Does anyone shave regularly with a straight edge?

Posted by drmatt357 - 31 Oct 2011 00:52

I've been thinking about it now that I have the tool to keep it razor sharp. I saw Clay sharpen one and saw Tom shave with a kitchen knife. Does anyone use one daily? If so, any advice on technique or where to get the best ones?

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Re: Does anyone shave regularly with a straight edge?

Posted by komitadjie - 03 Nov 2011 11:28

A "hair popping" edge is one that when you shave the hair off your arm, it not only cuts it off, but instead of the hairs laying flat on the blade after they're cut, they actually jump (or 'pop') away from the edge.

At least, that's how I've always defined it.

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Re: Does anyone shave regularly with a straight edge?

Posted by jendeindustries - 03 Nov 2011 22:49

That's good to know, Lucky. I showed the chisel video to a woodworker friend, and he's seriously thinking of shaving his long-time beard with one now...

The minimum accepted refinement level for a comfortable shave is 8K, or 2 microns. This leaves the edge of the edge thin enough for passing through hairs with ease. Further refinement leads to easier hair severing, but opens the doors for arguments about the edge getting more fragile, much like a pencil point that is super sharp not lasting as long. But that argument is related to straights and not so much for EDCs.

So to answer, .5 or .25 on the other side of the paddle is going to give you a better chance of a successful shave. Dn't forget to keep one side of a paddle with a clean leather strop for the final passes. You will want to strop with clean leather no matter what your finishing grit is.

I hope this helps!

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Re: Does anyone shave regularly with a straight edge?

Posted by gofly - 04 Nov 2011 07:51

Tom

Thanks for the info on using a clean strop, I never have read that before. Maybe I will use the 1 micron spray and leave the other side clean.

Thanks again

Lucky

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Re: Does anyone shave regularly with a straight edge?

Posted by jendeindustries - 04 Nov 2011 08:37

No problem - That clean leather strop is essential!! Even at .125 micron finishes, the shave was much improved with plain leather stropping.

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