# Polished edge
Posted by Sauce - 29 Jan 2013 11:44

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Ok, I know this has prior threads on it, just throwing this one out there. I'm 8 sharpenings in with the WE now, and just wondering what results could be obtained at this point compared to what I'm actually getting with my setup (PPII)? What I'm producing right now is a very sharp edge with alot of scratches still. At least 4 of those were reprofiles. Are the stones fully worn in yet? Using diamonds through 1000, then course and fine ceramics, then 1m and .5m strops.

Thanks for any info,

Sauce

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# Re: Polished edge
Posted by Sauce - 31 Jan 2013 10:03

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Just pointing out some inconsistencies, no harm no foul. Nick starts this thread out saying not to raise a burr at 100 grit, states it's a rookie mistake. Says quite the opposite in the other thread, more than once. I'm understanding the theory you can burr it up later in the progression, will try it next time.

Thanks to all again for the input!

Sauce

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# Re: Polished edge
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 31 Jan 2013 10:30

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Well..

Here I go again. We had a long topic where we discussed what a mirro bevel really is. It seems that many people call many stages of reflectivity a mirror. If sharpening myself I consider a mirror to be a mirror... an edge just as reflective as my bathroom mirror, and with less than 5% coverage with visible scratches.

You simply can't easily get that with the progression that you mention. Actually, I don't think it is possible at all without spending hours on the strops. Recently I tried on some D2, AUS 8A and S30V. I used the diamonds through 1000, then the 1200/1600 ceramics, then coarse and fine microfine ceramics, then 6/3 and 1/0.5 micron paste/spray respectively. What can I say, the bevel was somewhat reflective, but with lots of visible fine scratches. For the application the knives will be used for... it was fine.. and they were very sharp.

The ceramics leave what I would call a semi reflective (shiny, but no mirror) edge. Even after 100 strokes each side with all four ceramic grits, there were lots of visible scratches. Now in this way they are more similar to the Shapton stones. They just don't supply much in the way of polishing ability at all. You can make the bevel brighter with the strops, but you would need hours of stropping time to get rid of the visible scratches. If you want a real mirror (in my definition) you need some stones that polish as well as abrade. Even the 1000 grit Chosera stones will give you a much more mirror like bevel than the sub-micron ceramics. I have 5K and 15K Shaptons that I will not use when trying for a perfect mirror, because, although very precise, like the Ceramics, they leave... perfectly aligned and very precise **Scratches**
! A great edge for cutting things...but scratchy...

BTW I test by holding a bright flashlight almost parallel to the edge. By cahnging the angle it is easy to see both the amount of reflectivity and the damn scratches. It really shows scratches that you may not see in normal light and looking at the bevel perpindicularly.

I can tell you that getting to my definition of a mirror edge is time consuming. I use 13 different grits of stones and eight different grits on strops from 3K up I am doing 150 strokes...or more per side... 3 to 4 hours... and often I am not really satisfied with the results.. I can still see some scratches (AAARG). However, when I have compared these edges with some of the stuff my local sharpening buddies call a mirror edge... they quite amazed at the difference. There is at least an order of magnitude more reflectivity and scratch removal.

So, it is all about what you want. This whole perfect mirror scratch free thing is all about OCD and just saying...I can do it. It sure does not make the knife orders of magnitude sharper... BUT, it is an eye catcher and has gotten me quite a few sharpening jobs 🙂

Phil

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# Re: Polished edge
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 31 Jan 2013 10:51

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Hey..

There are lots of theories out there about the best way to sharpen knives, and many techniques. Curtis once talked about never apexing the blade until the last stroke on your finest stone. Not his theory, but some do hold that to be true.

Bottom line, with the WEPS, if you **carefully** form a nice even **FINE** burr on both sides, along the entire edge, with your coarsest stone,  it should be the last burr you need to form. This assumes that your angles are set properly for each stone, of course. If this is true, you will be hitting the edge with every stroke... absolutely no reason to form a burr to "prove" it. Forming a burr at each grit is a waste of time and steel! I also can't see any reason, on the WEPS, to creep up on the apex. We have seen in Clays photos, Tom's photos and even some of mine, that getting extreme edge refinement just does not require this.

I believe that much of what you hear along these lines came from people that sharpen by hand. There are many things that have to be compensated for when you can't do any better than +/- 1 to 2 degrees in angle control.

If you try this method, Sauce, let us know if you think it got a better edge out of your efforts.

Phil

**Sauce wrote:**

Just pointing out some inconsistencies, no harm no foul. Nick starts this thread out saying not to raise a burr at 100 grit, states it's a rookie mistake. Says quite the opposite in the other thread, more than once. I'm understanding the theory you can burr it up later in the progression, will try it next time.

Thanks to all again for the input!

