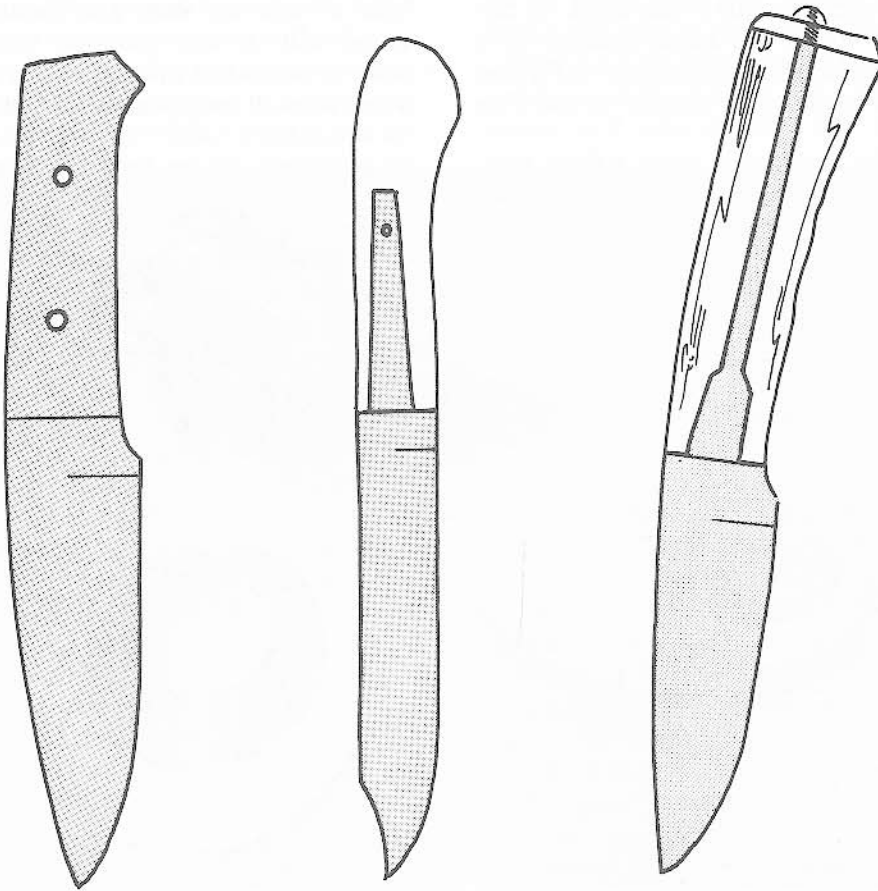


We all know how tempting forbidden fruit can be. Show the young people in your life how to use knives safely, remind them not to walk with a knife, not to whittle toward themselves and so on. Provide guidance until the child has acquired good habits as a matter of course. Everyone involved will find it time well spent.

A knife will offer a pretty clear reflection of the care given to it. If you toss

it into a tool box and allow it to rattle against hammers and files, it will get dull. What else would you expect? If you keep the blade sharpened, away from moisture, protected in a sheath, and safe from abusive wear it will hold up well. It's as simple as that. Of course not all knives need to be works of art. There's nothing wrong with having an old workhorse in the tool box. The point is just that you should treat an expensive knife



Common tang styles, all described in the project chapters that follow. These are the full-tang, the partial-tang, and the through-tang.

guard hole to a rectangular shape. It must make a snug fit over the tang and a close fit against the shoulder of the blade.

8. Cut the material to be used as a handle and drill a hole through the center. Use a modified rasp to alter this hole from a round to a rectangular shape. Prepare any other sections to be used in the handle, seeing that each has a rectangular hole. Assemble the handle pieces and check the fit.
9. Restack the pieces, this time with a layer of epoxy between each layer.
10. Screw the end nut up tight and allow the glue to set.
11. File or grind the handle to its final shape, progressing through increasingly finer grits to #500. Apply the desired finish.

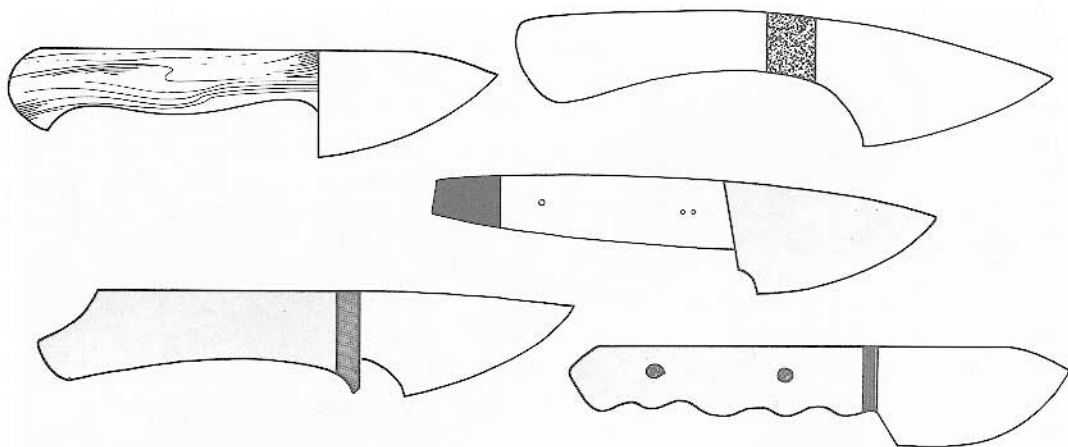
DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The advantage of this style of construction over the full tang shown earlier has

