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The Making of the OSF Knife, Nick Wheeler, Part II

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- Gear reviews and tests - Edged tools -



Publication: Thursday 17 March 2005

Description :

This pictorial article outlines Nick Wheeler's final blademaking steps for the OSF knife, a full-tang stock-removal bushcrafting knife.

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Nick Wheeler, a Winlock Washington knifemaker, made the OSF knife blade blanks and supplied them to a group of forum members over the last couple of years. Part II of this pictorial documents the making of a carbon steel, stock-removal version of the OSF knife from heat-treat to delivery of the blade blank to the customer.

The blanks were delivered ground, heat-treated, and sharpened for final assembly by the final owner or by Jamie Knowlden.

This project knife began as a forum discussion looking for a full-tang, Scandi ground bushcrafter type knife. Nick's efforts produced this series of "OSF" engraved knives.

Please refer to [Part I](#) of this article which covered the blade-making steps from blank rough-out to heat-treat.

As we covered in Part I, these articles cover Nick's steps to produce a full-tang scandi ground knife blade blank in the bushcrafter format.

First we have Nick grinding in his shop. Nick produces stock-removal and forged knives.



Nick Wheeler at the grinder

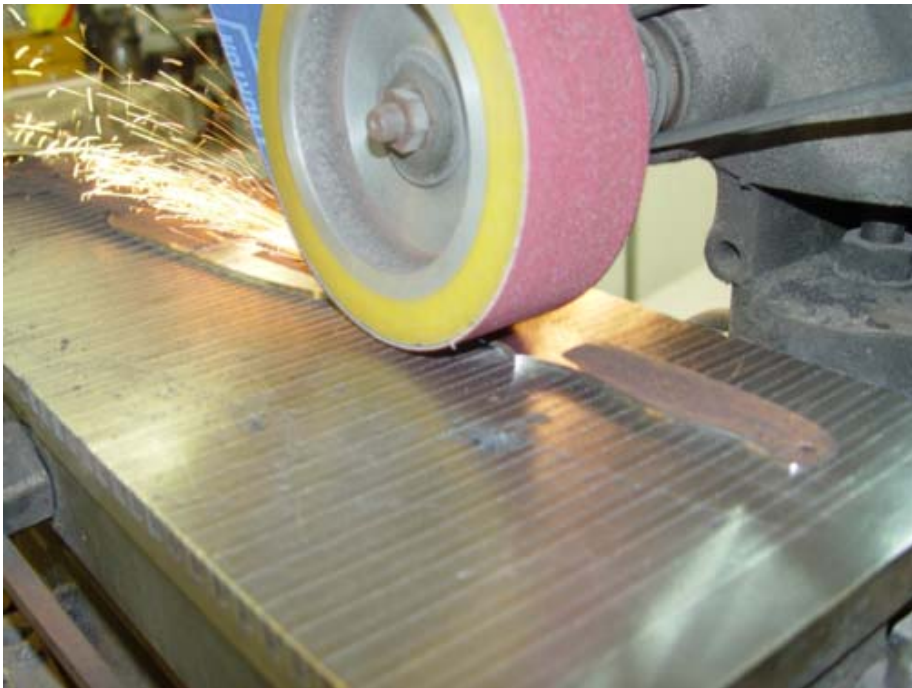
This is the blade after austenitization, oil-quenching, and the tempering oven. Normally it would be a uniform light gray as it goes into the final grinding steps. However, in this case, it is uniformly covered with rust as the residual salt drew moisture and combined with a bit of delay to the next steps, resulted in a rust coat.

Subsequent steps will remove this surface rust and do the final finish grinding, sharpening, and etching.



Rusty, after heat-treat

The knife flats are surface ground on this machine that was converted to use the same abrasive belts as Nick's Burr King grinder.



