco Auto - 3.4" blade
Model #551 shown - \$300 retail
Visit our web site for full details**

www.protechknives.com

**100% Made in USA
562.903.0678**



By MSG Kim Breed
5th Special Forces (retired)

Into the Dragon's Lair

Jimmie Buckner's mid-tech Dragon's Foot Skinner gets put to the acid test

The demand for custom knives can overwhelm a maker, increasing both the waiting times and the list prices for them. At the same time, the maker knows that he must continue to turn out his knives to keep his name known. As a result, there has to be some sort of compromise.

A factory/custom collaboration between a maker and a knife company is one option, but collaborations are hard to come by and sometimes a maker is limited in his input on the resulting knife. Another way to go is with *mid-tech knives*.

Basically, mid-tech knives consist of the maker farming out different steps of the knifemaking process. Ideally, the maker can monitor every step so he can retain his quality or personal touch in each knife.

The Dragon's Foot Skinner from Jimmie Buckner is a mid-tech knife. Jimmie does the tempering, assembly, final finishing and hand sharpening, the things that put life into the final result. How well did he do? Let's see.

No-Drag Dragon

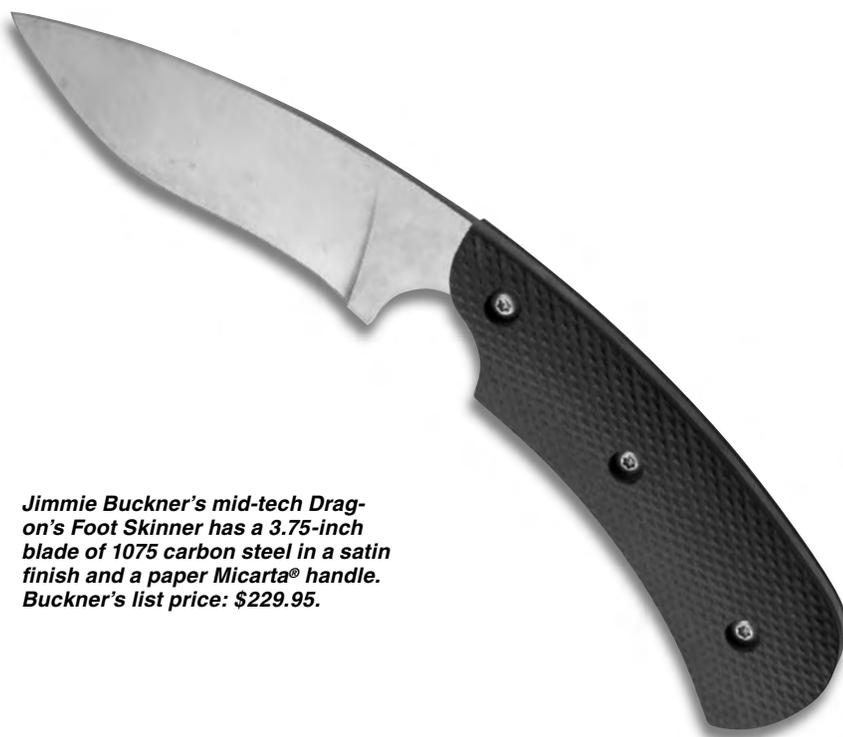
I had some half-inch cardboard packing material left over from helping my neighbor unpack his new flat-screen TV. The cardboard's inside layers would pull apart easily if the blade's edge dragged at any point. The Dragon's Foot sailed through the material. The blade shape

really helped to "pull" the cardboard into the belly.

The knife needed something tougher to cut. With winter coming on, it was time to do some maintenance on my climbing gear before putting it away. I decided to cut out the wear spots in my rappel rope and use the rest for tie downs and anchor points. I used Buckner's skinner to make 27 cuts in

the kernmantle-style rope. The clean cuts made it very easy to burn the ends.

Next came 3/8-inch sisal rope. The blade's belly made the chore easy. It was 68 cuts later before the edge began to slide. (Carbon steel blades always give the best *crunching* cutting sound!) I switched to cutting the rope further behind the blade belly and pulled the edge through 40 more



Jimmie Buckner's mid-tech Dragon's Foot Skinner has a 3.75-inch blade of 1075 carbon steel in a satin finish and a paper Micarta® handle. Buckner's list price: \$229.95.

spec sheet

clean passes. I used about 1 inch of the belly—front side first, then the rear. Buckner's hand-honed edge was paying off!

I still had some leftover pressboard egg carton to cut. The Dragon's Foot started off performing well but then it pulled at the blade's mid-point, ripping the pressboard. Buckner's skinner is one of those designs that does not work on pressboard. The curvature in the blade and handle are made for power cuts along the entire length of the blade. The tip cut well as did the back of the edge, but I could not get a full, clean cut on the pressboard.

I dug out some 1x4 pine and whittled it. The knife's curved handle works beautiful for the chore. It puts the wrist into the best position to control the cuts. Great idea! It also works like a champ at chopping, promoting a wrist snap with the most power.

I was lucky enough to harvest a nice nine-point whitetail deer with my muzzle-loader the opening morning of hunting season. I was hunting with my partner, Gary Wheeler, at his place and so far it is the biggest buck taken there. (Ha! And Gary thought he had the best spot!)

Anyway, my son Keith stopped by and I put him to work skinning the nine-pointer out. At first Keith looked at me funny when I gave him the Dragon's Foot because of the knife's curves, but he quickly discovered how the curves make the knife very controllable. A good knife

SPEC CHART

Knife Dragon's Foot Skinner
Maker Jimmie Buckner
Blade Material 1075 carbon steel
Rockwell Hardness 58-59 Rc
Blade Length 3.75"
Blade Finish Satin
Handle Paper Micarta®
Overall Length 8.88"
Miscellaneous Made via the mid-tech process in a limited run of 100
Sheath Pouch design made by Kenny Rowe
Buckner's List Price \$229.95

does make the job go better.

Changes

The front of the handle should be softened. It is a little sharp. I took some 400-grit sandpaper and softened it with a few strokes. Buckner said he is already making the changes to subsequent models.

Overall

Buckner's Dragon's Foot Skinner is a very good all-around knife. The large finger cutout is perfect for use with heavy gloves. I love the way the handle feels.

For more details contact Jimmie Buckner, Dept. BL3, POB 162, Putney, GA 31782 229.436.4182.

BLADE



BURGER KNIVES
distinguished craftsmanship
Est. 1987

RENOWNED WORLDWIDE FOR
THEIR QUALITY TACTICAL
WALKING STICKS

AND A
WIDE RANGE OF
SUPERIOR HAND MADE KNIVES

www.swordcane.com
info@swordcane.com
Tel: 301 393 5423
(message service)
PO Box 436 Munster 4278 South Africa



The author put his son, Keith, to work skinning out a nine-pointer, and Keith found the Dragon's Foot Skinner to be very controllable.

THE SURVIVAL STAFF

By Pat and Wes Crawford
Handmade for 15 years



Hiking Staff
Walking Stick
Baton
Blow Gun
Lance

All in one package
Made from Hard Aircraft Aluminium
\$269.95 - Ready for delivery

CRAWFORD KNIVES, LLC.
205 N. Center Drive
West Memphis, AR 72301
(870) 732-2452
www.crawfordknives.com
email: patcrawford1@earthlink.net



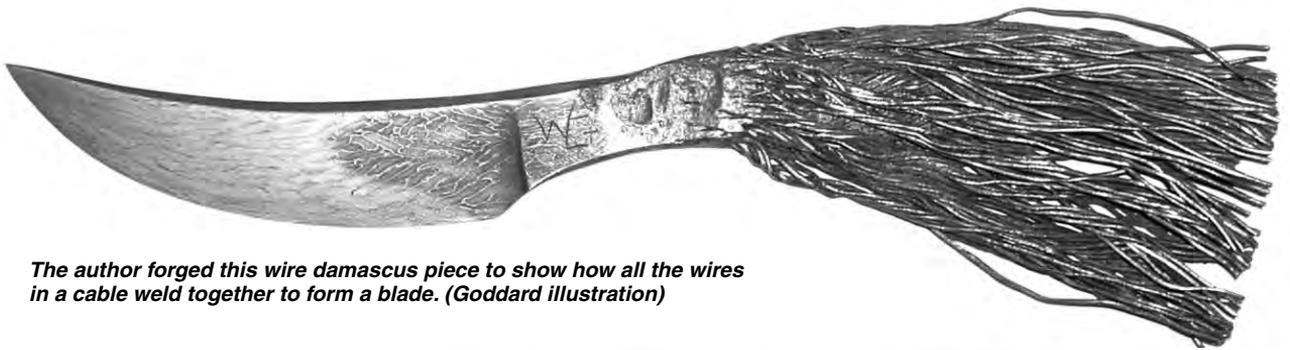
question & answer

question & answer

By Wayne Goddard
BLADE® field editor

How To Turn Wire Rope Into A Quality Damascus Blade

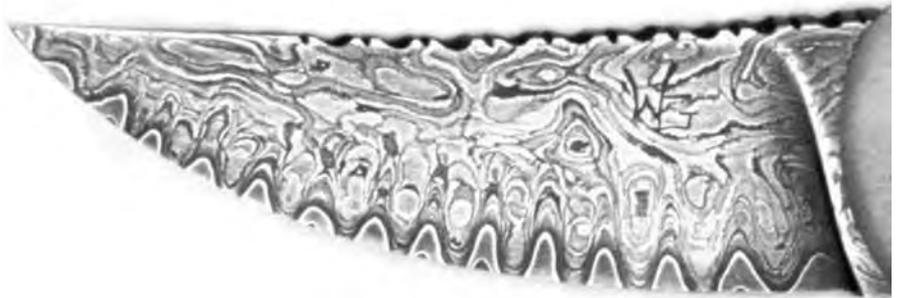
With the right combination of material and techniques, wire blades will always have the best flexible strength



The author forged this wire damascus piece to show how all the wires in a cable weld together to form a blade. (Goddard illustration)

1: I was just reading the steel cable articles you wrote for *Knives '86* and *Knives '87* and was wondering if you still use the same process described at the end of the '87 article. You mentioned tightly twisting a long piece of cable, then cutting it in 3- to 4-inch lengths to stack. What amount of heat are you running the cable to before twisting? Are you using borax—*anhydrous* or otherwise—when you do this? In the etching process described, you brush lightly with a soft brush. I use an old, soft toothbrush; is that what you mean? Do you have a process for etching wrought iron used for guards, pommels, etc.? I am not looking to antique it as many do but to have it be like most etched blades. I keep losing the definition and contrast to rusting while lightly polishing the oxide off in water. (Mike Krall, Wyoming)

To answer Mr. Krall's questions and some other frequently asked ones, I am



This blade is of a *san-mai* (laminated) wire damascus with a high-carbon core. The wire pattern becomes more like pattern-welded steel when worked as thin as the outer skin of this blade was. (Goddard illustration)

expanding my answer to cover the important fundamentals of turning wire rope into a quality damascus blade.

Wire damascus has the potential to make an extremely strong blade, much more so than pattern-welded layers. The white outline of the cells shows the

nearly pure iron formed when the carbon burns out of the high carbon steel wires. (See Illustration #1 on page 97.) Note how the steel wires in their iron matrix weave in and out and cross over each other throughout the billet. The iron matrix that surrounds the high carbon wires

question & answer

creates the damascus pattern.

I have tested it against many types of damascus steel and found that with the right combination of wire, good welding technique and proper heat treatment, the wire blades will always have the best flexible strength. I arrived at these conclusions by much experimenting and testing. Practice is essential because I cannot give a hard and fast formula that will bring success.

Wire damascus has been called “easy damascus” by inexperienced smiths. It may take less time to weld up a wire billet when compared to pattern-welded damascus, but it should not be thought of as “easy.” Many wire damascus blades are full of visible flaws caused by bad welding technique. A properly welded blade made from wire rope should appear as a solid piece of steel. It is also easy to end up with a blade that does not get hard enough to hold an edge due to working the wire too much.

Prepare For Twisting

To prepare the cable for twisting, cut it into 12-inch lengths and burn out the lubricating grease. Next, fuse the ends with an oxygen/acetylene torch; this keeps the ends from unraveling during the twisting. I use an orange heat for twisting and I do it dry (no flux). Lock one end of the heated cable in a vise; I lock the other end in my modified locking pliers with a “T” handle. (See Illustration #2 below.) Cut the twisted cable into 3-inch-long pieces, stack them and weld them onto a handle. Twisting the cable up tight is important because it causes the strands to crisscross more throughout the billet; this results in a stronger blade and a

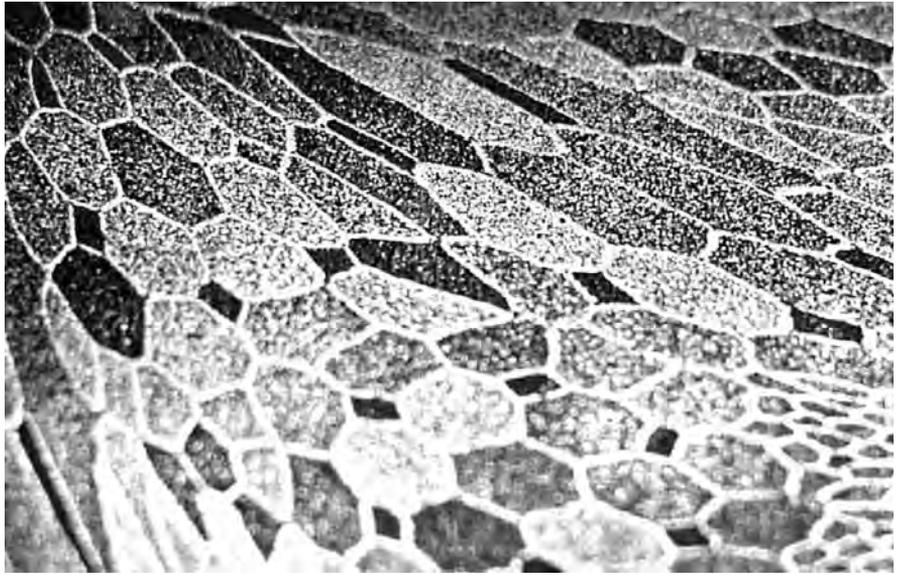


ILLUSTRATION #1: This view is of a cross section of a welded-up billet ground off at a 45-degree angle. The large cable in the billet has wires of three different alloys. (Goddard illustration)

more attractive damascus pattern.