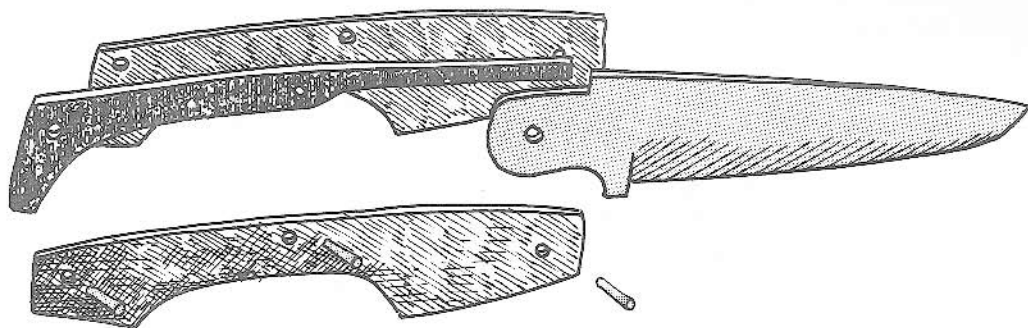
to do with the different look in the handle. The full-tang knife must show a line of steel on the handle. This method allows the handle to be a complete unit that surrounds and encloses the tang. Materials such as antler, horn, and some configurations of wood particularly lend themselves to the through-tang handle.

In this example, spacers of leather have been used. Plastic, wood, metal, or other materials can be included to enhance the design. Another popular use of this style uses disks of leather stacked one on top of the next to create an attractive and durable handle. A through-tang knife with a leather handle is illustrated in project 6.

The short, broad curving blade illustrated here is called a skinner. Besides its use in dressing game, the shape makes a handy chopping blade for the kitchen. The size and shape of the blade used in a through-tang knife have no limitation. The only guidelines are the maker's ideas and the uses for which the knife is intended.



A skinner is characterized by a short broad blade with a sweeping curve. Here are a few examples to trigger your imagination.



Exploded diagram of one-blade pocket knife.

LIST OF MATERIALS

Blade and spring: a piece of carbon steel about $\frac{1}{16}$ " x 1" x 3"

Handles: about 6 square inches of thick brass sheet; 14 gauge (about $\frac{1}{16}$ ") is a good size

Templates: enough clear Plexiglas to make both sides of the knife, either $\frac{1}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{4}$ "

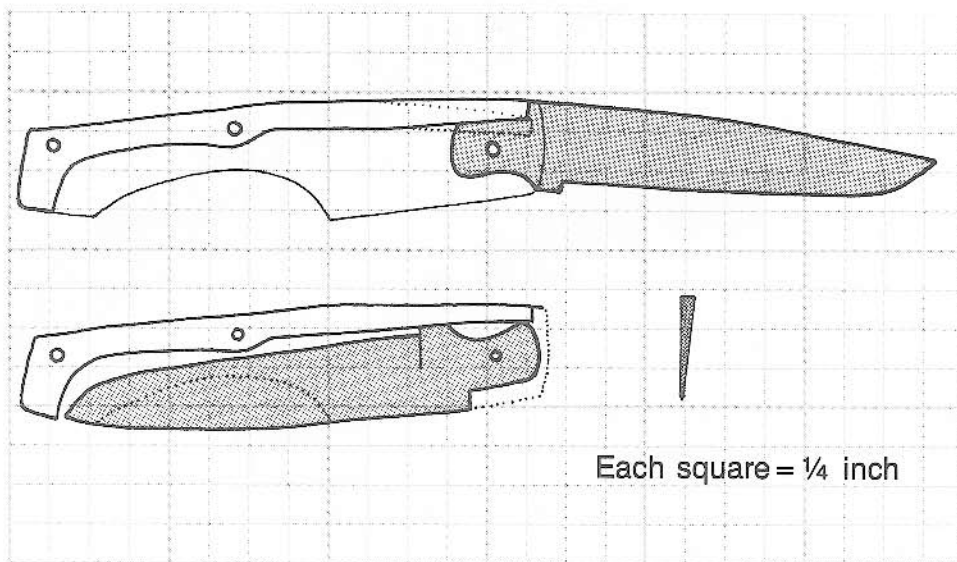
Bolts: these will be used to hold the knife pieces together temporarily; they must

fit tightly in the holes to be drilled for rivets

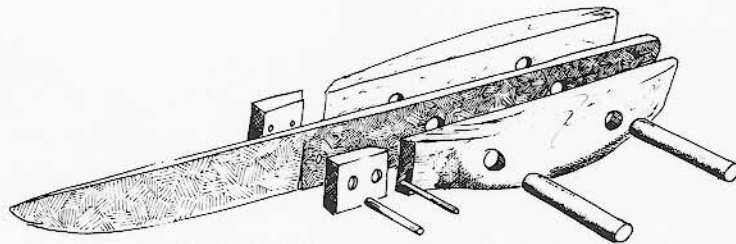
Principal Tools: sawframe and blades, drill, files, heat-treating equipment, ferric chloride, permanent marker

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Because of the importance of accuracy, this list of steps is detailed and looks a



Scale drawing of one-blade pocket knife.



Exploded diagram: paring knife

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- lockback folding knife
- Damascus steel dagger

About the Author

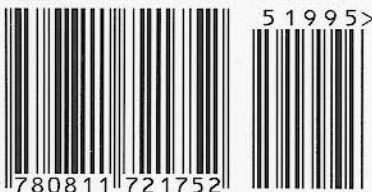
Tim McCreight is a metalsmith, teacher, and author of *Metalworking for Jewelry* and *The Complete Metalsmith*. He is head of the Metals Department at Worcester (Mass.) Craft Center, and regularly teaches workshops around the U.S. and Canada. Technical Editor for *Metalsmith* magazine, McCreight also contributes to several other magazines. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife and two children.

Author photo by Lee Rexrode



Front cover photo by Hopkins & Hopkins of Worcester

ISBN 978-0-8117-2175-2



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