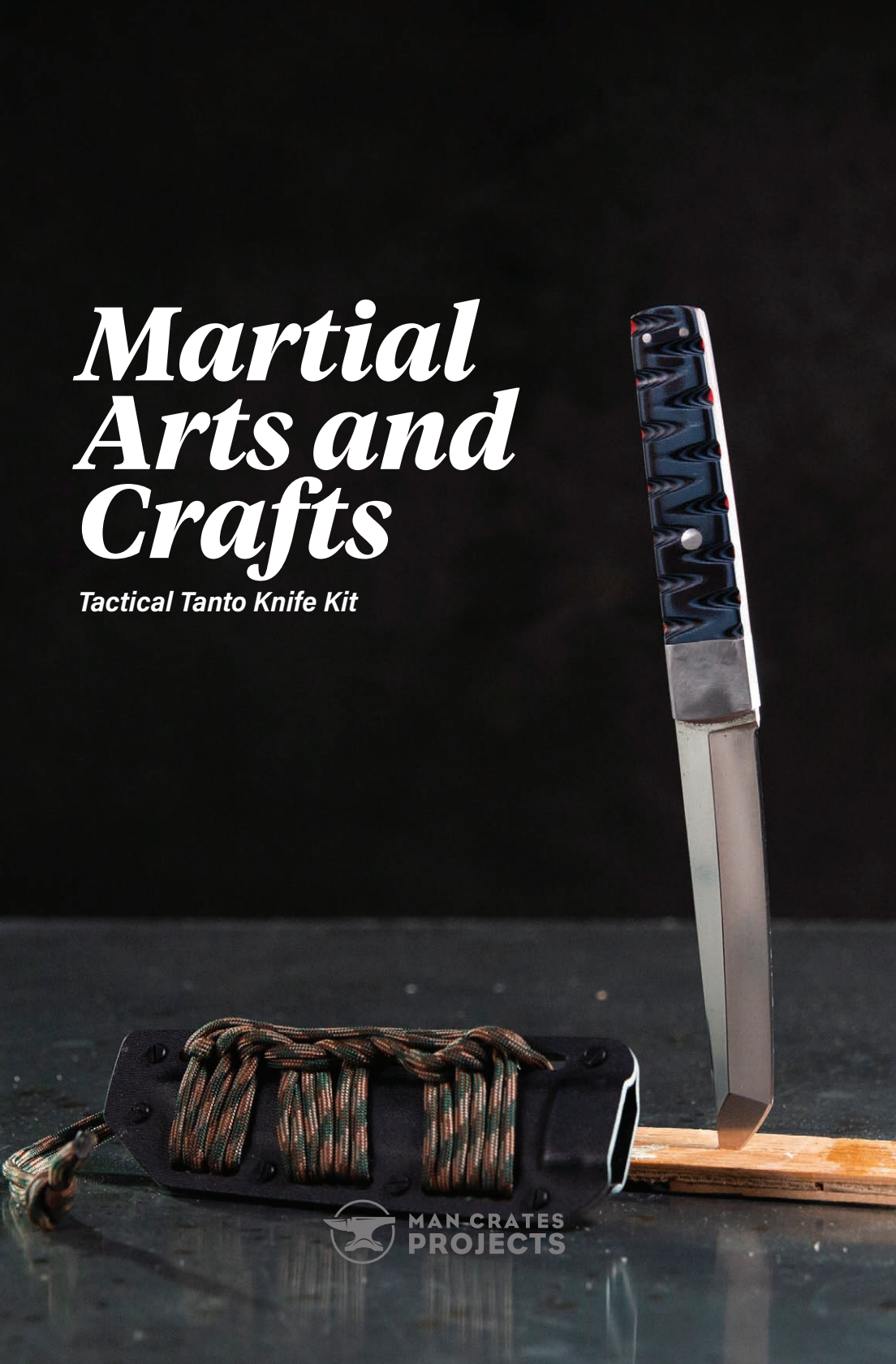
Martial Arts and Crafts

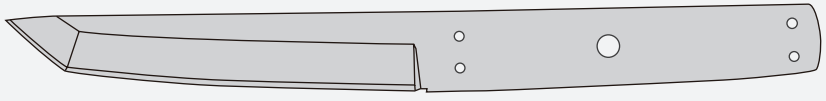
Tactical Tanto Knife Kit



MAN CRATES
PROJECTS

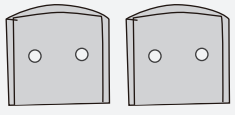
COMPONENTS

Everything you'll be using to make your own knife



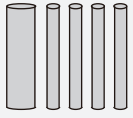
A8 Tanto Blade

x **1**



Nickel Bolsters

x **2**

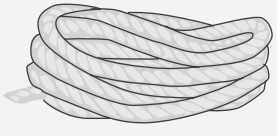


Handle Pins

x **5**

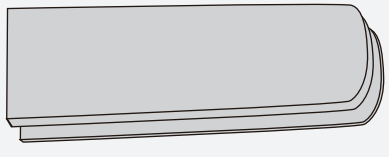
Screw Rivets

x **8**



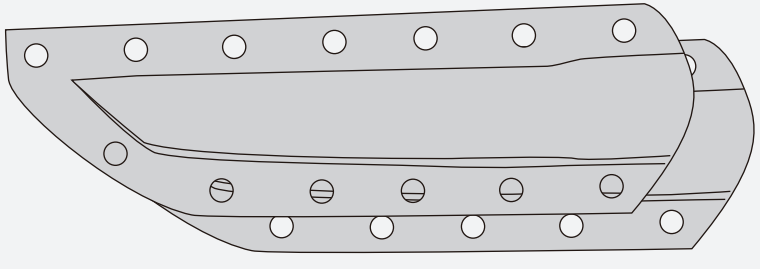
Nylon Paracord

10 *ft*



Handle Scales and Liners

x **2**



Molded Kydex Sheath Sides

x **2**

The Blade

The tanto blade references the distinctive style of the samurai sword. It's forged from high-quality AUS-8 steel, composed of carbon, chromium, and the ever-popular vanadium, which all contribute to its hardness, durability, and edge retention. The blade clocks in at 58-59 HRC (Rockwell hardness scale) and will serve its master with honor.

The Handle

This is the most intimate and personal part of your knife, as you'll be feeling it every day. The handle is made of a steel nickel bolster and pins, with G10 handle scales. Red liners provide a colorful accent, while the dark scales are made of alternating layers of black and grey G10. When shaped, it'll display a stunning pattern that should completely entrance even the most worthy of foes.

The Sheath