Surface Grinding Flats



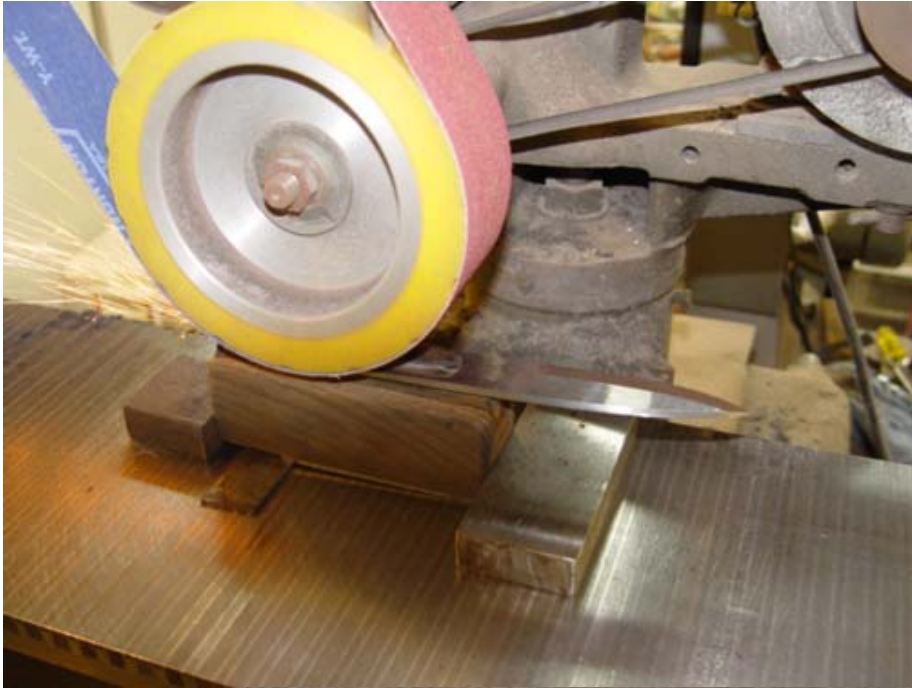
Knife flats ground

The tang hollow is then ground and cleaned up.



Tang hollow ground

Then the tang is surface ground, in this case the tang was tapered requiring the angled block support.

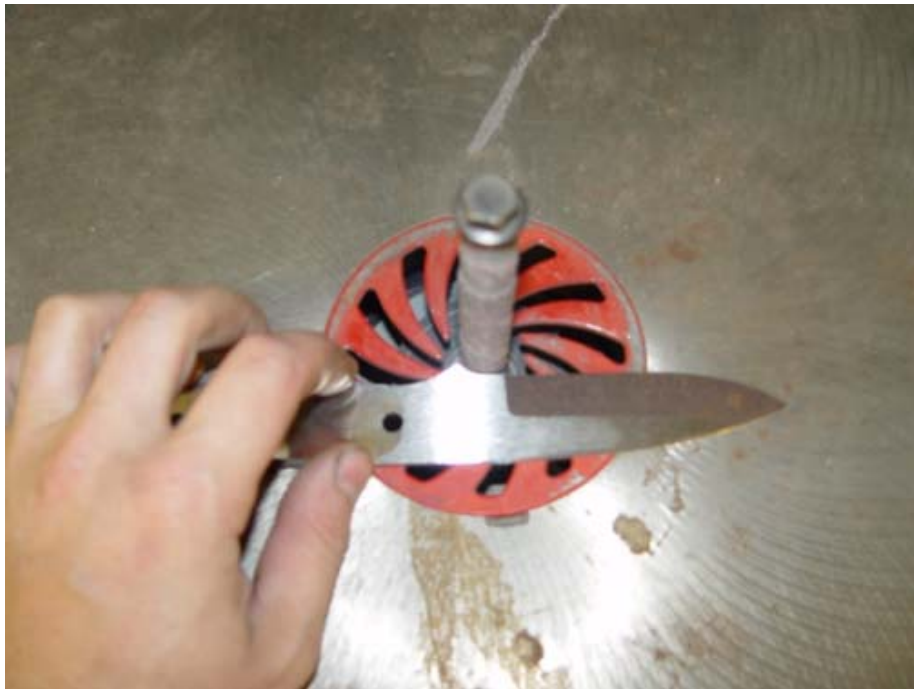


Surface grind tang



Tangs ground

All the knife edge radii are then ground.



Grinding radius

Then the knife edge is finish ground.



Finish grind edge

A final scribe line is set, and made ready for the final edge grind.



Scribe line set

Ground to scribe line.



Final edge grind to scribe line

The "OSF" mark is applied with electrochemical etch, this is the Marking Methods etching unit.



Etching unit

And the etching supplies.



Etching supplies

Etching.



Etching blade

The etched mark then needs cleanup.



Etch, before cleanup

Sanding etched logo.



Sanding etched logo

The logo trued up.



Logo, cleaned up

The knife is then stropped on cardboard,



Cardboard strop

on charged leather,



Leather strop

and tested by slicing tissue paper.



Slicing tissue paper

This is the OSF knife blade ready to ship for handle application.



Ready to ship

Please refer to [Part I](#) which covers the initial steps up to heat-treat.

See also [Part III](#) which covers the making of a forged version of the OSF knife.

Resources

Additional information and examples of Nick Wheeler's knives can be found in the [Alpha Knife Supply Kit Knife](#) article.

[Nick Wheeler's Site](#)

Post-scriptum :

Version 1.0 3/17/2005 Linked to Part I

Version 1.1 3/21/2005 Linked to Part III