



MAN CRATES  
PROJECTS

# MAN'S BEST FRIEND

DIY KNIFE MAKING GUIDE

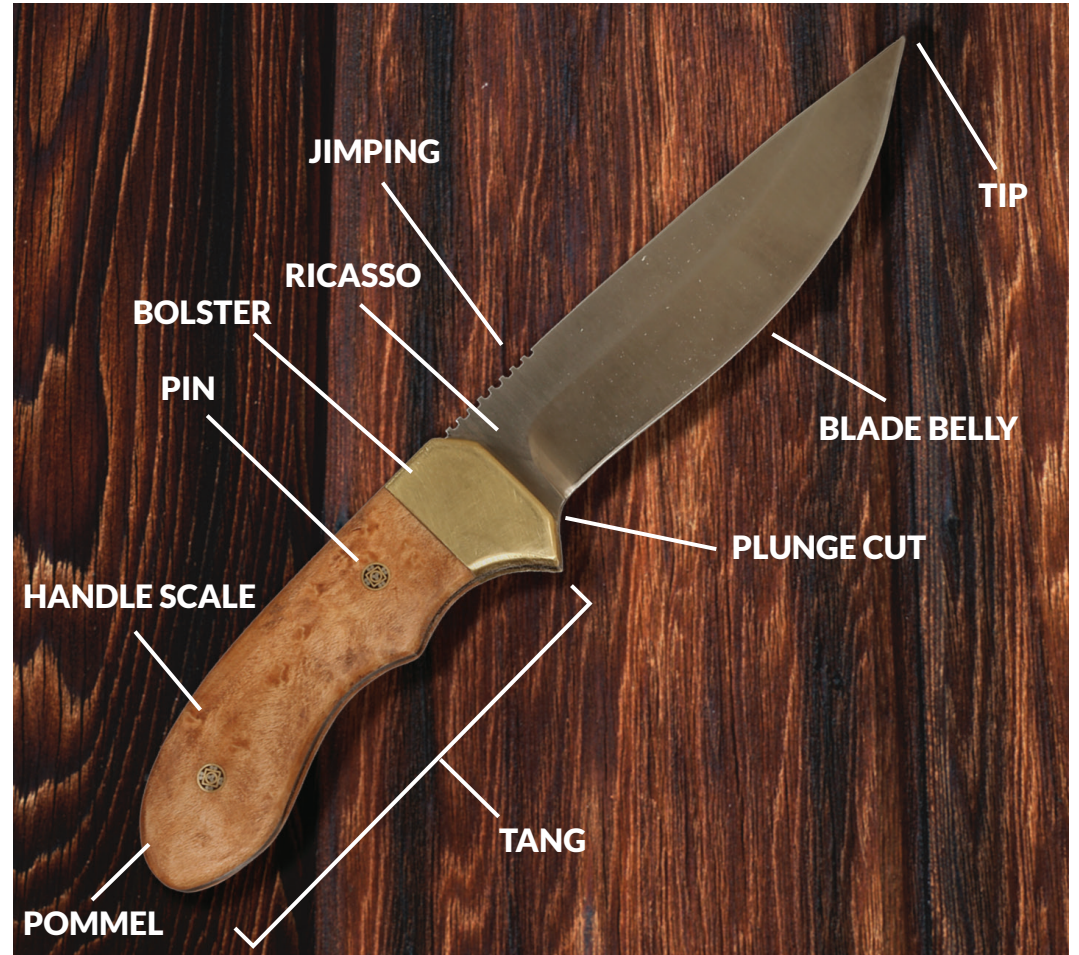


Treat a dependable knife well and it will become much more than a pointy tool of convenience or a flashy belt accessory.

# A GOOD KNIFE WILL REMAIN FOREVER BY YOUR SIDE

and give you an ever-functional edge on life; your trusty sidekick, your partner in crime, the best man at your wedding. Such confidence can only be accrued when you've designed, constructed, and refined every curve and contour yourself.

## KNIFE ANATOMY





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- ⑥ Wood Finish
- ⑦ 3" Bench Vise
- ⑧ File and Rasp Set
- ⑨ Variable Grit Sandpaper
- ⑩ Leather Pouch Sheath
- ⑪ 7/32" Drill Bit
- ⑫ Booklet

## *The Blade*

The Shawnee Skinner blade is crafted in Japan, the home of the samurai. The hollow ground blade has a satin finish and is made of 440C Stainless Steel to endure rugged treatment and outlast its maker.

## *The Handle*

The most intimate and personal part of your knife that you will be feeling everyday. You can craft an all-wood handle or incorporate the included brass bolsters. Shape and finish your knife with a gamut of files and sandpapers, finish, and a durable bench vise. The Burl Maple handle-scales have uniquely ornate grain patterns that complement the binding mosaic pins.

