Why water stones?

Posted by Scott Sherman - 20 Oct 2012 08:42

I just recently became a devotee of self sharpening a couple of months ago. Before that, I thought only experts could sharpen my knives because there was such a dizzying array of methods and materials by which it could be done and until somewhat recently, it was all done freehand by craftsmen who probably learned at the hand of other experienced craftsmen.

Enter guided systems like WE (and others) which made expert results obtainable by inexperienced, unskilled knife collectors or someone with a collection of dull kitchen knives which is what got me started. So now I have bought into this WE system and decided to get a PP2. The PP2 was put together at a time when the 1200-1600 ceramic stone was not available due to some production problems (which now seem to have been resolved). This left a gap in the progression of abrasives between the 1000 grit diamond stone and the next available micro fine ceramic stone which shipped as part of the PP2.

Because of that gap, I began to consider the available options including the Chosera water stones made for the Wicked Edge guided rod system. The 2000-3000 and 5000 -10000 sets would very capably fill that gap but going from the proprietary (easy to use) WE stones to the Japanese water stones was messy and the stones have different dimensions making it more complicated to set the bevel etc.

However, having said all that, I have noticed among some here in this forum, there is a preference for using the water stones and I could not help but wonder why. So I would love to hear from those who prefer and use the water stones or who are considering buying them or perhaps you bought them to fill the gap and no longer use them because the 1200-1600 ceramic stone is now available. I would appreciate it if you could share your thoughts and experiences. What do you like about them? Do you regret getting them or if you did would you never consider using the diamond and ceramics. Perhaps you only use water stones, would you also get some of the diamond or ceramics now to supplement your water stones?

I know there is a different feedback and user experience with water stones , but to my untrained eye, you seem to be able to obtain about the same results with the dry, easier to use diamond and ceramic stones, or am I missing something? I am guessing that some here only used water stones freehand before the guided rods were introduced and liked being able to use them with the new rod system and just stuck with the water stones. If so, what is your feelings about diamond and ceramic stones vs water stones?

Thanks for your feedback and insight I am hoping others here are also curious and may learn something here.

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Re: Why water stones?
Posted by KenBuzbee - 12 Nov 2012 12:29

PhilipPasteur wrote:

Wel it will be tonight before I can make much progress on this project. I am at work now.

Jobs! Can't you just call in sick or something, Phil? This is important stuff here

Well, I can't wait to see the rest of the story!

Ken

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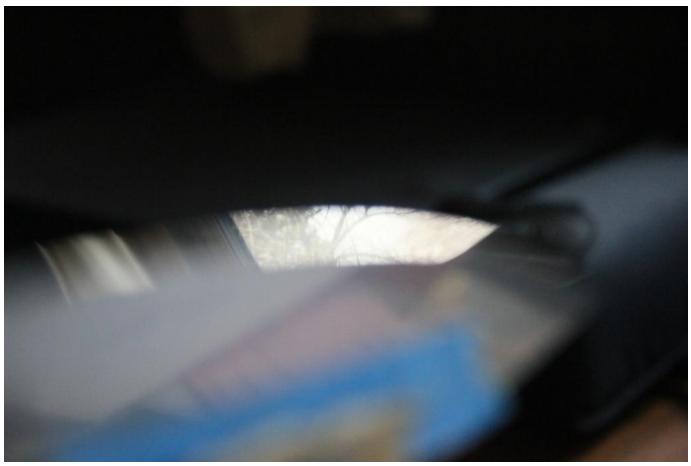
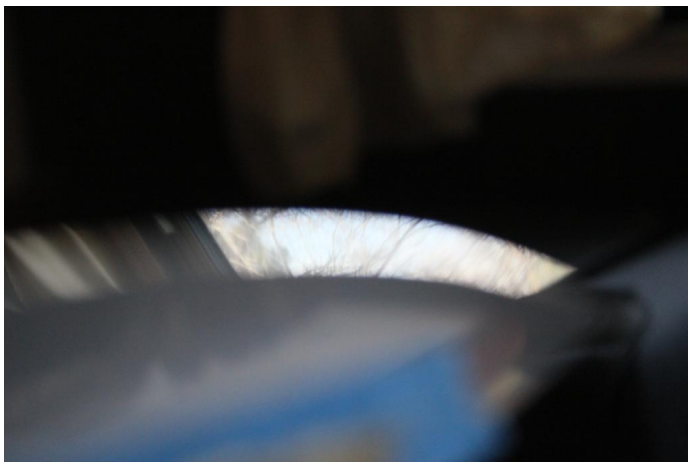
Re: Why water stones?
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 12 Nov 2012 20:54

Still getting my act together on the progression stroy.. but I thought these might be interesting to somebody. This is the edge after the 10K Chosera stones. I managed to fool the camera into focusing on thereflection of a tree about 20 feet away instead of the blade. Keep in mind, the reflection is through a window screen and a triple pane window with low E coatings that really needs a good wash job. Now that might well be called a mirror edge...





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Re: Why water stones?

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 12 Nov 2012 21:03

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So just to get warmed up, this is the knife. One of the Mule team knives from Spyderco. They make 400 to 600 of these with no handle, just the blanks. They do this so they can get people to try different types of steel at a relatively low cost. This one if the MT15 made from CTS B75P. The "P" stnds for powder metalurgy.

This is the Snakewood handle that I put on it. I used brass liners and am pretty happy with the way it cam out.

Soon to get to the Waterstone related part..

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Re: Why water stones?
Posted by DAUG - 13 Nov 2012 03:35

Phil,

Love your work on this thread and really want to see the pics you've posted, but for some reason it's not showing up properly. It's coming out pixelated..... let me try downloading one more time and see what comes up.

Yep, first picture in thread #7033 is still coming out pixelated.

But love the handles on your Mule knife....very nice, and I like the results with the Chosera stone finish.

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Re: Why water stones?
Posted by mark76 - 13 Nov 2012 04:33

Yes, very nice handles! Is it snakewood?

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Re: Why water stones?
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 13 Nov 2012 08:28

Yes Mark, they are Snakewood. Very dense and hard to work...and heavy. They are pretty, but between the Snakewood and the brass liners, the knife is not well balanced.

Phil

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Re: Why water stones?

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 13 Nov 2012 08:36

Curious. They are showing up here fine and displayed on my desktop and laptop at home OK too.

That picture is pretty bizarre anytway. To get the camera to focus on the tree, everything in the foreground is waaaay out of focus. I just thought it interesting that I could even do it.

I was struggling with Photobucket. I carefully named all of the photos then upladed them. Once there I could not see my file names. I had to go back and match them up to what is on my PC and rename them.

Not sure why they are showing pixelated for you. Anyone else having issues with the photos?

You can try looking at the pictures at the web site:

s1169.beta.photobucket.com/user/mandrake...ry/CTS%20B75P%20Mule

I will still post them here with some descriptions.

Phil

DAUG wrote:

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Re: Why water stones?
Posted by cbwx34 - 13 Nov 2012 09:04

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Pics look good to me.

Nice work!

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Re: Why water stones?
Posted by wickededge - 13 Nov 2012 09:05

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The pic in #7033 is a little blurry, but I think that's due to the screen and glass. It isn't pixelated on my system.

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Re: Why water stones?
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 13 Nov 2012 13:05

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Thanks Clay.

I will get more up later...

This "darn" work stuff...

Gets in the way.

Phil

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