I usually start welding with four pieces of cable in a stack. (See Illustration #3 on page 98.) Forge the billet at the welding heat down to a rectangle big enough to make the blade; do not fold the billet. There is less chance for flaws the more the billet is reduced at the welding heat. Flux with anhydrous borax on a rising heat; get the flux on before scale forms. Hold (soak) the billet for two to three minutes at the welding heat. This soak time is necessary for the flux to dissolve any scale that has formed.

To make the first weld, work quickly with rapid blows to get all the wires pushed up against each other. Work all sides as quickly as possible, reheating as necessary to form a square billet. Forge the subsequent welding heats corner to

corner back into a square in order to

work the entire billet equally. I use a hydraulic press for forging, so this is relatively easy. It would be extremely difficult to make a billet this size doing it all with a hand hammer.

Be aware that the first weld on wire rope with all high carbon wires can be made at a lower temperature than the subsequent welds. The subsequent welds require a somewhat higher temperature because of the iron matrix created in the first weld. The melting temperature of iron is higher than steel and the heat to make a weld is proportionally higher.

Do not assume that the wire rope you have is all high carbon steel. Test it by heating several inches of an end to non-magnetic and quench it in warm oil. Lay the quenched end on the anvil and tap it with a

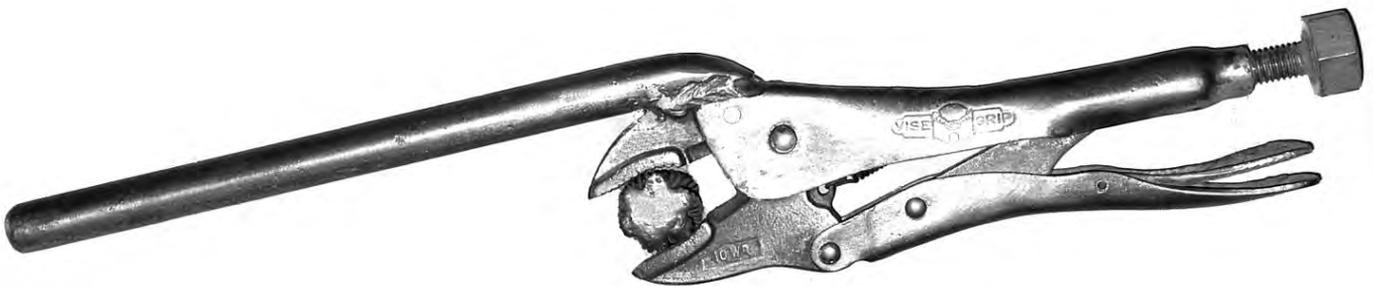


ILLUSTRATION #2: The author modified his locking pliers for use as a twisting tool. (Goddard illustration)

FREE KNIFE CATALOG

A complete catalog of knives and swords, including Damascus knives, collectors knives, tactical and work knives, and much more.



SPRING / SUMMER CATALOG 2007

To request a free catalog of knives, either call (toll-free) 1-800-835-6433 ext. 18, write to Boker USA, Inc., 1550 Balsam Street, Lakewood, CO 80214-5917, or visit our website at www.bokerusa.com.

question & answer



ILLUSTRATION #3: Here are two views of a stack of four pieces of cable with a smaller piece of cable in the middle. (Goddard illustration)

hammer. In order to be good blade material, all the wires should break like glass. I have had wire rope that had three different kinds of wire in it. A piece from another source might be all high carbon wires of the same type; yet another piece might have a core of mild steel or sisal rope.

I use a hydraulic press for welding and reducing the billet. It is not as fast as a power hammer but I have better control for working the billet corner to corner. Also, the press is relatively quiet—it is the perfect forging machine for the residential neighborhood where I live. The press is quiet enough that I have never had a complaint from a neighbor.

“Start welding with four pieces of cable in a stack.”

—the author

Ferric chloride is my etchant of choice to bring out the damascus pattern. Radio Shack stores sell ferric chloride in a 16-ounce bottle marked *Archer Etchant*. The strength of the etchant is very important. If it is too strong it will cut the whole blade down, and the pattern will not have as much definition as it could have. Three parts of water should be added for every part of ferric chloride. In warm weather I get a good etch without heating the etch bath. When the shop temperature is below 65°F, heat the etch bath to 70°F.

For proper etching, the blade will have to be flat and free of scratches. If there are any rough grinding marks or ripples, they will show up in the finished blade. I use a 600-grit hand-rubbed finish prior to the

first etch. I use a hand-rubbed finish all the way through and do the final finish with 1,500-grit-or-finer paper. I get the best results by etching, rubbing lightly with 1,500-grit wet or dry paper. If the etch bath is too hot, the etching will be too severe and not look the best. Etch for five minutes, remove and brush the carbon deposit off with a worn-out toothbrush, rub lightly with 1,000-grit-or-finer paper, and inspect the pattern.

The etch cycle usually needs to be repeated from four to six times to bring out the pattern. Keep this up till you get a depth of pattern that satisfies you. Neutralize the ferric chloride by dipping the blade in a solution of TSP (tri-sodium phosphate), a cleaning agent found in most stores that sell painting supplies.

Your journey to make first-class damascus steel will not be easy but will be worth the effort. And, you will have to experiment and practice to get the best results.

Editor's note: The complete instructions for welding, forging, heat treating and etching wire damascus are in chapter six, "Damascus Steel," of Wayne Goddard's \$50 Knife Shop. For information on how to get your copy of the book, contact F+W/Krause Publications at 800.258.0929 or online at www.krause-books.com.

Send your questions for Wayne Goddard or Joe Szilaski to BLADE®, POB 789, Ooltewah, TN 37363-0789 BladeEditor@fwpubs.com. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your full name and address for a personal response from Wayne, or e-mail him at wgoddard44@comcast.net. If you would rather contact Joe by e-mail, his e-mail address is joe@szilaski.com. If you wish, BLADE will not print your name with your question.

BLADE

MARCH 2008

Paragon heat treating furnaces for knife makers

"I couldn't achieve the control I now enjoy had I not had a Paragon furnace," says Ed Fowler. "Owning a Paragon is extremely beneficial to blade smithing."

The KM-24D shown above features the new Sentry digital controller and a larger, 1/4" wide thermocouple. Ask about our optional gas injection flow meter.

Interiors of our knife maker furnaces: 14 1/2" long KM-14D, 24" long KM-24D, and 36" long KM-36D. (All three models are 5 1/2" wide x 4 1/4" high inside.) Free brochure available.

Paragon Industries, Inc.

2011 South Town East Blvd.,
Mesquite, Texas 75149-1122
800-876-4328 / 972-288-7557
Toll Free Fax 888-222-6450
www.paragonweb.com
paragonind@worldnet.att.net



where to get 'em

where to get 'em

MAKERS TO WATCH

Russ Andrews, Dept. BL3, POB 7732, Sugar Creek, MO 64054 816.252.3344 rlandrews@paxway.com; Michael Burch, Dept. BL3, 3620 S. Kansas Ave., Springfield, MO 65807 417.300.0768 micheal@burchtreelblades.com; Peter Carey, Dept. BL3, POB 4712, Lago Vista, TX 78645 512.358.4839 careyblade.com; Jerry Halfrich, Dept. BL3, 340 Briarwood, San Marcos, TX 78666 512.353.2582 halfrichknives.com; Flavio Ikoma (among others, knives available through arizonacustomknives.com); Jeremy Krammes (among others, knives available through knives.cx); Henry Torres, Dept. BL3, 2329 Moody Ave., Clovis, CA 93619 559.903.5818 enrico077@cvip.net; Mace Vitale, Dept. BL3, 925 Rt. 80, Guilford, CT 06437 203.457.5591 macevitale@yahoo.com; Nick Wheeler, Dept. BL3, 1109 NW Mill St., Winlock, WA 98596 360.785.4255 merckman99@yahoo.com

TACTICAL FIXED BLADES

Boker USA, Dept. BL3, 1550 Balsam St., Lakewood, CO 80215 303.462.0662 www.bokerusa.com; Blackhawk Blades, attn: M. Janich, Dept. BL3, 4850 Brookside Ct., Norfolk, VA 23502 757.436.3101 www.blackhawk.com; Columbia River Knife & Tool, attn: D. Flagg, Dept. BL3, 9720 SW Hillman, Suite 805, Wilsonville, OR 97070 503.685.5015 www.crkt.com; Mantis, attn: J. West, Dept. BL3, 1580 N. Harmony Cir., Anaheim, CA 92807 714.701.9671 mantisknives.com; SOG Specialty Knives, attn: C. Cashbaugh, Dept. BL3, 6521 212th St., Lynnwood, WA 98036 425.771.6230 www.sogknives.com; TOPS, attn: M. Fuller, Dept. BL3, POB 2544, Idaho Falls, ID 83403 208.542.0113 www.topsknives.com.

HOT HANDLES

Alpha Knife Supply, attn: C. Bybee, Dept. BL3, 22964 NE 26th Pl., Sammamish, WA 98074 425.246.7214; Buck, attn: C.J. Buck, Dept. BL3, 660 S. Lochsa St., Post Falls, ID 83854 619.449.1100 800.326.2825 www.buckknives.com; M.D. Caldwell, Dept. BL3, POB 905, Lake Stevens, WA 98258 425.334.6659 mdcaldwellco@msn.com; Wesley Davis, Dept. BL3, POB 122, Pattonville, TX 75468 903.652.2784 wwdavis@starband.net; Allen Elishewitz, Dept. BL3, POB 3059, Canyon Lake, TX 78133 830.899.5356 allen@elishewitzknives.com; Kershaw, attn: T. Welk, Dept. BL3, 18600 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062 800.325.2891 www.kershawknives.com; J. Neilson, Dept. BL3, RR 2 Box 16, Wyalusing, PA 18853 570.746.4944 mountainhollow@emcs.net; Dan Westling, Dept. BL3, 1033 Beaver Creed Rd., Cathlamet, WA 78612 360.795.0228

TOUGHEST WHEN SUPER THIN

Reggie Barker, Dept. BL3, 603 S. Park Dr., Springhill, LA 71075 318.539.2958; Kevin Cashen, Dept. BL3, 5615 Tyler St., Hubbardston, MI 48845 989.981.6780 kevin@cashenblades.com; Crucible Steel Corp., attn: S. Devanna, Dept. BL3, 1101 Ave. H East, Arlington, TX 76011 817.640.7777; John Fitch, Dept. BL3, 45 Halbrook Rd., Clinton, AR 72031-8910 501.893.2020; Tom Krein, Dept. BL3, POB 994, Gentry, AR 72734 479.736.3444; Warren Osborne, Dept. BL3, 412 Alysa Ln., Waxahachie, TX 75167 972.935.0899

WHEN IS THE PRICE REALLY RIGHT?

Tony Bose, Dept. BL3, 7252 N. Co. Rd. 300E, Shelburn, IN 47879 812.397.5114; Tim Galyean, 503.799.7779 tfgalyean@hotmail.com; D' Holder, Dept. BL3, 7148 W. Country Gables, Peoria, AZ 85381 623.878.3064

d'holderknives@cox.net; Jot Singh Khalsa, Dept. BL3, 368 Village St., Millis, MA 02054 508.376.8162 jotkhalsa@comcast.net; Bud Nealy, Dept. BL3, 1439 Poplar Valley Rd., Stroudsburg, PA 18360 570.402.1018 budnealyknifemaker.com

FIREFIGHTERS' KNIVES

Benchmade USA, attn: E. DuPlessis, Dept. BL3, 300 Beaver Creek Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045 503.655.6004 www.benchmade.com; Blade-Tech, attn: Tim Wegner, Dept. BL3, 3060 South 96th, Tacoma, WA 98409 253.581.4347 www.blade-tech.com; Boker USA, attn: D. Weidner, Dept. BL3, 1550 Balsam St., Lakewood, CO 80215 303.462.0662 fax 303.462.0668 www.bokerusa.com; Cold Steel, attn: Tisa Hall, Dept. BL3, 3036-A Seaborg, Ventura, CA 93003 805.650.8481 www.coldsteel.com; Colonial, attn: S. Paolantonio, Dept. BL3, POB 960, North Scituate, RI 02857 866.421.6500 colonialknifecompany.com; Columbia River Knife & Tool, attn: D. Flagg, Dept. BL3, 9720 SW Hillman, Suite 805, Wilsonville OR 97070 503.685.5015 www.crkt.com; Eichhorn-Solingen, attn: D. Pohl, Dept. BL3, Loehdorfer Str. 72, Solingen, Germany 42699 011.49.212.66050 www.eichhorn-solingen.com; Emerson Knives, Inc., attn: E. Emerson, Dept. BL3, 2730 Monterey St., Torrance, CA 90503 310.542.3050 www.emersonknives.com; Gerber, attn: R. Robley, Dept. BL, 14200 SW 72nd, Portland, OR 97281-3088 503.639.6161 www.gerberblades.com; Rick Hinderer, Dept. BL3, 5423 Kister Rd., Wooster, OH 44691 330.263.0962 rhknives.com; Kershaw, attn: T. Welk, Dept. BL3, 18600 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062 800.325.2891 www.kershawknives.com; Meyerco, attn: M. Manrose, Dept. BL3, 4481 Exchange Service Dr., Dallas, TX 75236 214.467.8949 www.meyercousa.com; Smith & Wesson, c/o Taylor Cutlery, attn: S. Taylor, Dept. BL3, POB 1638, Kingsport, TN 37662 423.247.2406; SOG Specialty Knives, attn: C. Cashbaugh, Dept. BL3, 6521 212th St. SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036 425.771.6230 www.sogknives.com; Spyderco, attn: J. Laituri, Dept. BL3, 820 Spyderco Way, Golden, CO 80403 800.525.7770 www.spyderco.com, customerservice@spyderco.com; SureFire, attn: S. Ryan, Dept. BL3, 18300 Mt. Baldy Cir., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 800.828.8809 www.surefire.com; Swiss Army Brands, attn: J. Turner, Dept. BL3, One Research Dr., Shelton, CT 06484 203.944.2359 www.swissarmy.com; Timberline, attn: J. Anthon, Dept. BL, POB 600, Getzville, NY 14068-0600 716.877.2200 www.gatcosharpeners.com & www.timberlineknives.com;

STATE-OF-THE-ART ART KNIVES

Roger Bergh, Dept. BL3, Dalkarlsa 291, 91598 Bygdea, Sweden 469.343.0061 rogerbergh.com; Jerry Corbit, Dept. BL3, 1701 St. John Rd., Elizabethtown, KY 42701 270.765.7728; Joe Kiouss, Dept. BL3, 1015 Ridge Pointe Rd., Kerrville, TX 78028 830.367.2277 kiouss@kfc.com; Jody Muller, Dept. BL3, 3359 S. 225th Rd., Halfway, MO 65663 417.752.3260 mullerforge2@hotmail.com; Jurgen Steinau, Dept. BL3, Julius-Hart Strasse 44, Berlin 0-1162, Germany phone/fax 372-6452512

2008 BLADE SHOW AD

SAR Knives, attn: Spencer Alan Reiter, Dept. BL3, 1618 Coach St., DeRidder, LA 70634 337.460.9495 Sc65surf@aol.com www.sarknives.com

Al Mar Knives

Eagle Classic

1005BM
1005C
1005BMT
1005CT

Mini SERE 2000™

S2KB

The Back-Ups™

BU2-2
BU1-2

For more info on Al Mar Knives visit almarknives.com

Supergrit®

SANDING BELTS FOR SHARPENING

Add 10% to Zirc prices for Ceramic belts.

