Thought on Hand Stropping with cheap compounds?

Posted by dschur - 21 Aug 2011 10:28

I was wonerding what thoughts are on hand stropping with the mass produced compounds after using the wicked edge for maintenance?

I currently use my wicked edge down to 1 micron strops and I love the edges. I'd like to keep it that way for as long as possible.

But, I do have a few strops around from my pre wicked edge days. I keep one at home, one in the office, and a portable one for camping. Typically they are loaded on one side with the green compound (chrome oxide?) and the other with red rouge (ferric oxide?).

There is just something so convenient (and a little Zen) about being able to pull out the hand strop after a little knife use and touch it up. It's a bit more convenient than setting up the WE, and to be honest I find it relaxing (I know, I'm weird).

I think I would just use the red jewelers rouge for touchup, as it is very low abrasive, more of a polishing compound from what I understand.

So my question is, would this be a bad thing (hand stropping on the red rouge)? Am I actually regressing the blade faster by giving it 20 or so strokes occasionally and requiring more frequent trips back to the WE, or is it good for the knife/edge (better than leaving it alone)? I also wonder if the randomness (varying angles/pressures/draws across the edge) inherent in hand stropping (and controlled out on the WE), might actually lead to a higher polish or appearance of it, by crossing the scratches.

Dave

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Re: Thought on Hand Stropping with cheap compounds?

Posted by leomitch - 03 Apr 2012 11:12

For me there is also great satsifaction just knowing my knife is so crazy sharp and I made it that way...there is a kind of male pride knowing this. I suppose it may have something to do with a sense of manliness that harkens back to the days when a sharp knife was an indispensible tool necessary for life.This may flow from my limbic brain!! LOL!

Well done Ken! I really enjoyed your commentary, most pertinent!

Best regards

Leo

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Re: Thought on Hand Stropping with cheap compounds?
Posted by BassLakeDan - 03 Apr 2012 12:07

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leomitch wrote:

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Well done Ken! I really enjoyed your commentary, most pertinent!

Best regards

Leo

Yes i agree Leo that Kens Quote above is a classic and very well stated.. I am going to print it out for future reference. Actually I think it is so well done that it needs to be in some sort of Reference Archive here on the board!

As for your man-cave perspective well
don't look over your shoulder, as something might be gaining on you, and her knife might be sharper than yours !!!!

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Re: Thought on Hand Stropping with cheap compounds?
Posted by leomitch - 03 Apr 2012 12:56

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Yes I agree that knowledge like this should be kept somehow on this forum in a safe reference area...I shall speak to Clay about that and see if it can be done.

As for her gaining on me, let her come! My knife is bound to be sharper than her knife, but maybe not as

sharp as her tongue!! Whoops! I will pay for that I have a feeling! LOL!

Leo

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Re: Thought on Hand Stropping with cheap compounds?

Posted by jendeindustries - 07 Apr 2012 00:52

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+1 on everything Ken said!!!

And we haven't even touched the subject of aesthetic polishing vs. establishing "true" grit edges!

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