How much is enough
Posted by gofly - 30 Aug 2011 08:13

I read or saw somewhere where Clay said that you can actually roll an edge by over stropping or using too much pressure.

I got to thinking (could be dangerous) maybe you could strop at 1 degree less than the knife was sharpened at and prevent dulling of the edge. Any thoughts about this. Maybe the guys that already have there WE units could comment on this.

About how many strokes with the strop does it take to polish the edge?

Thanks

Lucky

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Re: How much is enough
Posted by leomitch - 30 Aug 2011 08:37

Hi again Lucky

I can only speak for myself, but I have found that I don't count strokes, I just do what I think is right and check the edge as I go along until I have it the way I want. As I said in my other response to you, I do things pretty intuitively. I find I listen to the sounds of the paddles and strops as they do their work...over time you can tell when you are getting results or when you are not and when you have done enough. Works for me.

Cheers

Leo

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Re: How much is enough
Posted by leomitch - 01 Sep 2011 08:31

Just a further note regarding stropping...I strop my knives at the end of each day of use with a two-sided hand-strop(wood and leather) loaded with Green compound on one side and White compound on the other. I have to say that after stropping for a year,I now know when the strop is working because I can hear that it is. Listening attentaively IMO is important whether it is working with the diamond paddles/Chosera stones on the WEPS or stropping with leather or balsa.

The amount of pressure being used, both when stropping by hand or with the strops on the WEPS, is critical. I judge the pressure by holding the knife lightly with my fingers and brushing it over the loaded leather with a force roughly equal to the weight of the knife plus a bit. On the WEPS I lightly brush the blade with the paddles almost like I was wiping dust from the edge.

As I said I am very intuitive in my sharpening and I have learned a lot by listening and feeling along with reading the advice of others who are experts in the field of sharpening. Maybe practicing Zen for the last 30 years has been a help. LOL! The Zen of Sharpening! Sounds like a good title for a book Clay!

Cheers

Leo

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Re: How much is enough

Posted by dschur - 01 Sep 2011 08:58

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Leo summed it up from my perspective, I do a lot of hand stropping too (I just like it).

I imagine on the wicked edge it would be really hard to over strop (with the controlled angle). I would think your hands would fall off before you actually rolled and edge. My guess is that hand stropping on green might make rolling an edge more of a possibility.

I thinks it's going to also be highly dependent on the steel. I find that I have to strop the living crud out of S90V or ZDP-189 to get a mirror like polish, while VG-10 and CTS-XHP seem to strop right up.

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Re: How much is enough

Posted by leomitch - 01 Sep 2011 21:00

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You are right to some extent, some steels are harder to strop well than others e.g. 3G Powder Steel

Most of my knives are made from fine carbon steels like D2,A2 and 1095...these strop beautifully and one can create a fine mirror polish as well as a ruthlessly sharp edge like this ESEE-6 that Clay just worked on in an experiment he was doing comparing Chosera and Shapton stones on the WEPS

Or this one the ESEE-4 also of 1095 steel...same experiment

This blade is of 1095 steel...great stuff to strop or sharpen on the WEPS.

Leo

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Re: How much is enough

Posted by jendeindustries - 02 Sep 2011 09:48

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Excellent info so far!

IMO, It's super easy to roll an edge with stropping, and it's mainly due to pressure. As the edge becomes more refined, it becomes thinner, much like peeling away the layers of an onion. The edge of the edge is fragile and is easily prone to being flexed when lateral forces are applied, even if it should readily spring back into position.

Geometry plays a role in the strength of the edge, but ultimately, you still want the edge to be thin enough to cut effortlessly.

As mentioned previously, the steel's qualities will also play a role in how much pressure an edge can

take before becoming fatigued or rolled.

To add one more thing, by the time you get the the strops on the WEPS, you should have one seriously well defined and sharpened edge, so you won't need to add much pressure at all - especially if you take the time at the finer WEPS stones/plates (or Choseras and Shaptons

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Re: How much is enough

Posted by leomitch - 02 Sep 2011 10:33

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How true Tom. That is why I use the term brush with the strops...a light brushing stroke is all you need after progressing through all the stones on the WEPS. That edge is so well defined only light whispers of leather against the steel are required to pop that edge to the max.

Leo

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Re: How much is enough
Posted by dschur - 02 Sep 2011 12:37

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leomitch wrote:

Hi again Lucky

I can only speak for myself, but I have found that I don't count strokes...

I need to stop counting strokes, but I seem to be stuck in it on the WEPS. Once I hit a cadence, for me its like doing CPR (1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and...)

I count on one side only.

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What should it sound like?
Posted by dgriff - 04 Dec 2011 16:23

After reading a bit here, one of the points made was listening to the sound the strop makes to know if it's working or needs reloaded.

But I don't know what it should sound like. Should it always be slippery with compound? Should it seem dry and squeek like super-clean glass? Does it sound like a whisper?

Enquiring minds want to know...

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Re: What should it sound like?
Posted by dschur - 04 Dec 2011 17:01

After using them for a while, I would say the strops only get good when they are not slippery at all.

Let them get dry, crusty and black. Use them far, far longer than you think you should, and then they are starting to get good in my experience.

I know it sounds counterintuitive, but give it a try.

As for sound - I would not go by it at all - I have no idea what they should "sound like".

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