Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening

Posted by JerrieBarber - 28 Aug 2012 08:48

I thought I was a fanatic about sharpening until I started reading last night. Wow, a lot of you guys absolutely Rock!!! I am no where near as geeked out about sharpening as I thought. That being said what is the school of thought on these sharpening techniques? I like to whittle hair as much as the next guy, but I also want to have a blade the remains sharp and that does not have to be fooled with every day. The more I read the more confused I have become. So for EDC, in the field, day in and day out use what are the advantages and disadvantages of a straight (Asian) sharpening, a bi-hone or double honed European edge, or a triple honed convex edge?

Feel free to correct and instruct. Specifically I am carrying an Esee Izula (I have a job that allows such carry), and or a Hinderer XM-18 3.5. Obviously I want them both to be as cutting, whittling, hair splitting sharp as they can be and effective for every day use.

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening

Posted by leomitch - 29 Aug 2012 16:03

Hi Jerrie

I am not sure I understand the terms Asian Edge etc. but I think I know what you are asking, so I will give you my 2 cents worth. The Izula is an excellent little knife and the 1095 tool steel takes and retains a razor edge fairly easily. The guys at ESEE use a 20 degree per side edge and that is good. I use a 22 degree per side edge for a long lasting and very strong edge. But better still is a convex edge starting at 18 degrees then moving to 20 degrees and then finishing with 22 degrees per side. Somewhere on the WE site there are instructions for doing this kind of edge and there have been many posts on how to do it, but in essence it is basically a fully developed 18 degree per side edge and then a lightly developed 20 and the 22 degree per side edge and then the strops are used to blend the 20 and 22 degree shoulders into the 18 degree geometry giving you the convex edge you want. The figure 18, 20 and 22 are just examples...you could start with 16 degrees and work out another edge like 16-18-20. It is fun to play with an I guarantee you that the edge you will get is super sharp, sturdy and long lasting. It will touch up easily with stropping alone for a long time. The edge will just get better and better. If you can't find the full instructions on the site or among the posts, PM me and I will walk you through it. Better to look it up yourself and try it in various ways...you will learn better that way and you get to know your steel and the WEPS intimately!

Cheers

Leo

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening

Posted by JerrieBarber - 29 Aug 2012 16:49

Thanks Leo

Some of the magazines call a straight grind sharpening an Asian sharpening. Can't remember which one I was looking at but probably "Tactical Knife". None the less i am putting a convex sharpening in my Esee right now and will try that for a while. Am excited to see how it all comes out.

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening

Posted by iamtwon - 29 Aug 2012 18:41

This may be helpful.

!

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening

Posted by cbwx34 - 29 Aug 2012 20:30

Excellent answer, Leo. I thought of this question when it was posted, and couldn't come up with an answer that wasn't a book.

I might add to check the Database wickededgeusa.com/index.php?option=com_j...atalog&Itemid=94 and see if your knife or a similar knife is listed. I think there's a Hinderer in there. Might give you some guidance. (And add yours when your done.)

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening

Posted by JerrieBarber - 29 Aug 2012 22:37

I received my Hinderer the same day I received my Wicked Edge. I sharpened it as soon as it came out of the box, however it was about the fifth knife I sharpened that day. The Hinderer was sharpened at a 15 degree flat ground to polish up to the .5 micron strops. I can and have shaved my neck with that blade. It is nasty sharp. So I guess what is on my mind is am I any better off tho convex that blade? Am I going to loose any of that sharpness? I know what that blade can do now. I can also report that I did re-sharpen my Izula 16-18-20, but went in that progression, in the video above that was suggested, and thanks for posting, Clay went from greatest angle to least angle and filled in between. Not sure if one method is better than another. Thanks guys for sharing you time and knowledge and anything you see hear that you can speak to would be wonderful. I am greatful.

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening
Posted by JerrieBarber - 30 Aug 2012 02:53

O. K. folks if you would like, I have sharpened the Hinderer using the "Allison" technique shown on the Sebenza video. I was already at 15 degrees so I mounted back up and re-beveled at 19 degrees then by degree worked my way back down to 15. I used the micro fine WEPS ceramic and only used the white side which is .6 micron. I used about 50 strokes per side per degree. Once I was back to 15 degrees I used strops 5 micron, 3.5 micron (which came with the pro pack I, then moved on to the 1 and .5 micron dtrops. I know that I was going backward but I wanted to gently blend the facets of each degree. I added one step to Clays technique which is probably over kill but I came back out to 19 degrees and stropped again with the .5 micron and viola for only the third time in my life I whittled hair. I will be putting this through the paces over the next several days to see how the edge holds up.

I hope to get some pictures up ASAP.

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening
Posted by cbwx34 - 30 Aug 2012 07:51

Thanks for the update,,,, sounds like you know what you're doing! I think working from the high to low angle results in less metal removal... If you go low to high you're constantly removing metal from the edge, and would also have to create a bigger bevel to fit the next one in. Going low to high is done if you just want a micro bevel at the very edge. What you did in this post sounds about perfect... there is some evidence in Clay's microscope pics that stropping at the sharpening angle, in your case 19 deg. rounds the edge over (this usually translates to, "the edge lost its bite"), so you may want to watch for that.

Looking forward to pics and to how it performs... this is the info that always interests me.

Thanks!

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening
Posted by JerrieBarber - 30 Aug 2012 10:12

[attachment:1]IMG_1543.JPG[/attachment]

[attachment:2]IMG_1550.JPG[/attachment]

[attachment:3]IMG_1545.JPG[/attachment]

[attachment:4]IMG_1547.jpg[/attachment]

==========

Re: Asian vs European vs Tri bevel convex sharpening

Posted by JerrieBarber - 30 Aug 2012 10:18

_____

Anyone have any suggestions on posting pictures? As you can tell the last group did not post at all. Per chance is there a limit on pixels?

==========