

ENGLISH HANDMADE KNIVES

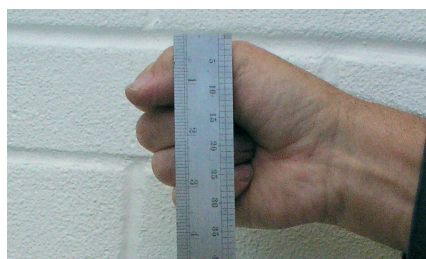
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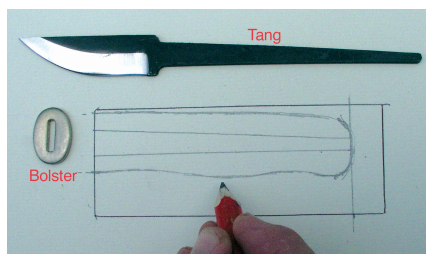
HOW TO MAKE A WOOD CARVING KNIFE



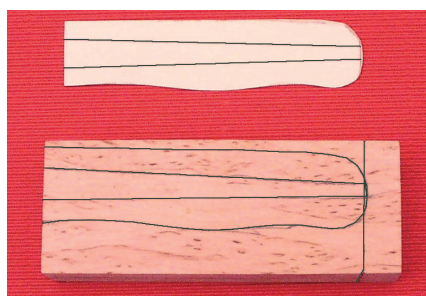
The finished knife



1. Make a fist and measure the distance between the top of your thumb and the base of your hand, (alternatively hold the wood block in your hand and make a pencil mark at the base) this will establish how much of your block you may need to trim.

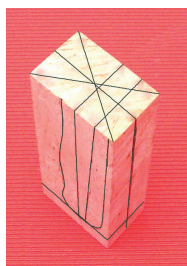


2. Using a thick piece of paper or light card, lay your block of wood down and trace around, marking off the amount of trim. The supplied bolster will determine the depth of the handle closest to the blade. Plan your handle shape according to your needs and hand shape. Lay the knife tang down in the centre of your shape and draw round the edges.



3. Cut out the shape of your handle and copy it onto the block by tracing around the shape, also repeating the marking of the tang

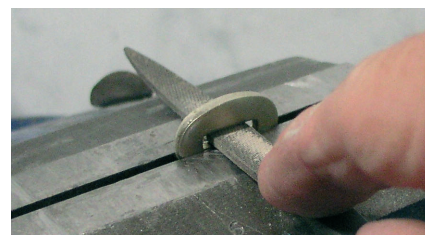
4. Find the centre of the block and continue the tang, onto the end and sides this will provide your markings and positioning for the drilling and reaming process.



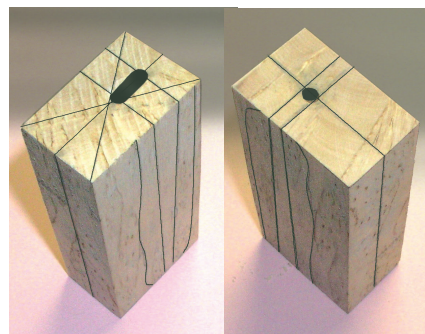
5. Cut off the waste end section and using the lines on the wood block line up in the jaws of your vice and drill as deeply as you can using the top line marked on the block to aid the straightness of your drilling. Repeat this process drilling one small hole from the butt end.



6. Wrap your blade up with masking tape and file/grind down the tang so that the bolster slides down to nearly meet the blade hilt.



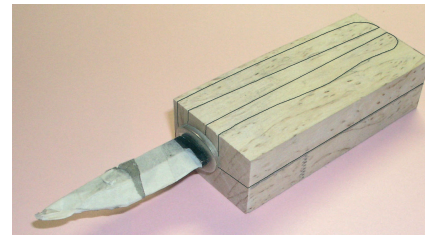
7. Clamp the bolster in a strong vice and carefully open up the slot with a small flat file, assemble repeatedly until it fits firmly.



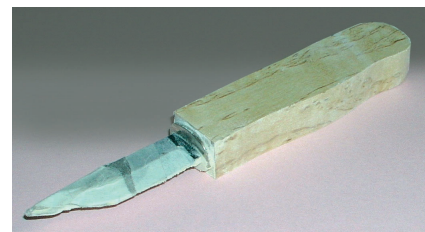
8. Now ream out the slot for the tang with a small rasp and pad or jap saw, joining up the from front to back, this is a gradual process, with repeated assembling for a good tight fit.



9. Use a hammer to gently drive the handle onto the tang the tip of the tang will come through.



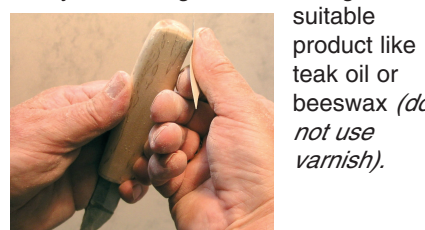
10. When you have achieved a good fit take apart ready for the bonding process. It is a good idea at the stage to polish up the bolster before mixing up a batch of epoxy resin (*its much easier this way*). Fill up the slot with as much resin as you can and reassemble, if you have a good fit excess resin will be extruded out of the slots and bolster joints, remove all excess resin with acetone (*nail varnish remover*) making sure that the bolster is very clean. Leave to cure as directed.



11. When the resin has cured cut out and trim down the block to the guide lines, do not go over your guide lines.



12. Trim off the protruding part of the tang and shape your handle to match the bolster, using a course file/rasp to get you basic shape, progressively changing tools to finer implements, finally smoothing off and sealing with a suitable



product like teak oil or beeswax (*do not use varnish*).