The CPM REX 121 K2 Folder

Posted by leomitch - 05 Apr 2012 06:09

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I will soon (some time in May) have one of twenty of these custom folders with Titanium bolsters and frame by Farid in my hands. He is an excellent knife maker with a reputation of making the finest knives from unusual steels. CPM 121 used ro make the 4 inch blade of the K2 also has a reputation...it is one of the hardest steels and in this case having a Rockwell hardness of 68-70. Has anyone worked with this steel before? If so, do you have any suggestions as to how to proceed with the sharpening of such a tough steel. Besides long periods of time on each level, does anyone know its characteristics? From what I have heard rumored, I am feeling a little daunted at the same time as I am excited about receiving the beast.

Any experiences will be greatly appreciated. Pictures when it arrives

Leo the scardey cat!

LOL!

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Re: The CPM REX 121 K2 Folder

Posted by wickededge - 05 Apr 2012 08:23

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leomitch wrote:

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Leo the scardey cat!

LOL!

Good morning Leo! Your timing for asking about the CPM REX 121 - just yesterday I finally got around to sharpening my mule from Farid. I was expecting it to be much more difficult than it was. I've documented here on my blog: Sharping the Farid Mule . In a nutshell, I chose 15 degrees per side and took it to one micron with the following progression:

100 grit diamond> 200 grit diamond> 400 grit diamond> 600 grit diamond> 800 grit diamond> 1000 grit diamond> 14mu diamond and leather strops> 10mu diamond and leather strops> 5mu diamond and leather strops> 3.5mu diamond and leather strops> 1mu diamond and leather strops

It took exactly 4 minutes total to raise a burr from both sides, the entire process took 22 minutes from start to finish including photography. My experience so far is that Diamonds+REX121=LOVE

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Re: The CPM REX 121 K2 Folder

Posted by leomitch - 05 Apr 2012 09:47

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Thanks Clay! Now I will stop quaking in my boots. Silly me, I was thinking I would use the Choseras for a change, but you say diamonds are a CPM 121 Rex blades best friend!

I was on the horns of a dilemma, the Mule or the K2 folder, but lately I have been on a folder kick. I have never seen or held any of Farid's custom work before, but people say his knives are superb...I am looking forward to his completion of the folders. Now I will read your blog!

Merci beaucoup mon ami!

Cordialment

Leo

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Re: The CPM REX 121 K2 Folder

Posted by LukasPop - 05 Apr 2012 14:15

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Hi Leo , it looks like crazy steel mate
68-70 HRC, it must hold scary sharp edge several years

Enjoy our new superb knife!

Lukas

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Re: The CPM REX 121 K2 Folder
Posted by CrimsonTideShooter - 08 Apr 2012 16:56

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Clay, how on earth can it take you that short of time to reprofile blades with the 100 grit stones?

It takes me up to 15 minutes per side to reprofile a blade using the 100 grit stones, and that's on steels like S30V.... They just don't cut fast enough for me to be done that fast, given that I am reducing the edge angle by 5 degrees or so.

I haven't even tried the 15 degree settings for fear of it taking an hour per side with the 100 grit stones.

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Re: The CPM REX 121 K2 Folder
Posted by wickededge - 08 Apr 2012 19:22

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CrimsonTideShooter wrote:

Clay, how on earth can it take you that short of time to reprofile blades with the 100 grit stones?

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I haven't even tried the 15 degree settings for fear of it taking an hour per side with the 100 grit stones.

I was shocked how quickly it went, especially with my well worn stones. I don't know if all the practice I have makes it quicker for me, maybe just a lot more strokes per minute or something. I'm glad I was actually timing it because I wouldn't have believed it otherwise and would likely have overestimated the time.

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