## *The Sheath*

Legally, you need a way to carry your fixed blade where it can be seen. The pouch style sheath is made from top grain vegetable tanned leather and can be molded to fit your knife like a bespoke suit.

\* **RE-FILL KIT:** The Knife Making Re-Fill Kit comes only with the blade, bolster, iron wood (one of the hardest woods that exists) scales, mosaic pins and of course this handy piece of literature.

## Step 1: **LAYOUT**

Alright, MacGyver, time to make some decisions. Do you want a full wood handle (low-moderate difficulty) or wood and brass bolster (moderate-high difficulty)? Think about the shape of the bolster and how you want it to meet the blade. If you haven't already done so, lower expectations about your artistic ability.



Sand the ends of the pins to remove any burrs, and assemble the bolster. Mark the shape and design onto the bolster, then remove and re-assemble without the blade. Using the vise and files, roughly shape the bolster to your design.

## Step 2: **ASSEMBLY**

Use the epoxy to attach the roughly shaped bolster. (Clean both knife and bolster before applying epoxy.) Allow time for epoxy to fully cure; be productive, do some pushups or something. If you decided not to include bolsters, skip this step.

Remove any extra epoxy from below the bolster to allow handle scales to sit flush. Next, epoxy one of the handle-scales to one side of the tang.

After it cures (more pushups), use the holes in the tang as a guide to drill holes in the attached handle-scale.

Repeat process with other handle-scale by attaching with epoxy and drilling the hole.

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Finally, with epoxy, slide in the mosaic pins to finish assembly.



**PRO-TIP:** Wrap the blade in masking tape to protect it and yourself.



### Step 3:

# SHAPING



**PRO-TIP:** Don't clamp directly onto the blade unless you use wood scraps to pad between the blade and the vise jaws, or unless you want to completely ruin your knife (not recommended, but it's a free country).

Use the rasp and file set to shape the handle. Grind off the pins until they are flush with the handle material. When in doubt, file with the passion of a disinterested 1960's secretary keen on nail care.

You can use the file set on both the wood and brass, but plan to spend a lot more time on the brass.

Remove all the wood and brass that overhangs the tangs until the knife profile looks correct.



### Step 4:

# FITTING

Now it's time to maximize comfort and character. Remove wood until it's comfortable in your grip. Keep a careful eye on preserving symmetry.

Woah there, cowboy. Don't move onto sandpaper until you have achieved the desired shape with the file. Make sure to file out any deep scratches in both the wood and brass.



This sanding process may take some time, so put on a movie or some music, or just be alone with your thoughts. If existential crisis occurs, channel it into your sanding. Start with the rough papers and don't move on until all deep scratches are removed.

**PRO-TIP:** Spend extra time with the fine grit sandpapers on the brass for an extra smooth polish.

Step 5:  
**FINISHING**

Once finely polished with the 600 grit sandpaper, clean and dry the wood and brass. Stain and finish the wood with the included wood finish.



Step 6:  
**MOLDING**

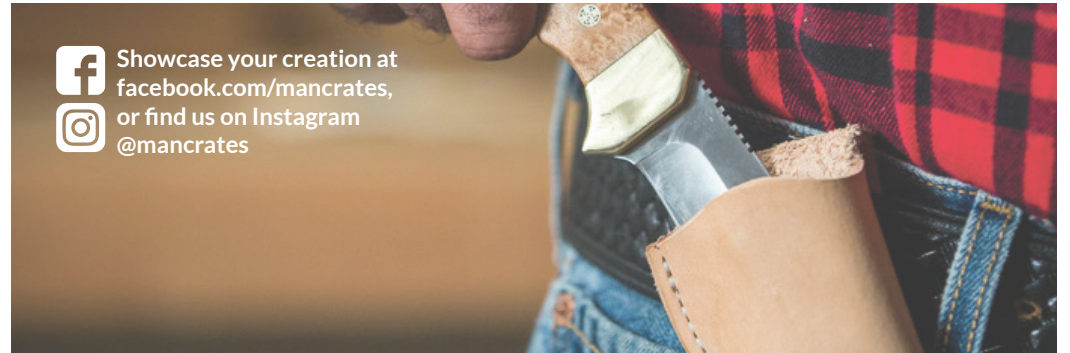
Your knife won't be finished until it's found a comfortable home. To form the sheath, wet it with water until it becomes pliable.

Work the knife into the sheath, then press and form the sheath around the shape of the knife. If you know a good masseuse, feel free to outsource this part. The sheath can also be stained or dyed to a darker color to suit your wardrobe needs.



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