SIZE	A.O. BROWN	ZIRCONIUM BLUE	S.C. BLACK
1"x30"	\$.80 ea	\$ 1.50 ea	\$ 1.10 ea
1"x42"	.85	1.65	1.40
2"x48"/2"x42"	1.20	2.75	2.20
2"x60"	1.60	3.00	2.30
2"x72"	1.70	3.75	2.50
2"x132"	2.80	Sale 4.00	5.00
3"x132"	4.00	Sale 6.00	7.00
4"x36"	1.70	3.75	2.75
4"x132"	6.00	9.00	9.50
6"x48"	3.70	7.00	4.50

BLACK SIL. CARBIDE WATERPROOF

9"x11" Sheets \$30.00/100 150-2500 Grit
5 1/2"x9 1/2" Sheets \$12.50/50 1000/2000 Grit

CERAMIC BELTS - NORTON "SG"/CARBO "MEDALLIST"® NORTON® BLUE "NORZON" ZIRCONIA, CORK BELTS

COTTON BUFFING WHEELS & POLISHING COMPOUNDS

DISCS, FLAP WHEELS, SHOP ROLLS

RED HILL CORP., P.O. BOX 4234, GETTYSBURG, PA 17325

(800) 822-4003
www.supergrit.com

MasterCard
VISA
Discover

\$8.00 S&H
Free 48p.
Catalog

Inside World Knife Collecting & Investing

EDGES®

No. 99

Hooray for the Red, White and Candystripe!

Their misguided detractors aside, antique American switchblades remain some of the most fascinating knife collectibles

By Richard D. White

Despite legislative pressure exerted on the ingenious openers known as *switchblades*—or the modern equivalent, *automatics*—their overall popularity continues to rise in dramatic fashion. Produced in the USA for over 100 years since their first patents were accepted in the late 1880s, the nifty knives, described as those whose blades open automatically at the push of a button, have gained a following unlike any other form of antique cutlery collectible.

Originally designed to assist hunters, trappers, soldiers, mechanics, veterinarians, farmers and even Boy Scouts with their respective tasks by providing a folding knife that opens with one hand instead of requiring two, the implements were lifesavers for those who needed a pocket-knife but had only one free hand to open it. Specifically, in the case of military parachutists stuck in trees by tangled parachute lines, the switchblade enabled them to cut themselves free one-handed.

Why the continued interest in the so-called button knives? In part, the interest has been generated by the switchblade's colorful history. The 1950s produced movies that glamorized carrying and fighting with the knives. Perhaps the most famous of the '50s gang movies was *Rebel Without*



This rare example of a fishtail jack switchblade in candystripe celluloid with its original box is stamped Schrade Cutlery Co. The knife is particularly striking with its full blade and super action. Note the round push button that releases the blade in both the open and closed positions, and the metal sliding lock that prevents the knife from accidentally opening or closing on the user's fingers. (photo by the author)



This is a very rare folding-guard switchblade by Schrade Cutlery Co. Note the round button release and the sliding locking mechanism. (photo by the author)



Here are three World War-II-era switchblades, two handled in genuine peachseed jigged bone (left and right) and one in jigged iron, originally painted black. The middle knife is the type and size issued to World War II paratroopers. According to the author, it is likely that the bone-handle examples were used similarly. Closed lengths: 4 1/8 inches. (photo by the author)



Three "current" military switchblades sport the very distinctive orange jigged plastic handles. Three military contracts were let for the production of these knives to Schrade Walden Cutlery, Camillus and the Logan/Smyth Co. Each knife has a brass push button and safety, lanyard and bail. Note also the second "shroud-cutter" blade used to cut tangled parachute lines. The author's values for these knives in mint condition range from \$200-\$250 each. (photo by the author)

a *Cause*, starring James Dean, but other movies that featured switchblade-carrying rebels included *Blackboard Jungle*, *Night of the Hunter*, *The Wild One*, *High School Confidential* and, another famous one, *West Side Story*, which featured a fight scene between two gang members, "Bernardo" and "Riff."

Unfortunately, it was these movies portraying teenagers as switchblade-carrying hoodlums which initiated the paranoia that ultimately resulted in the passing of federal legislation in 1958 banning the knives as dangerous weapons. Ironically, the switchblades made in the United States at the time were probably the cheapest-built American examples ever produced, while other companies, notably those in Italy, were manufacturing some outstanding models.

Unlike the inexpensive "shell-handled" examples made in the '50s, most likely by Imperial, Colonial or Edgemaster, the earliest models, patented by George Schrade in 1908, are prized and eagerly sought after by collectors worldwide. Tang stamped with such names as "Flylock," "Presto" or "Schrade Cutlery Company," the vintage switchblades were literally works of the cutler's art.

Generally handled in jigged bone, they sported nickel-silver bolsters, polished blades, outstanding action, and even folding guards in some instances. The blades had unusual etchings, including words such as "Victor," "Dominicator" or "Invincible," which added to the knives' cachet. With closed lengths of 4-5 inches and open lengths of over 9 inches, and an internal spring that pushed the blade out rapidly, the knives were marvels of early cutlery technological development.

Augmenting the ingenuity of the knife's mechanism was the use of fancy celluloids and jigged peachseed bone as handle materials. Many early examples featured candy-stripe celluloid, a material vividly colored in red, white and orange stripes. In fact, various celluloids have been a mainstay for many switchblade handles.

Though George Schrade was the first to patent the opening mechanism for switchblades, Schrade Cutlery was not the only company to make the knives. Later

EDGES (CONT.)

producers included Imperial and Colonial, and almost 20 different companies were known to manufacture switchblades from 1916 to the late '50s. The knife companies represented some of the finest in the United States, including: Queen; Case; Buffalo; Camillus; Cattaraugus; Challenge; Cutino (Kansas City); E. Weck and Sons; Flylock; Hatch; KA-BAR; Keen Kutter; Norvell-Shapleigh Hardware Co.; Aerial; Remington; Shapleigh Hardware Co.; Utica; Wade and Butcher; Press Button; and Union. Heavy switchblade production from such a wide variety of companies is certainly an advantage to the collector.

The knives varied widely in appearance and size. From the largest single-blade lockback made by many different companies for use by trappers and hunters, to the much smaller double-button models with blades that spring from opposing ends, the collecting options are almost endless.

Though the largest examples are generally the most sought after, the smaller two-blade models, frequently marketed for use by women, deserve a second look.



Two outstanding, significantly larger switchblades are both stamped "Presto," a mark used by the George Schrade Knife Co. At 5 inches closed and over 9 inches open, these magnificent pieces of the cutlery technology of the day are truly impressive. The one on bottom is handled in a jugged-peachseed-style bone, the one on top in jugged metal painted black. In all probability, examples like the one with the attached bail were issued to paratroopers during World War II. Providing the ability to open the blade with one hand, these knives made for the soldier's perfect carrying tool/weapon. (photo by the author)



Antique switchblades were often handled in celluloid. From top: imitation tortoise (Schrade), candystripe (Presto), and a mottled color variety (Flylock). The pull-button-opening device of the Flylock model is checkered to enhance purchase. The other two feature more traditional round push-button and locking devices. (photo by the author)

Antique American Switchblade Value Guide*

Knife	Value
Camillus , orange grip, brass button w/safety, 1 bl., shroud cutter, bail, military issue	\$200
Colonial fishtail, 4" closed, plastic handles w/assorted colors, push button w/safety	\$150-\$200
Edgemaster , 1 bl., 3.5" closed, assorted plastic handles, push button w/safety	\$175-\$225
Flylock , 3 3/8" closed, double button, assorted celluloids, knurled button, no safety	\$350-\$400
Imperial , 4.5" toothpick, metal-shell handle w/candy-stripe celluloid over metal, button w/safety	\$200-\$250
Shapleigh , 3 3/8" closed, double-button w/safety, tortoise celluloid, smooth black or jiggged bone	\$350-\$400
Press Button , 3 3/8" closed, double button, jiggged bone, no safety	\$400-\$500
Presto , 1 bl. w/larger letter opener opposite, assorted celluloids	\$400-\$500
Presto , 1 bl. w/safety, jiggged bone, steel bolsters, 6" closed, w/safety, no bail	\$600-\$700
Presto , 4 1/8" closed, black worm-groove plastic handle, steel liners, bolsters and bail, w/safety	\$500-\$550
Presto , 5" folding guard w/jiggged bone, nickel silver bolsters and guard	\$700
Schrade , 3 3/8" closed, double button w/safety, w/assorted celluloids, 1 bl.	\$500-\$550

*Author's values are for knives in mint or near mint condition with full blades, free from rust or noticeable scratches, that do not sit above the liner when the knife is closed. Knives must be operational when button is pushed and the blade(s) must lock both open and closed. Blade(s) must exhibit little or no wiggle from side to side. Safety must slide freely and the locking button must operate so that the knife cannot be accidentally opened. Handles must be free from cracks or missing pieces, and those of celluloid must be free from deterioration or crazing (fine, hair-like cracks on the surface of the material).

An early ad reads, "These knives will be wonderful for those who have difficulty opening a traditional knife." Translated, that meant someone with weak or short fingernails who had difficulty pulling the blade open by the nail nick. With more delicate fingernails, or fingernails that had been recently manicured, the smaller-button switchblade made the perfect companion piece—along with scissors—in a lady's sewing box.

In addition, the knives had another feature that appealed to women: blades that locked open and closed. The locking feature was valuable as it prevented the blade from closing on the user's fingers. Challenge, Cutino, E. Weck and Sons, Flylock, Norvell-Shapleigh Hardware, Press Button, Schrade Cutlery, Remington, and Schrade Walden produced the smaller models. The double-buttoned knives often were handled in fancy celluloids, including imitation tortoise, jiggged peachseed bone, gold metal, sterling silver, mother-of-pearl, French ivory celluloid, butter-and-molasses celluloid, and other mottled-color celluloids.

The knives can be found in old sewing baskets, old sewing machine drawers,

even bags of old cloth and sewing supplies. In addition, because they usually were not abused, knives found in such places generally are in outstanding condition.

Military Versions

Many collectible switchblades originated in the U.S. military. The most widely known of the military-issue switchblades was made by the George Schrade Cutlery Co. under the Presto name. The model issued to paratroopers was the 4 1/8-inch one-blade knife with a black worm-groove plastic handle and steel bolsters and bail. The knives featured a push-button opening device with a sliding blade lock. Because of the knives' military importance and general appeal, current values of mint-condition examples surpass \$500. A similar knife has been attributed to U.S. military issue, though it is unconfirmed.

There have been at least three other switchblades used by U.S. parachute troops. All the knives have bright orange handles, single blades, and shroud cutters on the opposite end of the blade. They include the Model MC1, made by Schrade

Walden, an almost identical model made by Camillus, also with a jiggged orange handle, and a third in 1990 by Logan/Smyth of Venice, Florida. Though newer and lacking in the quality of earlier models, the Logan/Smyth piece has the highest value due to its relatively short production. Despite the bright, almost luminescent orange color—designed so they could be found more easily if misplaced—the knives are very desirable, and wise collectors seek one from each of the three companies.

Shell-Handle Models

While most antique switchblades are quite rare and values are escalating, the cheaper knives made for boys in the '50s provide the best opportunities for the beginning collector to get in on the steadily rising craze. It was during the '50s that cheap shell-handle switchblades—in which a thin sheet of celluloid was wrapped around a thin metal handle—were sold as keychain knives or used on thin, brightly colored, stand-up display boards. The knives were marketed by Imperial—which produced the "Jack-O-Matic" brand—and Colonial, which offered a less expensive switchblade known as the "Shur-snap" brand. Many of today's older collectors, themselves boys in the '50s, fondly remember buying the display card switchblades, repeatedly opening and closing the blade until the mechanism wore out.

Several companies produced switchblades as letter openers, with a long letter-opening blade on one end, an automatic-opening blade on the other. Knives called *fishtails*, because the end opposite the blade is shaped like a fish's tail, are highly sought after by collectors, as are those with a small guard known as a "bowtie" jackknife switchblade.

