Destroyed Strops in 24hours

Posted by DeepFriedSouth - 08 Sep 2012 18:30

Well after receiving my Pro Kit and working on my first few knives I have managed to completely destroy the strops. I worked really hard to get the technique right but no matter what on my longer Gyuto knives when I get to the tip it slices the strops. They are trash at this point. My question, is there an alternate route with stones to get a smooth finish without strops? I'm not trying to polish the edge as much as get a clean finish. Also I notice a lot of slack in the arms and it often catches at the end, is that normal? Just trying to figure this system out. I've managed to ruin two edges so far so I'm a bit disappointed with the system.

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Re: Destroyed Strops in 24hours

Posted by DeepFriedSouth - 10 Sep 2012 09:34

Thanks guys I'm taking notes. Always trust the angle cube and lighten up on the strops. Now the fun begins, figuring out when I actually have an edge. The first 2 knives I worked on will need lots of work just have to figure out when I've got the edge back and when to start moving on to the next iteration of stones.

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Re: Destroyed Strops in 24hours

Posted by MathewWhaley - 10 Sep 2012 10:09

You'll be spending the most time with the 100 grit stones if you're changing the angle. The way to find out when you're done is to check for a burr all along the blade. If you think you're getting close to the edge, focus on just one side of the knife for awhile, then feel the opposite side for a burr. If there's a prominent burr all the way along the edge, you're there. Then just do a few light alternating strokes before moving on to the 200s. With the finer stones, you don't need to worry about a burr any longer, just go until the scratches from the previous stones are gone.

Another thing to remember is not to smack the diamond stones or ceramics into the knife. This could lead to chipping in the edge. Always be gentle when putting the stone against the blade.

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Re: Destroyed Strops in 24hours

Posted by ApexGS - 10 Sep 2012 22:00

I'll readily admit my biggest issue with starting was getting the right "feel" pressure wise on the diamond stones and strops. Once you do get that feel down though you start noticing a lot of subtle

cues, like the sound of the stones as they reach that point where all the previous grit's scratches are gone. Sharpening zen, eh?

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