Sauce

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# Re: Polished edge

Posted by NicholasAngeja1 - 31 Jan 2013 11:31

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Hey Sauce,

This guy knows how to create a burr and the basics of sharpening, should he just stop and throw his hands in the air and say he is the god of sharpening? You can raise a burr and sharpen anyway you want sauce, i still stand by what i've said on any post anywhere!!! " ***IF I WAS TEACHING SOMEONE TO SHARPEN*** , I STILL STAND BY THE FACT THEY SHOULD DEVELOP A BURR AT EVERY GRIT TILL THEY LEARN THE SKILL, EXPERIENCE, OR "ZEN;" LOSS OF METAL IS A SMALL COST TO LEARN HOW TO SHARPEN AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON WHEN SHARPENING"
The key words here, are.... Teaching how to sharpen!!!! Obviously over time and with burr experience.... I would suggest.....
***Try not to raise a burr***
at 100 grit, rather raise a burr, preferably at 1000 grit or 800 grit. The less time you spend on the lower grits, the less damage you'll do. Don't get me wrong if there are scratches any of the techniques shared will work.
Learning to apex the edge on finer grit stones is something I learned to work up too. The target audience for both topics were different, one with intermediate skills and the other with advanced skills. As people become more skilled the method and technique of sharpening will also change even if a small thing like apex-ing the edge at a higher grit, or something I just learned, using different kind of strokes when sharpening. But I understand it can be mind blowing or confusing if taking out of context.

Sauce, you're all bent because I said "rookie mistake" you're right; The choice of words was wrong, I guess. But what I meant was Rookie: someone with sharpening experience and a basic understanding. It's common for rookies to continue apex-ing the edge or raising a burr at 100g even though they know how to look for a burr and feel one at lets say 1000g. Now on the other hand a "greenhorn" (if I may) should be learning to feel for a burr and learning what to look for when raising a burr which is a lot easier at lower grits. I hope this cleared things up for you, sauce.

Nick

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# Re: Polished edge
Posted by 4jlcc - 31 Jan 2013 11:57

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Great post Phil. Would you recommend the 5k/10k Choseras after the micro fine ceramics?

**PhilipPasteur wrote:**

Well..

Here I go again. We had a long topic where we discussed what a mirro bevel really is. It seems that many people call many stages of reflectivity a mirror. If sharpening myself I consider a mirror to be a

mirror... an edge just as reflective as my bathroom mirror, and with less than 5% coverage with visible scratches.

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Phil

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## Re: Polished edge
Posted by cbwx34 - 31 Jan 2013 16:39

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**PhilipPasteur wrote:**

If you want a real mirror (in my definition) you need some stones that polish as well as abrade.

Probably the only thing you needed to type.

Ok, not really, it's a good post, and has a lot of good info. But I think this is the key, if you're looking for a "mirror polish", especially to your (Phil's) standard... a waterstone... in particular one that creates a bit of mud, will lead to a better polish. The Chosera's are a good candidate for this. 2nd option would be to finish with leather, but it'll take longer. Finishing with ceramics, no matter how fine, will leave scratching that will be detectable under the right conditions.

Or, just check 'em on a cloudy day.

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# Re: Polished edge

Posted by PhilipPasteur - 31 Jan 2013 17:16

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**4jlcc wrote:**

Great post Phil. Would you recommend the 5k/10k Choseras after the micro fine ceramics?

I have been... without going into maniacal sharpening mode.. (super OCD)..

Using the 2k/3K then the 5K/10K stones after the 4 ceramic progresion.

I have not yet tried what Curtis and others have suggested... use the Coarse microfine ceramic, before the 1200, then 1600 and the fine microfine. That could change things...

Phil

Curtis... if I only wrote two lines... I would have been bored for the rest of the time...

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# Re: Polished edge
Posted by cbwx34 - 31 Jan 2013 17:22

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**PhilipPasteur wrote:**

Curtis... if I only wrote two lines... I would have been bored for the rest of the time...

It was a good post... don't want to take away from that... just thought that was the key point.

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# Re: Polished edge
Posted by Sauce - 01 Feb 2013 08:27

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Nick,

Nobody is bent here. Hopefully you're not. I appreciate the info you've posted. Don't get your feathers ruffled, seems they might be. Just pointing out inconsistencies that are evident.

Phil, I wish I had the time for the OCD progression you have for that polished edge, must be nice. Good post, thank you. I have 2 little ones that make sure I don't have that time.

Sauce

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# Re: Polished edge
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 01 Feb 2013 08:55

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Sauce,

Sometimes that total sharpening time is spread over several days. I just move the WEPS with the knife mounted. I usually can't handle pushing paddles for 3 or four hours straight..

to somewhere safe and continue when I have time to get back to it.

I have enough knives around that I won't miss the one in the weps for a few days. If it is a customer's knife... I let them know up front that it could be a week. Folks willing to pay for that kind of edge normally understand that you can't rush it.

So maybe you sharpen for 20 minutes one day, then get back to it and do it for another 20 minutes when next you have time to breathe..

How old are the kids?

Seems like Nick does get his feathers ruffled easily. I might point out that we try to be friends helping each ohter out around here. Usually friends do not need to shout at each other. Shouting is the accepted interpretation of typing in all caps... quite unneccessary. All we can do is share our ideas and opinions. The reader can do with those what they want. I for one am sure not here to try to force my ideas on anyone, nor make them abandon their personal biases... whether right or wrong in my frame of reference.

Phil

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