Having examples of each era in a collection is ideal: military, the cheaper varieties from the '50s, larger varieties with one blade and a jiggged-bone handle, and a general selection made by the famous cutlery companies of the day. As values are appreciating at a rapid pace, you should place your search efforts in first gear. With the significant number of different switchblade-producing companies and the tremendous variety of handle materials, the quest can be both financially and aesthetically rewarding.

For existing and potential switchblade knife collectors, there is an outstanding publication that has just reached the market: Antique American Switchblades, by Mark Erickson. For information on how to get your copy, contact F+W/Krause Publications at 800.258.0929 or online at www.krausebooks.com.

BLADE



show calendar

show calendar

Note: Shows marked with an asterisk have knives as the main focus; with two asterisks are knifemaking seminars or symposiums, knife-throwing competitions, auctions, etc. or other events; and with "BH" participate in the BLADEhandmade™ program. "Show Calendar" also can be seen on BLADE®'s website at www.blademag.com.

DECEMBER

DEC. 28-30 KNOXVILLE, TN The NKCA Knoxville Show held in conjunction with RK Gun Show, Chilhowee Park. Contact the NKCA office 423.875.6009 NKCALisa@hotmail.com.

JANUARY 2008

JAN. 18-20 LAS VEGAS, NV The 46th Annual Las Vegas Antique Arms, International Sporting Arms & Invitational Knifemakers Shows, Riviera Hotel. Contact Beinfeld Productions, attn: W. Beinfeld, Dept. BL3, POB 2197, Cathedral City, CA 92235 760.202.4489 gunshowpro@aol.com, antiquearmsshow.com.

JAN. 25-26 RENO, NV The 6th Annual American Bladesmith Society Knife Exposition, Silver Legacy Casino. Contact Rick Dunkerley 406.677.5496 www.absknifeexpo.com.*

JAN. 26-27 ST. LOUIS, MO Gateway Area Knife Club Show, Carpenters Hall. Contact Glenn 314.729.9592.*

FEBRUARY

FEB. 1-3 LAKELAND, FL The 30th Annual Gator Cutlery Club Show, Lakeland Center. Call Dan Piergallini 813.754.3908 or 813.967.1471.*

FEB. 9-10 DOVER, OH The 20th Annual Western Reserve Cutlery Association Knife Expo, Warther Museum. Contact D. Musgrave, Dept. BL3, POB 355, Dover, OH 44622 phone/fax 330.745.4242 or 330.351.4885 (cell) dmsgrav@neo.rr.com, wrca-oh.com.*

FEB. 9-10 KINGMAN, AZ Pioneer Country Events Gun, Knife, Coin & Collectibles Show, Mohave County Fairgrounds. Call Lon 928.692.0937 or 928.530.0937 pioneercountyevents@frontiernet.net.

FEB. 15-17 PASADENA, CA Knife Expo '08, Lower Level Conference Building of the Pasadena Conference Center. Call 562.225.9703 sclblades.com.*BH

FEB. 16 WYOMING, MI The 4th Annual West Michigan Edge Show, Knights of Columbus Hall. Contact West Michigan Promotions 616.997.9555 wmedgeshow.com.*

FEB. 16-17 HUNTINGTON, WV Gun & Knife Show, Veterans Memorial Field House.

Contact H.R. "Bear" McGinnis 423.255.3669 huntgunshow@yahoo.com.

FEB. 23 OZARK, MO 11th Annual Spring Cabin Fever Knife Show, 4-H Building, City Park. Contact Don Long 417.485.6759 or Randy Long 417.581.8138.*

FEB. 22-24 NEW YORK, NY East Coast Custom Knife Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel. Contact Steve D'Lack 417.866.6660 hg_inc@hotmail.com.*BH

FEB. 23-24 LEWISBURG, PA The 12th Annual Keystone Blade Association Knife Show, Country Cupboard Inn. Contact Arthur Fryling, Dept. BL3, 248 Central Rd., Bloomsburg, PA 17815 or call Marlyn Kepner 570.584.4835 or Skip Fryling 570.387.4955.*

FEB. 23-24 LITTLE ROCK, AR Arkansas Custom Knife Show, Robinson Center Exhibit Hall. Contact David Etchieson 501.554.2582 aka@alliancecable.net, www.arkansasknifemakers.com.*BH

FEB. 23-24 DAYTON, OH The NKCA Dayton Knife Show in conjunction with Goodman's Gun Show, Hara Arena Conference & Exhibition Center. Call 423.875.6009 nkcalisa@hotmail.com.

MARCH

MARCH 1-2 BETHALTO, IL The 24th Annual Bunker Hill Knife Show, Knights of Columbus Hall. Contact Mike Pellegrin 618.667.6777 or Gene Winston 618.288.6974.*

MARCH 7-8 DALTON, GA The 5th Annual NKCA Northwest Georgia Knife Show, Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center. Contact the NKCA 423.875.6009 nkcalisa@hotmail.com.*

MARCH 28-30 JANESVILLE, WI The 25th Annual Badger Knife Show, Holiday Inn Express and Conference Center. Contact Bob Schrap 414.479.9765 badgerknifeclub@aol.com.*BH

APRIL

APRIL 4-6 HARRISONBURG, VA The 17th Annual Greater Shenandoah Valley Knife Show, Rockingham County Fairgrounds main building. Contact Shenandoah Valley Knife Collectors, Dept. BL3, attn: Ralph Eagle, POB 843, Harrisonburg, VA 22803 828.828.0778 svkc.org, clubmail@svkc.org.*

APRIL 4-6 BESSEMER, AL The 20th Annual Batson Bladesmithing Symposium, Homecoming, Rendezvous and Knife Show, Tannehill Ironworks. Admission FREE in celebration of the 20th anniversary. Contact Judd Clem, Dept. BL3, 111 Yorkshire Dr., Athens, AL 35613 or 256.232.2645 ajc665@peoplepc.com.* **

APRIL 5-6 TULSA, OK Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show, Expo Square/Tulsa Fairgrounds. Contact Tulsa Gun Show, Inc., POB 33201, Tulsa, OK 74153 918.492.0401 tulsaaarmsshow.com.

APRIL 11-13 WILMINGTON, OH The NKCA Ohio Spring Knife Show, Roberts Centre. Contact the NKCA 423.875.6009 nkcalisa@hotmail.com.*

APRIL 12-13 EUGENE, OR The 33rd Annual Oregon Knife Collectors Association Show, Lane County Convention Center. OKCA members-only show day April 11. Contact OKCA, Dept. BL3, Eugene, OR 97402 541.484.5564 okca@oregonknifeclub.org.*BH

APRIL 19-20 NOVI, MI Wolverine Knife Collectors Show and Michigan Antique Arms Collectors Show, Rock Financial Showcase. Call Pat Donovan 586.786.5549 or Frank Meek 586.264.2031.*

APRIL 25-27 SOLVANG, CA Solvang Custom Knife Show, Royal Scandinavian Inn. Contact Nordic Knives 805.688.3612 www.nordicknives.com.*

MAY

MAY 3-4 MYSTIC, CT The 26th Annual NCCA Extravaganza Show, the Hilton. Contact Caroline Levine 978.375.0896 cklevine@att.net or Moe Legare 401.769.6902.*

MAY 16-18 SPRINGFIELD, MO The NKCA Springfield Two-Day Show, Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. Contact the NKCA 423.875.6009 nkcalisa@hotmail.com.

To ensure timely publication of your knife show in the "Show Calendar," BLADE® requests that you send all pertinent information concerning your show in written form—dates, locations, etc.—at least three months before the show takes place to F&W Publications, attn: B. O'Brien, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54945 715.445.2214 fax 715.445.4087. BLADE depends on the shows themselves for prompt and accurate information.

VISIT WWW.KNIFEKITS.COM

Always Your Source for Folder Kits, Fixed Blade Kits, Handle Supplies, Equipment, Tools, Specialty Parts, Sheaths and Kits, Accessories, Books, and Videos

THE MODERN SKINNER



KKSK1BL Modern Skinner (Parts Only).....\$37.95
 KKS1K Modern Skinner Kit.....\$45.95

G13 MODERN INLAY FOLDER



G13 Modern Inlay Folder (single).....\$17.95 ea.
 G13 (5 Pack)-pre-order only.....\$14.25 ea.
 (machined pre-drilled inlay handles available)

FLX25 FRAMELOCK



KKFLX25 FLX-25 Frame-Lock Folder Kit.....\$18.95
 KKFLX25-5 FLX-25 Frame Lock Folder Kit (5 Pack).....\$16.25
 KKFLX25-COCO Pre-Machined Cocobolo Scale Set.....\$12.95
 KKFLX25-TEAK Pre-Machined Teak Wood Scale Set.....\$12.95
 KKFLX25-CURU Pre-Machined Curupay Wood Scale Set.....\$12.95
 KKFLX25-MACA Pre-Machined Maca Wood Scale Set.....\$12.95
 KKFLX25-PURP Pre-Machined Purpleheart Wood Scale Set.....\$12.95
 KKFLX25-BLM Black Linen Micarta Scale Set.....\$12.95
 KKFLX25-BCM Black Canvas Micarta Scale Set.....\$12.95

DR2 MODERN BOWIE

2nd Generation Design



DDR2-MB (1) DDR2™ Modern Bowie (base parts kit).....\$6.95
 DDR2-MB5 (5 units) DDR2™ Modern Bowie.....\$4.95/ea.
 DDR2-CF (1) set of pre-machined Carbon Fiber scales.....\$29.95
 DDR2-BOLO (1) set of pre-machined Cocobolo scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-BG (1) set of pre-machined Black G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-BLG (1) set of pre-machined Blue G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-BBG (1) set of pre-machined Blue/Black G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-RG (1) set of pre-machined Red G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-GG (1) set of pre-machined Green G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-GBG (1) set of pre-machined Green/Black G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-LAP (1) set of pre-machined Lapis scales.....\$19.95
 PBWS532-1 (1) set of Phosphorous-Bronze Washers (5/32).....\$1.79/set

DR2 MODIFIED TANTO

2nd Generation Design



DDR2-TA (1) DDR2™ Tanto (base parts kit).....\$6.95
 DDR2-TA5 (5 units) DDR2™ Tanto.....\$4.95/ea.
 DDR2-CF (1) set of pre-machined Carbon Fiber scales.....\$29.95
 DDR2-BOLO (1) set of pre-machined Cocobolo scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-BG (1) set of pre-machined Black G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-BLG (1) set of pre-machined Blue G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-BBG (1) set of pre-machined Blue/Black G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-RG (1) set of pre-machined Red G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-GG (1) set of pre-machined Green G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-GBG (1) set of pre-machined Green/Black G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR2-LAP (1) set of pre-machined Lapis scales.....\$19.95
 PBWS532-1 (1) set of Phosphorous-Bronze Washers (5/32).....\$1.79/set

TYPHOON COMPETITION TRAINER

New Butterfly Model. Pre-Order Now.



TYPHOON-CT (Parts Kit) Typhoon™ Competition Trainer Kit (Pre-Order Only).....\$99.95/ea. Pre-Order Price \$79.95/ea.

FL009 FRAME LOCK KIT



KKFL009 FL009 Frame-Lock Folder Kit (Single) (includes 1 set standard finished cocobolo handles).....\$16.95/ea.
 KKFL009-5 FL009 Frame Lock Folder Kit (5 Pack) (includes standard finished cocobolo handles).....\$14.95/ea.
 Optional Items (Upgrade handles below are machined and pre-drilled)
 KKFL009-COCO Pre-Machined Cocobolo Scale Set.....\$12.95/set
 KKFL009-TEAK Pre-Machined Teak Wood Scale Set.....\$12.95/set
 KKFL009-CURU Pre-Machined Curupay Wood Scale Set.....\$12.95/set
 KKFL009-MACA Pre-Machined Maca Wood Scale Set.....\$12.95/set
 KKFL009-PURP Pre-Machined Purpleheart Wood Scale Set.....\$12.95/set
 KKFL009-BLM Black Linen Micarta Scale Set.....\$12.95/set
 KKFL009-BCM Black Canvas Micarta Scale Set.....\$12.95/set

CLASSIC CHEF



KK529BL Classic Chef Knife Blade (no handles) Cryo-Treated.....\$17.45
 KK529K Classic Chef Knife Kit (includes Cocobolo scales).....\$24.95
 R125SS-6 1/8" 416 Stainless Pin Material (6") (For handle construction).....\$0.95
 R125B-6 1/8" Brass Pin Material (6") (For handle construction).....\$0.50

DDR3 BUTTON LOCK

Hot Design



DDR3BL Base Parts Kit.....\$56.95
 DDR3BL-CF Carbon Fiber scales.....\$29.95
 DDR3BL-TEAK Teak scales.....\$19.95
 DDR3BL-BG Black G-10 scales.....\$19.95
 DDR3BL-Coco Cocobolo scales.....\$19.95

DELTA 5TH SERIES



The Delta 5 series includes 4 distinct tactical blade styles. Pictured above is the D5 chute grind. And shown in stag, a modified D5 spear point. Please see web site or catalog for more.
 D5BL-MB Delta 5™ Modern Bowie Parts Kit.....\$37.95
 D5BL-Ck Delta 5™ Chute Knife Parts Kit.....\$37.95
 D5BL-DP Delta 5™ Drop Point Parts Kit.....\$37.95
 D5BL-S Delta 5™ Spear Point Parts Kit.....\$37.95
 D5-COCO Cocobolo wood scales.....\$12.00
 D5-CURU Curupay wood scales.....\$12.00
 D5-BCM Black Canvas Micarta scales.....\$12.00
 D5-BLM-Black Linen Micarta scales.....\$12.00

SENSEI TANTO

New Tanto Design



KK534BL Sensei Blade (base kit) w/Bolsters/Pins (No Handles) Cryo-Treated.....\$33.95/ea
 KK534K Sensei Kit Base Parts Kit w/ Blade/Bolsters/Pins, 1 pair of Cocobolo 1.5 x 5 scales with epoxy. (SAVE!!).....\$39.50/ea

JAPANESE CORD WRAPPING WITH KIRBY LAMBERT DVD

\$29.95 EA.

DREMEL TOOLS FOR FILE WORK



275-02 Dremel® Single-speed MultiPro Tool Kit.....\$42.95
 2850-02 Dremel® 2850-02 Two Speed MultiPro Kit.....\$59.95

CLIPOVER BELT LOOPS



KKCOL Clip Over Loop (includes mounting hardware).....\$5.95/ea
 KKCOL2 Clip Over Loop (includes mounting hardware).....\$10.50/pr

THERMOFORM SHEATH PRESS



KKSMF-12 Sheath Molding Press (12" x 8") Bench Model - Includes Foam.....\$84.95
 KKSMF-24 Sheath Molding Press (24" x 8") Bench Model - Includes Foam - NEW!.....\$159.95

KYNDEX SHEET MATERIAL! 7 NEW COLORS!

ECONO ZIPPER POUCHES



CKKZPH7_BK1 Black Canvas CKK (7").....\$2.80/ea
 CKKZPH7_BK10 Black Canvas CKK (7").....SAVE \$23.00/10
 CKKZPH7_OD1 O.D. Green Canvas CKK (7").....\$2.80/ea
 CKKZPH7_OD10 O.D. Green Canvas CKK (7").....SAVE \$23.00/10
 CKKZPH9_BK1 Black Canvas CKK (9").....\$2.95/ea
 CKKZPH9_BK10 Black Canvas CKK (9").....SAVE \$25.00/10
 CKKZPH9_OD1 O.D. Green Canvas CKK (9").....\$2.95/ea
 CKKZPH9_OD10 O.D. Green Canvas CKK (9").....SAVE \$25.00/10

CHECK OUR SITE FOR NEW KNIFEMAKING BOOKS & VIDEOS



FREE CATALOG

To receive a free copy of our bench catalog, please fill in the below form ...

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____
 Zip _____

MAIL TO: CLASSIC KNIFE KITS
 1600 PALMETTO TYRONE ROAD
 SHARPSBURG, GA 30277

BL07

Or, e-mail the above to info@knifekits.com

Classic Knife Industries



Toll Free Sales & Support
877.255.6433
 www.KnifeKits.com

BLADE

THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION

On Most Newsstands
by Feb. 10, 2008

• **Hottest Tactical
Folders of the
Hottest Tactical
Folder Makers**

• **How To Sharpen
Recurve Blades**

• **Alamo Connections:
On Bowie's Trail**

• **Barker/Crowell
Browning
Collaboration**

• **The New Stainless
Steels**

• **Museum Pieces in
Memphis**

• **One-Blade Slip
Joints**

• **The Great Knife
Defenders**

• **Profile In Steel:
Michael Rader**

• **Factory Focus:
Culpepper & Co.**



The Survival Card™

This is one credit card that
could literally save your life

NEW
FOR
08

TOOL LOGIC®

BUILT FOR LIFE™

Toll Free 800-483-8422 • Fax 805-339-9712
sales@toollogic.com • www.toollogic.com

Patents pending. © Copyright 2007-2008, Tool Logic, Inc. All rights reserved.

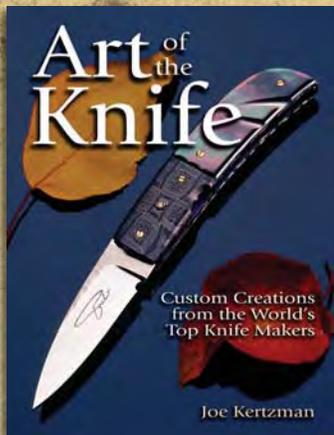
The look and feel of a tactical folder
with the versatility of pliers



SL™ Plier
3" Serrated Blade
Frame Lock
Plier with Wire Cutter
Flat and Phillips Drivers
Pocket/Belt Clip

See us at SHOT SHOW Booth#5987

IF AHAB HAD THIS INFORMATION, OL' MOBY WOULD BE ABOVE THE FIREPLACE...



Hardcover • 8-1/4 x 10-7/8 • 256 pages
350 color photos
Item# Z0733 • \$35

Art of the Knife

Joe Kertzman

Explore the creativity and craftsmanship of knifemaking in 350 brilliant color photos of highly engraved folders, engraved fixed blades, wire-wrapped knives and more, including a basic explanation of materials.

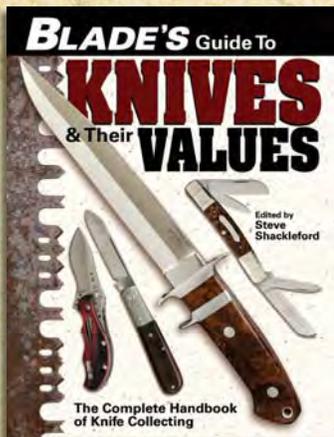


Softcover • 8-1/4 x 10-7/8 • 160 pages
250 color photos
Item# WGBWR • \$19.99

Wayne Goddard's \$50 Knife Shop, Revised

Wayne Goddard

Explore Wayne Goddard's trusted techniques through detailed instructions, demonstrated in 250 color photos and outlined in cost-saving hints for building your own workshop.



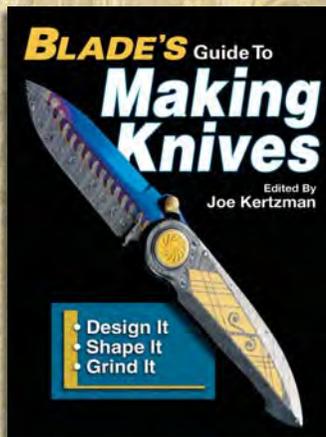
trends in the industry. Plus, detailed histories of knife companies, and contact information.

Softcover • 8-1/2 x 11 • 576 pages
2,000 b&w photos
Item# LGK6 • \$29.99

Blade's Guide to Knives & Their Values

Steve Shackelford

Covers most all knives made around the world, mostly from the 19th century through to the present, with up-to-date values, 2,000+ photos, and feature articles covering



knife and blade. Features detailed instructions and 250 striking color illustrations.

Softcover • 8-1/4 x 10-7/8 • 160 pages
250 color photos
Item# BGKFM • \$24.99

BLADE'S Guide to Making Knives

Joe Kertzman

Gain professional tips for grinding blades, crafting hunting knives, forging pattern-welded steel into intricate designs, making folding knives, and fashioning the important bolster between

Make 'Em Harpoon Sharp with Krause Publications

What's Hot— Though Never Too Hot to Handle

Old standbys and new standards have a solid grip on the “steering wheels” of knives

By Stephen Garger

Black Timascus is the latest iteration of Timascus and, in the words of Dave Stark of Steel Addiction Knives, “seems to be in particularly high demand” as a handle material. Allen Elishewitz uses the material on his upscale damascus folder here.



Jessica Bybee of Alpha Knife Supply Co. displays several Black Timascus knives at the 2007 BLADE Show. Alpha Knife Supply introduced the new handle material at the show.



Tom Ferry employs Texture Tech™ Titanium for the handle of his folder. (Mitch Lum photo)



According to Marge Hartman of Masecraft Supply, companies such as Buck are offering knives with handles of various materials that blur the lines between factory and custom. An example is the Buck Yellow-horse Night Hunter (left). The handle consists of a nickel-silver eagle cutout, black jet background, mother-of-pearl moon, inlaid opal stars and a polished nickel-silver frame with Koji Hara's stone-step-relief design. In a limited edition of 250, the knife has an MSRP of \$700.

A relatively neutral, if arbitrary, place to begin any discussion of today's hottest handle materials would seem to be with stag. I use the word *relatively* because, as purveyor Dave Stark of Steel Addiction Knives points out, "All collectors have an emotional connection to a particular handle material." Allowing for the emotions that personal preferences can produce, in general it seems that if "lady knife"—*BLADE*® field editor Ed Fowler's term—has a "dress" most people enjoy seeing her in, it is made of stag. "Whatever the style of knife, stag crosses all the barriers," Stark says.

According to a 2006 *BLADE* website (www.blademag.com) survey, 18 percent of those voting listed stag as their favorite handle material, tied for second with Micarta® and closely behind No. 1 wood with 19 percent. The survey provides pretty convincing evidence given the fact that the wood and Micarta categories contain variations, and stag does not.

Joe Culpepper of Culpepper & Co. (formerly known as Mother Of Pearl Co.) reports that, more recently, "Stag has been red hot, making up 50 percent of my business [in 2007]." Traditionally, the most-sought-after stag is the Sambar variety from India, which has a long-standing embargo on the material. However, Culpepper notes that he has secured excellent stag from Mongolia. "It's [from] the exact same species as in India," he says, "and the only negative

According to a recent *BLADE*® website (www.blademag.com) survey, wood is No. 1 and stag is tied for second as the most popular handle materials. J. Neilson uses both materials on his trailing point skinners. Maker's list price for the set: \$2,200. (Chuck Ward photo)



Beckwith's Blades The right knife...
at the right price...
for the work you do!!!

AL MAR KNIVES
Adventure Medical Kits
BENCHWADE KNIFE COMPANY
DMT
COLUMBIA RIVER 17861
EMERSON
HANWEI
KA-BAR Knives, Inc.
Kershaw
Lanc Well Knives
MERCWORK
LANSKY SHARPENERS
PROTECH USA
SOG
Spyderco
VICTORINOX
MACROTECH
Smith & Wesson
ZT

www.beckwithsblades.com
713-935-0886 - 10801 Hammerly Blvd., #240, Houston, TX 77043

Check Web Site For Available Knives
www.sunfishforge.com

Sunfish Forge



Don Hanson III
P.O. Box 13, Success, MO 65570
573-674-3045

Lambert Knives



'Inferno'
(306) 737-2333
kirby@lambertknives.com
www.lambertknives.com

Photo: Jim Cooper

GIRAFFEBONE INC.

SEE US AT THE
LAS VEGAS CLASSIC
JAN. 18TH-20TH

Damasteel Stainless Damascus
Mosaic Damascus
Powder Steel & Nickel
South African Handle
Material

www.giraffebone.com
1-888-804-0683



handle materials
handle materials

is that, overall, the [antlers] are not as large." He emphasizes that while the small size does not affect the quality of the material, it limits the quantity that can be derived from one animal.

Chuck Bybee of Alpha Knife Supply says he agrees that stag remains in high demand but, at this point, he is not worried about a shortage. "India opened up the embargo [for a short time not long ago], but the amount of stag they [let] out is mind boggling," he observes. Marge

Mammoth tooth continues to ride a wave of popularity. Dan Westlind's fighter employs a multi-striped piece, along with a blade and fittings of a damascus of 15N20, 1084 and pure nickel steels. (BladeGallery.com photo)





Desert-colored Micarta® enjoys a growing number of adherents. The Model 1-4 by M.D. Caldwell & Co. sports the material machined in 3-D. The flat-ground blade is 154CM stainless. Overall length: 9 inches. (BladeGallery.com photo)

Hartman of Masecraft Supply notes that some really good stag came into the USA during the brief lifting of the embargo and that her company is holding on to a good supply.

Wood is another material that cuts across knife categories.

Purveyor Julie Hyman, owner of Arizona Custom Knives, says she especially likes knives handled with silver-vine wood, purple-heart wood and wormwood. "Interest is growing in these woods because they are all so different as well as very nice looking," she advises.

"Desert ironwood has been one of the top sellers for five years," Bybee says. "It's becoming more expensive and has slowed down since Mexico imposed a ban. All other suppliers we know of are selling out of it and we can't get anymore," he notes. But, as Hartman qualifies, "Ironwood is also available in the United States [Arizona for the most part], so the shortage won't be so bad." Still, Bybee observes, the Mexican variety of the wood—a light brown in color with high-contrast black



knife depot

10,000+ KNIVES

Great prices and selection

www.knife-depot.com

HAWKINS KNIFE MAKING SUPPLIES

110 BUCKEYE RD., FAYETTEVILLE, GA 30214
PHONE 770-964-1023 FAX 770-306-2877

Contact us for your
Knifemaking Supplies and Equipment!

www.HawkinsKnifeMakingSupplies.com

Send \$2.00 for Complete Listing • ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

WWW.MYKNIFEDEALER.COM

Featuring:
Unique custom and production knives

OFFERING:
"Local dealer" service with
"Internet dealer" Pricing



OMEGA MAXIM GI

Phone: 800.207.6615
Email: blade@myknifedealer.com
LYNN O OLSON



Knife and Engraving by S. Tozaki



PARAGON SPORTS®

New York's Finest Sports Specialty Store
18th Street and Broadway, NYC 10003 (212) 255-8036
Also Available At [ParagonSports.com™](http://ParagonSports.com)

DEALERS ONLY! DEALERS ONLY! DEALERS ONLY! DEALERS ONLY!



ONLINE SHOPPING

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR

OVER 300 BRANDS

YOUR ONE SOURCE FOR KNIVES AND SWORDS

BLUE RIDGE KNIVES

Blue Ridge Knives • Department BL • 166 Adwolfe Road • Marion, VA 24354

Send a copy of your business license and \$3 (refundable) for 816 page color catalog. Minimum order required.

Phone (276) 783-6143 • Fax (276) 783-9298

E-Mail: onestop@blueridgeknives • Web Site: www.blueridgeknives.com

handle materials

stripes—is more striking than the American variety, which is a darker brown with black stripes.

Ken McFall of Knife & Gun Finishing Supplies says the Mexican ban has been in effect for years and applies to federal lands only. “The ironwood we get out of Mexico is coming from private lands,” he notes. He adds that there is also a ban on cutting ironwood on state or federal lands in Arizona. (For more on the ironwood situation, see an upcoming *BLADE*.)

According to the material suppliers interviewed, mother-of-pearl continues to sell well. “All premium pearl is always a good seller,” Culpepper comments. By-bee agrees, adding that textured pearl is popular also. “In terms of sales volume, what tends to stand out is mother-of-pearl, black pearl, gold pearl and green abalone,” Hartman clarifies. “Two of the big manufacturing companies, Buck and

Nordic Knives

1634-C Copenhagen Drive
Solvang CA 93463
800-992-6574

Featuring the finest in
Custom & Randall knives
since 1971



We buy, sell & consign
entire collections

To view our collection,
please visit our website at
www.nordicknives.com

Your satisfaction is guaranteed by our return policy



Ironwood remains among the hottest of woods for handles. Though there is a Mexican ban on ironwood cut from federal lands, the richly colored Mexican ironwood is still obtainable from private lands, according to Ken McFall of Knife & Gun Finishing Supplies. Charles Vestal opts for ironwood burl on his Loveless-style New York Special. Overall length: 7.5 inches. (SharpByCoop.com photo)

Case, use a lot of pearl, as [do] the custom makers.”

Stark says that pearl, which he sees as a handle material for many gent's knives, sells regularly, along with mastodon ivory and giraffe bone. Hyman indicates that her clients prefer mammoth ivory and mammoth tooth over pearl. Both purveyors agree that bone, in its many varieties, is the material of choice for the classic slip joints. Hartman says bone sells very well for Masecraft. “We market five exclusive patterns of carved, dyed bone and also many sizes and colors of jugged-bone slabs,” she qualifies.

Synthetics with Sizzle

In the synthetic/tactical grouping, Hyman says she sees a distinct trend toward bright-colored handle materials. “Brilliant blue G-10 is getting popular,” she remarks, “and orange is real popular because it protects against setting your knife down and losing it.” Stark is on the same page.

“Ranger green [G-10] is a big thing

“The texture reflects the knifemaker’s personality.”

—Chuck Bybee

in tactical knives now, along with red, natural and desert-colored Micarta,” he expounds. “Black G-10 is getting kind of passé, and there’s a growing interest in silver G-10 and for silver-twill carbon fiber coupled with wood. But there is always a demand for ‘old-school’ tactical handle materials like carbon fiber, green rag Micarta and titanium.”

Both Hyman and Stark seem enthusiastic about a carbon fiber variant with phosphorus bronze called “lightning-strike carbon fiber.” Aerospace engineers for the Boeing 787 developed the dramatic-looking material. “The airframe must be designed to allow lightning striking a plane to pass through without affecting passengers, crew and computers,” Bybee advises. “The new 787 has large sections of skin made from carbon fiber, and the bronze filaments allow the skin to conduct electricity while providing the benefits of light weight and strength.” Engineering aside, Hyman especially likes the material “because it is something new and different from the look-alike carbon fiber and G-10 handles.”

Speaking of something different, Hyman hails “Texture Tech™” as a handle material that is exciting and also very du-

plaza cutlery
CALIFORNIA'S LEADING CUTLERY STORE

A Plaza Cutlery EXCLUSIVE!

Plaza Cutlery Exclusive by Chris Reeve Knives “Doggy Knives”! Featuring the Large and Small Sebenza with silver contrast paw prints on the side of the knife! Large Sebenza is \$449.95 and the Small Sebenza is \$399.95! We usually have stock, but can run out, so order early for the holidays!



Reminds you of your best friend each time you use your knife!!

Plaza Cutlery

www.plazacutlery.com • E-mail: dan@plazacutlery.com

3333 S. Bristol St., Suite 2060, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

714-549-3932 • Ordering Toll Free 866-827-5292

Phone orders welcome and we accept all major credit cards!

BURR KING ADVANTAGE

Since 1951

MODEL 960-272

THE KNIFEMAKER'S EDGE!

- GRIND, POLISH, BUFF WITH ONE MACHINE!
- HOLLOW GRIND, FLAT GRIND, CONTOUR, SLACK BELT, VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL PLATENS
- FIXED & VARIABLE SPEEDS, SMOOTH RUNNING
- SMALL WHEEL ATTACHMENT
- SERRATED CONTACT WHEELS FOR RAPID STOCK REMOVAL

800-621-2748 • FAX: 660-438-8991

1220 TAMARA LANE, WARSAW MD 65355

INFO@BURRKING.COM • WWW.BURRKING.COM

MADE IN THE U.S.A.





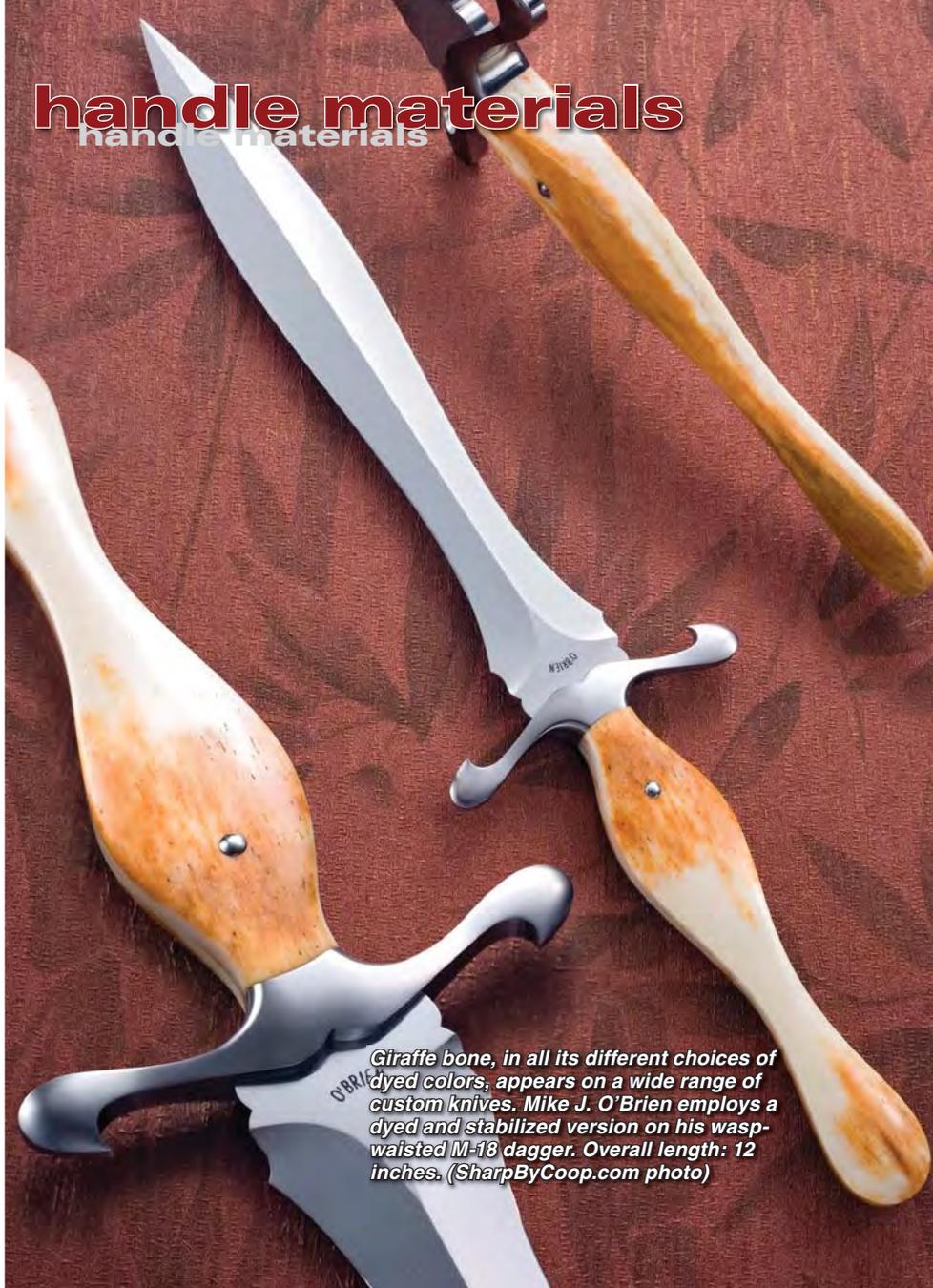
MCUSTA
SEKI JAPAN

Model Shown: MC-33D "Take" Classic Damascus Folder, 3-1/2" closed, Damascus blade with VG-10 core. MSRP \$239.94



US Distributor:
Mcusta Knives USA
www.mcustausa.com
877-714-5487

handle materials



Giraffe bone, in all its different choices of dyed colors, appears on a wide range of custom knives. Mike J. O'Brien employs a dyed and stabilized version on his wasp-waisted M-18 dagger. Overall length: 12 inches. (SharpByCoop.com photo)

table. "I saw it for the first time two years ago at the Vegas Show on Todd Beggs' knives and it is striking," she recalls. In addition to the aforementioned textured pearl, Bybee says that anything with texture has been hot over the past couple of years.

"There's carving into materials with tools like what Ken Onion, Lee Williams and Matt Cucchiara do [see "Carved Cutters with Class," September *BLADE*]," he notes, "and Tom Ferry has been developing Texture Tech to provide pre-textured handle materials. The texture reflects the knifemaker's personality and makes for a very personalized piece. Tom's pieces of Texture Tech provide a good-feeling knife and create a striking visual impact. In some of Tom's patterns you can see multiple layers in the materials that create a 3-D effect."

Timascus and a new version called Black Timascus also are having a ripple effect on the knife community. "Black Timascus seems to be in particularly high demand right now," Stark assesses. Produced by forge-welding two or more titanium alloys together with damascus, Timascus was developed several years ago by Bybee, Ferry and knifemaker Bill Cottrell. "Black Timascus is a combination of titanium and zirconium," Bybee explains. "Zirconium is a fascinating material. It's soft and easy to work until it's heat colored, and that creates the black oxide finish."

According to Bybee, the cost of Timascus is tied to the cost of titanium—and those costs are rising.

"The price of Timascus keeps going up with the price of titanium," he says. "The last three years there has been a



Purveyors Julie Hyman and Dave Stark agree that bone, in its many varieties, is the material of choice for classic slip joints. Marge Hartman of Masecraft Supply says bone sells very well. "We market five exclusive patterns of carved, dyed bone and also many sizes and colors of jigsawed-bone slabs," she notes. Wesley W. Davis employs jigsawed bone on his slip-joint folder. (Chuck Ward photo)

worldwide shortage of titanium due to the demands of the aerospace industry and the amount of titanium scrap being purchased by foreign buyers. In fact, that's why we're beginning to see a shift to 410 stainless steel for folder liners."

Future Impact?

On the factory side, Hartman says a development in Masecraft's handle material sales could begin to impact the sales of custom knives.

"There is a definite trend for big companies, for example Buck Knives, to use various materials—mammoth ivory, stones, nickel-silver bolsters, sometimes about a half-dozen pieces of material—in one small knife," she imparts. "The knives

look very good and the line between custom knives and manufactured knives is getting fuzzy as that trend continues."

The tendency of large knife companies to offer a handle with materials comparable to a custom piece, coupled with the ongoing development of, and experimentation with, new handle materials by industry engineers and knifemakers will no doubt continue to transform the entire industry.

Hold on to that knife handle and stay tuned!

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 99.

BLADE



Dave Stark of Steel Addiction Knives said Ranger green G-10 is among the hotter materials for tactical-type knives. Machined in 3-D for a superior grip, it is used here on Kershaw's Strider-designed Zero Tolerance Model 0121 fixed blade. The 4.25-inch blade is CPM S30V stainless steel with a tungsten DLC coating. Weight: 9.1 ounces. MSRP: \$235.

Edged tools for the Good Life built Wolf-Tough

Automatic Satisfaction! Diablo-DA double action Automatic!

Scale release automatic or manual one-handed-opening. 3.3 inch CPM-S30V blade, locking-liner, Textured/contoured handle, 4.1 oz LD23150

Also available in one-handed-opening. Non-automatic version LC23155



Paul® Prankster

3.2 inch 154 CM blade, Patented Paul® lock system locks, blade opened and closed, Cocobolo handles, 3.3 oz., one-handed-opening. LM22750.

Also available with G-10 handles LM22820.



LONE WOLF KNIVES™

9373 SW Barber Street, Ste A.

Wilsonville, OR 97070

Dealer Locator At

www.lonewolfknives.com

art knives
art knives

Applied Opulence

"We find successful [makers of art knives] give great value for the money by way of their applied opulence: incorporating gold, high-quality ivories, engraving and top mechanics," observed Larry Connelley of KnifeArt.com. "If it's engraved, out it goes, but fast." An example is the work of Jerry Corbit. (SharpByCoop.com photo)

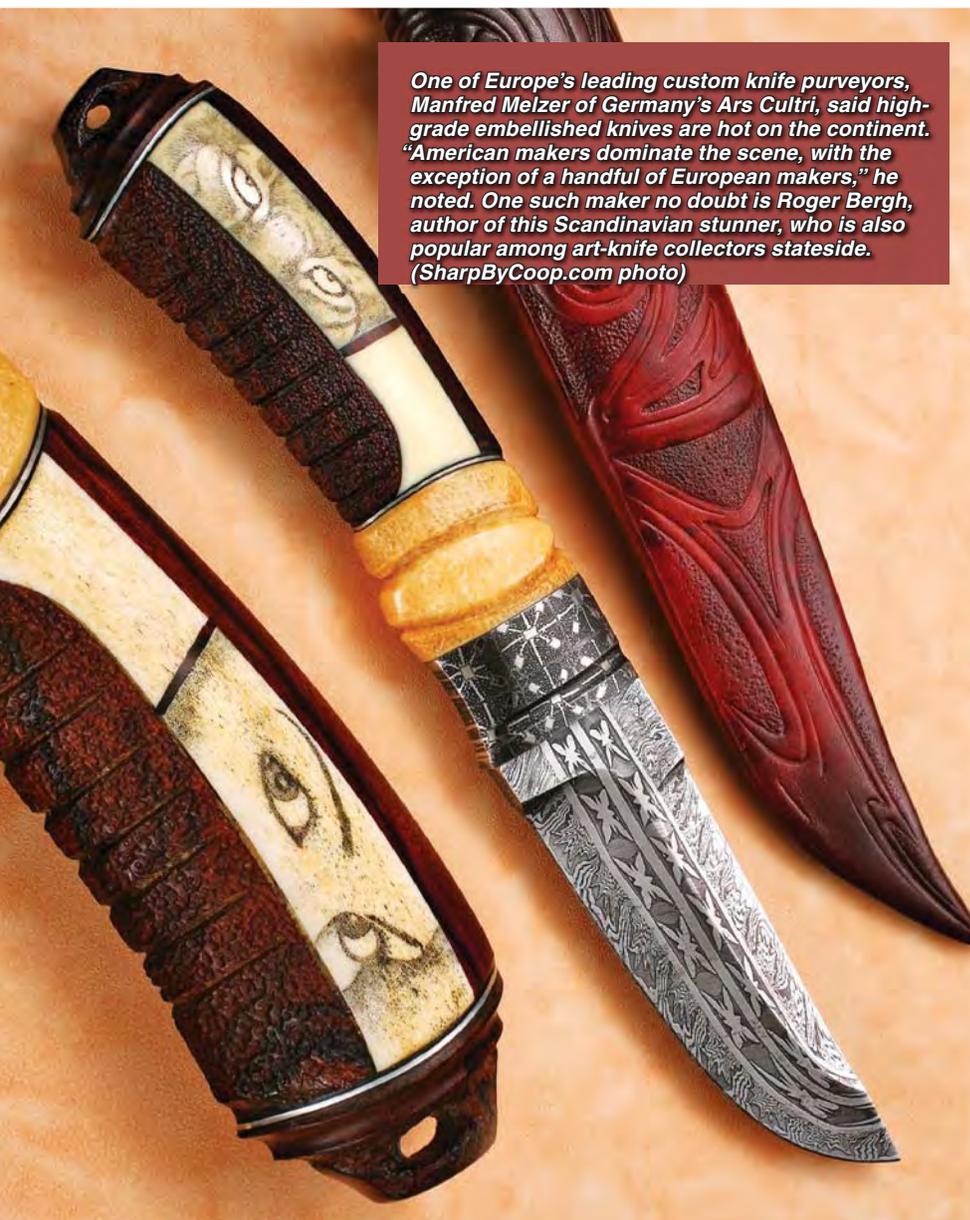


By Don Guild

The state-of-the-art in art knives encompasses
embellishment projects of the highest order



Though embellished knives have been around for over 4,000 years, only royalty and the filthy rich could afford a one-of-a-kind art knife, the most famous being the King Tut Dagger. Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® Buster Warenski's reproduction of the granddaddy of all art knives is from the collection of Phil Lobred. (SharpByCoop.com photo)



One of Europe's leading custom knife purveyors, Manfred Melzer of Germany's Ars Cultri, said high-grade embellished knives are hot on the continent. "American makers dominate the scene, with the exception of a handful of European makers," he noted. One such maker no doubt is Roger Bergh, author of this Scandinavian stunner, who is also popular among art-knife collectors stateside. (SharpByCoop.com photo)

On a rainy fall day in 1971, what up until that time was the world's largest custom knife show opened quietly with a record attendance of seven exhibiting knifemakers. Incandescent bulbs in the 20-foot ceiling threw dull light onto a rickety table; no cloth covered the table and no one cared.

Lost within a roaring sea of gun tables at the annual Dallas gun show sat an odd hunting knife that sported a handle of various inlays, insets of brass wire, and a complex, fileworked blade spine. An art knife—at a gun show? Sly smiles and snickers abounded. Fellow makers fired statements like, “Hey, Lloyd, whatchya got there, a little girl’s knife?”

Lloyd Hale took nine orders for his “little girl’s knife” at that show. At the next gun show, guess what materialized on the snickerers’ tables? Yep, fancied-up knives. Was this the kickoff of the art knife movement? Sure, such knives had been made before, but not with this reaction. “From then on,” Hale recalled, “it exploded, and embellished knives became the hot number at shows. Later, a collector said to me, ‘Lloyd, you’re an artist, that’s art.’ I’d never even thought of myself as anything but a knifemaker, never as an artist.”

“Engraved pieces are in big demand.”
—the author

Though embellished knives have been around for over 4,000 years, only royalty and the filthy rich could afford a one-of-a-kind art knife, the most famous being the original King Tut Dagger. Along with the arts of jazz and quilting, America originated and popularized the art of knives, where the common man, for as little as \$600, can commission an art knife. Any one of several hundred makers can fabricate a one-at-a-time, one-of-a-kind art knife to personal specifications.

What’s Hot, What’s Not

Enough about the past; where are art knives today? I wanted to hear “what’s hot and what’s not” from those in the trenches, so I reached out to makers and purveyors to get a meaningful cross-section and pestered the top pros in the field for their views.

According to those I interviewed, beauty is not in the eye of the beholder, because the definition of an art knife is not in the eye of the beholder. When I asked, “Is a user, utility, tactical, or even a Loveless dropped hunter an art knife?”

art knives

art knives



Purveyor Julie Hyman of Arizona Custom Knives said she has had a lot of success selling art knives having damascus, black-lip mother-of-pearl, mammoth-tooth ivory and engraving. Included among her hotter-selling makers is Jody Muller, crafter of this fuller-blade folder in damascus, gold engraving and ancient ivory. (SharpByCoop.com photo)

they gave a resounding, “No!” None are an art knife because an art knife must have one essential requirement: embellishment. Only an embellished knife is an art knife, they concluded. Controversial? Absolutely.

Purveyor Hank Rummell of New York Custom Knives chuckled when I asked

him the slam-dunk question, “What’s hot?” He gave his quick reply: “Engraved knives.” He cannot keep them in his larder. He sells snazzy stuff he calls “investment grade” and said, “Outstanding workmanship is of the utmost importance. Art knives with designer damascus by artisans like Joe Olson are hot. Autos

with engraving move out fast, especially Joe Kious’ pocket-locket autos or Warren Osborne’s engraved knives.”

Appearing in the work of knifemakers Wolfgang Loerchner, Ken Steigerwalt and Stephen Olszewski are appointments carved or cast in gold, sometimes in the form of teardrops, stylized stars, *fleur-de-lis*, or other classic shapes inlaid into the handle to enhance a knife’s aesthetics.

All the purveyors I surveyed said that engraved pieces are in big demand. A knife created jointly by the efforts of a long-time maker and a well-established engraver brings top dollar, for such a knife often takes up to a year to develop, design and complete. In the past, knives of this genre, dubbed *investment quality* as Rummell noted, have increased in value over time. It’s been said, “Money is the storage of labor,” and a fine art knife mimics this definition.

For example, at the recent Art Knife Invitational (AKI) in San Diego, Jurgen

No matter which size you prefer, there’s a Northern Light knife available for you. Combining the famous laminate stainless VG10 steel with an old fashion stacked leather handle, we bring a concept which is as goodlooking as reliable. Visit our website for both product information and historical background.

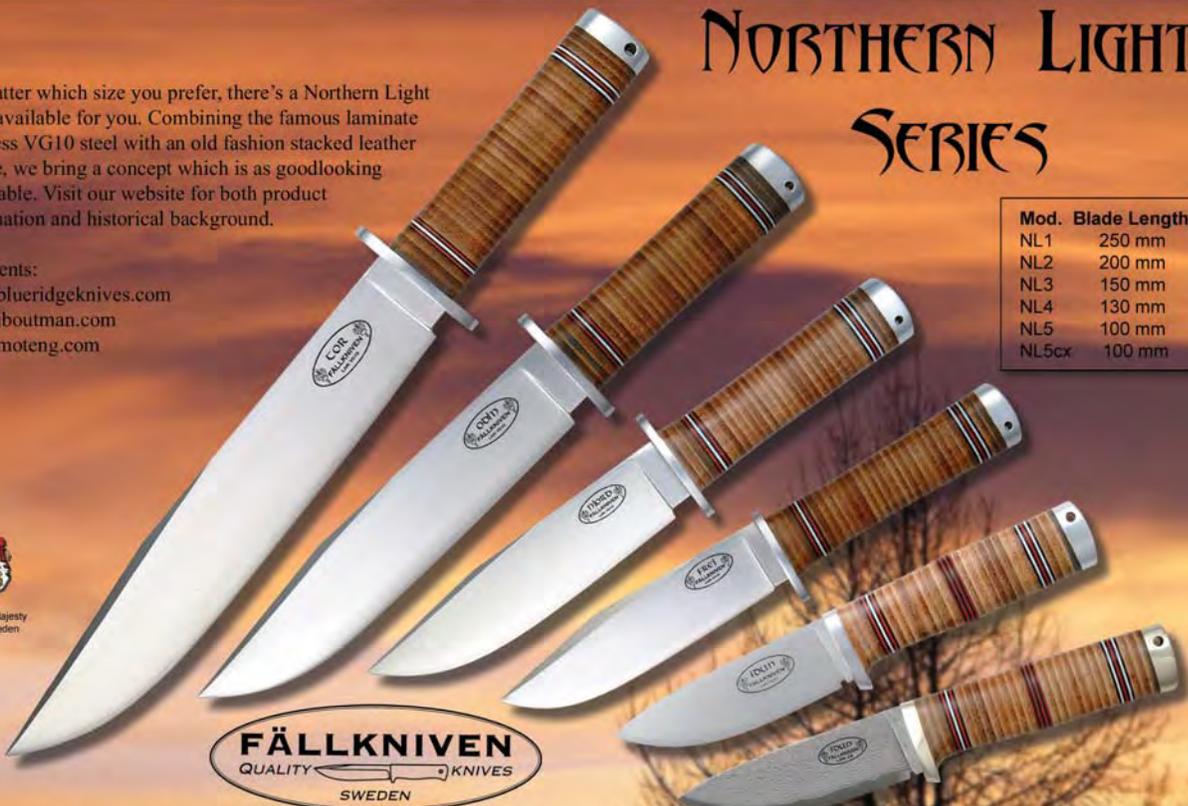
US agents:
www.blueridgeknives.com
www.jboutman.com
www.moteng.com



Purveyor to His Majesty
The King of Sweden

NORTHERN LIGHT SERIES

Mod.	Blade Length
NL1	250 mm
NL2	200 mm
NL3	150 mm
NL4	130 mm
NL5	100 mm
NL5cx	100 mm




Granatvägen 8, S-961 43 Boden. Phone: +46 921-544 22. Fax: +46 921-544 33
 E-mail: info@fallkniven.se Internet: www.fallkniven.com

According to purveyor Hank Rummell of New York Custom Knives, automatics with engraving sell fast, especially Joe Kious' pocket-locket autos or Warren Osborne's engraved knives. Ron Skaggs engraved this spectacular Kious pocket-locket model, named best art knife at the 2007 Chicago Custom Knife Show. (SharpByCoop.com photo)



Steinau, the German knifemaker, sold a folder for \$18,000. I asked about how long it took him to make it. In impeccable English he replied, "It took one month. I work seven days a week, with 14-hour days." That equals 420 hours—some storage of labor!

Stratospheric selling prices are only a small part of the market, so I threw a few questions at purveyor Julie Hyman of Arizona Custom Knives in St. Augustine, Florida. Her experience comes from selling what she said are over 2,000 popularly priced knives a year, about a quarter of which are art knives averaging \$1,300 each. "Finding emerging talent is my challenge, artists that make knives with good mechanics, materials and artistic qualities that will grow in value over time, like Stan Wilson, Larry Newton, Jody Muller and the Vallottons [Arey, Butch, Shawn, Rainy and Thomas]. I've had a lot of success selling knives having damascus, black-lip [mother-of-pearl], mammoth-tooth ivory and engraving. Autos are also

strong. I'm like Johnny Appleseed," she observed. "I plant the seeds of appreciation and collecting."

Knifemaker Don Hanson III munches no bones when laying out his view of an art knife.

"It's beyond a standard user knife," he assessed. "There's more to it than being utilitarian." Hanson said that many of his

fixed blades do not qualify as an art knife. With membership in both the American Bladesmith Society (he earned his ABS master smith stamp at the 2007 BLADE Show) and the Knifemakers' Guild, Hanson has the exposure of two worlds of knives. For the past couple of years his sales have been half fixed blades and half folders, though, at press time, he said his

Only Fine Knives

VAN BARNETT
WALTER BREND
TIM BRITTON
KELLY CARLSON
FRED CARTER
FRANK CENTOFANTE
JEFF CHAFFEE
DAN CHINNOCK
MATT CONABLE
JR COOK
DON COWLES
PAT CRAWFORD
RICK DUNKERLEY
DUANE DWYER
RICK EATON
RUSSELL EASLER
ALLEN ELISHEWITZ
KAJ EMBRETSSEN
JIM ENCE
STAN FUJISAKA
BARRY GALLAGHER
RON GASTON
CHUCK GEDRAITIS
RICK GENOVESE
JIM HAMMOND
TIM HERMAN
HOWARD HITCHMOUGH



WILLIAM HENRY
B10 LUXOR, ENGRAVED
WITH BLACK LIP PEARL SCALES



TIM HERMAN
ENGRAVED SLIVER



HOWARD HITCHMOUGH
DAMASCUS, BLACK LIP PEARL
LOCKBACK



CHRIS REEVE
PACIFIC

JESS HORN
JOHN JENSEN
KIRBY LAMBERT
GREG LIGHTFOOT
JOE KIOUS
PETER MASON
CLAUDE MONTJOY
DUSTY MOULTON
WARREN OSBORNE
FRANCESCO PACHI
WD PEASE
RANDALL KNIVES
STEVEN RAPP
CHRIS REEVE KNIVES
BILL RUPLE
JOHN W SMITH
JOSH SMITH
RALPH SMITH
KEN STEIGERWALT
MICK STRIDER
STRIDER KNIVES
SHANE TAYLOR
BOB TERZUOLA
BRIAN TIGHE
MICHAEL VAGNINO
ROBERT WEINSTOCK
WILLIAM HENRY KNIVES
OWEN WOOD

WWW.ONLYFINEKNIVES.COM

434 738 8647

Culpepper & Co., Inc.

Pearl slabs including:

white, gold, pink, black, brown & abalone

OTHER MATERIALS:

Jig, Pick, Smooth & Stag Bone in a variety of colors & patterns: Mosaic Abalone, Buffalo & Ram's Horn, Stingray Skins, Wallets & Belts.

See Us At:

Safari Club
International Convention
Reno, NV
January 23rd-26th

Arkansas Custom Knife Show
Little Rock, AR
February 23rd-24th

Catalog send \$5.00 or download from our
Web site to:

Culpepper & Co., Inc.

P.O. Box 445, Franklin, NC 28744

Phone (828) 524-6842

Fax (828) 369-7809

www.knifehandles.com

www.stingrayproducts.com

Terms:

C.O.D. • Prepayment • MC/VISA

art knives

fixed-blade sales outstrip folders by far.

"Forged fighters are 'it' right now," he began, "and my ABS friends say that's the same with them. Bowies are in second place. At the ABS Show in Reno [the next installment of which will be Jan. 25-26; see "Show Calendar" on page 104 for more details], only 25 percent of the knives are what I would call art knives. As for handle materials, premium [ancient] ivories are strong. The big demand is for a blade with high contrast at the temper line, known as a *hamon*."

At collector Ed Wormser's Chicago Custom Knife Show this past fall, the Saturday night auction had a packed crowd of eager knife seekers ready to bid for 100 or so knives in a huge range of variety and prices. After the auction, Ed listed the sold price realized for the top 15 knives, and there was not a knife on the list by a maker who had less than 30-40 years of experience. I thought that night's auction price of \$34,000 for a folder by Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® Michael Walker was really high, until I saw a Walker "Zipper-blade" folder bring \$52,500 at the AKI. The movable ceiling is?

Purveyor Paul Shindler of Knife Leg-

ends in Brookline, Massachusetts, zeroed in on the art knife price phenomenon.

"Look at what has prevailed over time in the field of fine art," he observed. "Works by old masters consistently bring the highest prices. 'Old master knife-makers' have taken 30 to 40 years to get where they are, and some are even dead. An elimination process occurs over time; true talent prevails and rises to the top."

Making the High Grade

The William Henry Studio in McMinnville, Oregon, operates outside the box. It has pioneered the distribution of art knives in jewelry stores and boutique retailers—according to one WHK official, in 180 outlets to date. At 8,000 knives a year, the company sees early trends. Art knives are 10 percent of its sales, with prices up to \$5,000 per model and a few trial pieces as high as \$10,000. Rick Thronburg, WHK vice president of marketing, said he is astounded at the lack of price resistance in high-end models and the growing interest in knives above the \$5,000 range.

"Hand-engraved knives with inlaid gold are hot," he noted. "Also, pieces with inset gemstones and unusual damascus are in demand. The highly decorated art knife craze has only begun and is soon to mushroom."

Speaking of trends, how about those in Europe? Manfred Melzer of Germany's

2008 BLADE SHOW WEST

2008 Blade Show West

September 26, 27, 28, 2008 • Portland, Oregon

— NEW LOCATION —

Monarch Hotel & Conference Center • 12566 SE 93rd Ave.
Clackamas (South Portland) OR, 97015

Special Show Room Rate

\$109 single/double • \$129 quad • \$189 Jr. Suite

Call 800-492-8700

Mention Blade Show West for the special Show Rate



2007 Blade Show West

Best New Blade Maker
DANA HACKNEY
(Bladegallery.com photo)

- Free Seminars for new Blade enthusiasts as well as seasoned collectors
- Outdoor Forging Demonstrations
- An International Roster of Top Handmade Knife Makers

- Exciting Collections
- Major Manufacturers
- Suppliers
- Custom Knife Competition

ADMISSION:

\$9 per day
\$14 Two-day pass
\$18 Three-day pass

SHOW HOURS:

Friday, Sept. 26 12pm-6pm
Saturday, Sept. 27 10am-6pm
Sunday, Sept. 28 10am-3pm

For Exhibitor information contact:

BLADE SHOW WEST

for up-to-date information go to:

www.bladeshowwest.com

700 E. State St. • Iola, WI 54990-0001

877-746-9757, Mary Lutz - ext. 313

E-mail: mary.lutz@fwpubs.com

Fax: 715-445-4087

Ars Cultri is one of the continent's leading custom knife purveyors. "Art-knife collectors here are not growing in numbers, but the present collectors are trading up in quality and price quite markedly," he said. "High-grade embellished knives are hot. American makers dominate the scene, with the exception of a handful of European makers. Extremely good engraving and photo-like bolino [engraving] work is at the top of the desire list."

"Old masters consistently bring the highest prices."

—Paul Shindler

Purveyors Larry and Rodney Connelley of KnifeArt.com in Little Rock, Arkansas, pump out a huge number of art knives on the web. "We find successful [makers of art knives] give great value for the money by way of their applied opulence: incorporating gold, high-quality ivories, engraving and top mechanics," Larry stated. "Jerry Corbit, Roger Bergh, Joe Kious and Warren Osborne produce outstanding work. If it's engraved, out it goes, but fast."

The Money-makers

Want to make money on an art knife? I heard the same no-brainer answer from 100 percent of the "knife-ologists" I queried: Buy quality in design, enhancement and mechanics. Sure, there are top user-makers like Bob Loveless, but history impacts the value of his knives, not art.

An added enhancer of price for the better art knives is limited availability. Many of the good makers produce only 10 or 12 knives a year. An oft-mentioned caveat: Buy the works of a known maker. If you are considering an up-and-comer, be sure he's going to stick around for the long term, because in the secondary market longevity is an essential component to an increase in price. Is this a new trend? Not at all, just human nature. For centuries it has been going on in all forms of art, especially in paintings and sculpture. Same principle: early talent will, in most cases, grow and mature if the passionate artist continues to produce. The works of art pioneers have often been of mediocre quality compared to that of living artists, but it is of value to be planted in history. Fine art is skyrocketing in price.

Has it affected your art knives?

For the contact information for the knives in the story, see "Where To Get 'Em" on page 99.

BLADE

NO DULL KNIVES • NO UNINSPIRED TOOLS • VALUE ALWAYS

Gotta have it.

SAFEST FOLDERS ON THE PLANET.



AUTOLAWKS™

Look for the red dot. Our exclusive patented* AutoLAWKS™ mechanism turns equipped CRKT folders into virtual fixed blades. Get all the details on our web site.

www.crkt.com
Toll free 1-800-891-3100

*U.S. Patent No. 5,596,808, other patents pending.

CRKT

NO DULL KNIVES • NO UNINSPIRED TOOLS • VALUE ALWAYS

BE AN EDGE EXPERT JUST LIKE THE FACTORY PROS.

ELECTRIC SLOT WITH DIAMOND ABRASIVE WHEELS SHARPENS BOTH SIDES OF THE BLADE AT THE SAME TIME



ELECTRICS

NON-SLIP RUBBER FEET FOR SECURE & STABLE SHARPENING ON ALL SURFACES

ADJUSTABLE SPEED CONTROL FOR PRECISION ELECTRIC SHARPENING

MANUAL EDGE ALIGNMENT & FINISHING SLOTS FOR RESTORING PROPER EDGE & POLISHING TO RAZOR SHARPNESS

MANUAL PULL 2 LOCK SCISSORS SHARPENER SHARPENS BOTH LEFT & RIGHT-HANDED SCISSORS



INTRODUCING SMITH'S NEW "DIAMOND EDGE PRO" ELECTRIC/MANUAL KNIFE & SCISSORS SHARPENER.

Smith's® Diamond Edge Pro Knife and Scissors Sharpener features diamond abrasive wheels, adjustable speed sharpening, a retractable scissors sharpener, edge alignment and final honing slots, rubber hand grips, and non-slip rubber feet. This sharpener can handle it all...from straight to serrated, dull or already sharp, mechanical or manual, knives or scissors. Check out all of our new products for 2008 and instructional videos at www.smithabrasives.com.



WWW.SMITHABRASIVES.COM

hot handmade
hot handmade

Using hand tools only, Michael Miller inlaid the separately handforged and hand-carved art elements—in this instance, blooms—into the billet prior to forging the blade. (SharpBy-Coop.com photo)



When Blades are in Bloom

By BLADE® staff

Michael Miller's Apple Blossom Bowie features a process for inlaying forge-welded patterns into damascus

Spec Check

Knife Apple Blossom Bowie
Blade Material 1084 and 15N20 high carbon steels in a ladder-pattern damascus
Special Feature Each handforged and hand-carved element was inlaid and forge welded into the billet prior to forging the blade
Handle Stabilized juniper burl
Overall Length 11"
Sheath Leather
Maker's List Price n/a

According to Michael Miller, he has developed a process for inlaying forge-welded patterns into damascus, using hand tools only. His Apple Blossom Bowie is the most recent example.

The 6.5-inch blade is a ladder-pattern damascus handforged from 1084 and 15N20 carbon steels with floral inlay of high-carbon and nickel-alloy steels. "Each floral element was handforged and hand carved individually," Miller noted, "then inlaid and forge welded into the billet prior to forging the blade."

The handle is stabilized juniper burl with a wrought-iron spacer. The material for the hammer-finished guard is from an old anchor chain.

For more information contact M. Miller Originals, c/o Michael Miller, Dept. BL3, 8746 Stockton Hill Rd., PMC #93, Kingman, AZ 86409 928.757.1359 mmilleroriginals.com.

BLADE

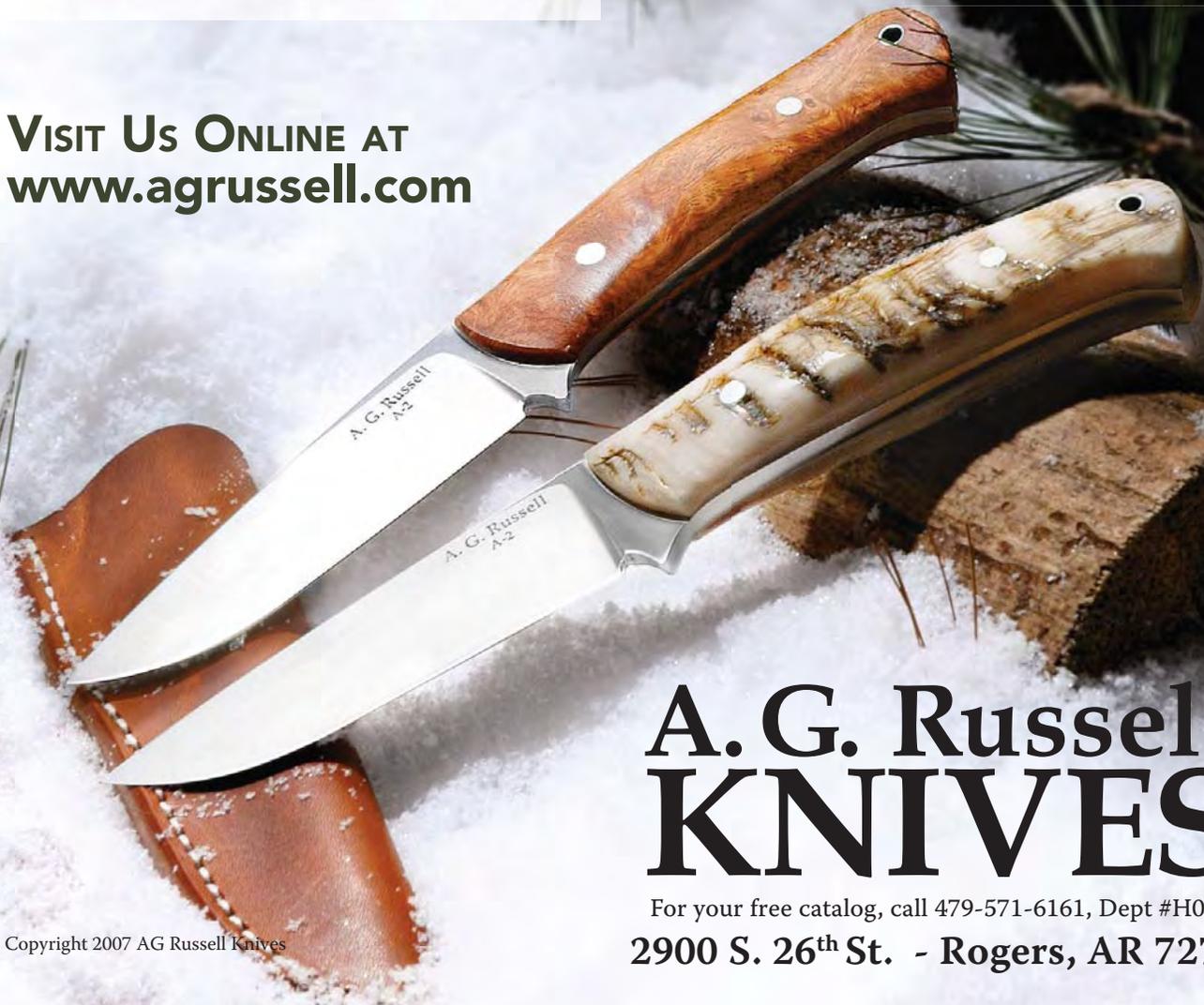
Craftsmanship that would give any hunter the chills.

*The A.G. Russell Laplander Hunter.
Customer satisfaction guaranteed.*

Need a simple, high quality and affordable hunting knife? The Laplander Hunter has a fantastic A-2 high carbon blade ground for the best possible cut and a striking handle contoured for maximum comfort and grip. Proudly made in the U.S.A., these utilitarian hunters will absolutely warm your heart.



**VISIT US ONLINE AT
www.agrussell.com**



A.G. RussellTM KNIVES

For your free catalog, call 479-571-6161, Dept #H0308
2900 S. 26th St. - Rogers, AR 72758



SWORDS, KNIVES, COLLECTIBLES

<http://www.cashanwei.com>



Get Dressed For Battle has been gaining popularity world-wide over the years as the number one supplier of affordable, functional garments and armour for reenactment and combat use. We're excited to offer these exceptional pieces to North America for the first time! Browse our full line of Hanwei and GDFB products at CasHanwei.com today!



Practical Hand and a Half
SH2106



Gambeson
AB0143



<http://www.cashanwei.com> | 800.685.9366

source code #
M0BL07K

The CAS Logo, CAS name, and the 'Forging Steel, Making History' marks are property of CAS Hanwei, Inc. and cannot be used without written permission. © & © 2003-2007 CAS Hanwei, Inc.