Legally, you need a way to carry your fixed blade where it can be seen. This kit includes a formed tactical kydex sheath, which you can assemble with simple screw rivets. The sheath includes M.O.L.L.E slots for fixing the sheath yourself.

This project takes on average 8 hours to complete

You might also need: *a vise, a rasp and file set, a drill with 1/16" and 1/4" drillbits, a screwdriver, and sand paper to finish this kit.*

ASSEMBLY

Attaching the handle onto the knife tang

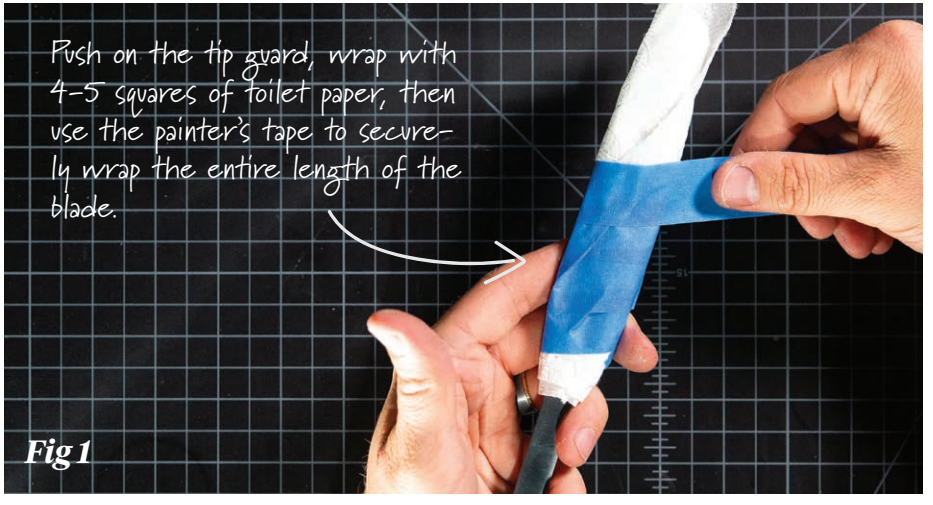


Fig 1

1. Since you'll be handling the knife extensively during this process, make sure to use the included plastic tip guard, along with tissue paper and painter's tape to cover the blade of the knife (Fig 1).

2. Before mixing your epoxy, take a test run at assembling the bolster. Put one piece on each side of the tang (they're interchangeable) and make sure the pins slide through both bolsters and the tang.

Fig 2

3. Once you've confirmed everything assembles easily, mix the epoxy (Fig 2) and apply it to the bolster and pins, then reassemble (Fig 3, 4).

Use a vise or clamp and press lightly to avoid forcing out too much of the epoxy. Follow manufacturers recommendation for epoxy cure time.

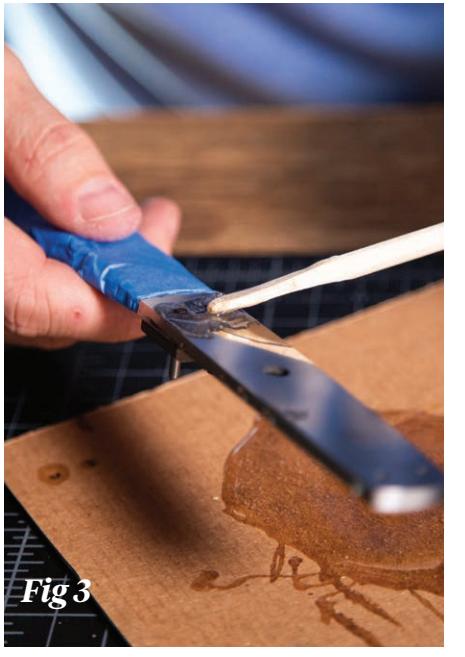


Fig 3

4. Remove any extra epoxy from below the bolster to allow the handle scales to sit flush.

Fig 4

Pro Tip:

Use a rag or paper towel to wipe away excess epoxy before it dries. If you do have excess glue that's dried onto the blade, use a razor blade to carefully cut and chip it free.

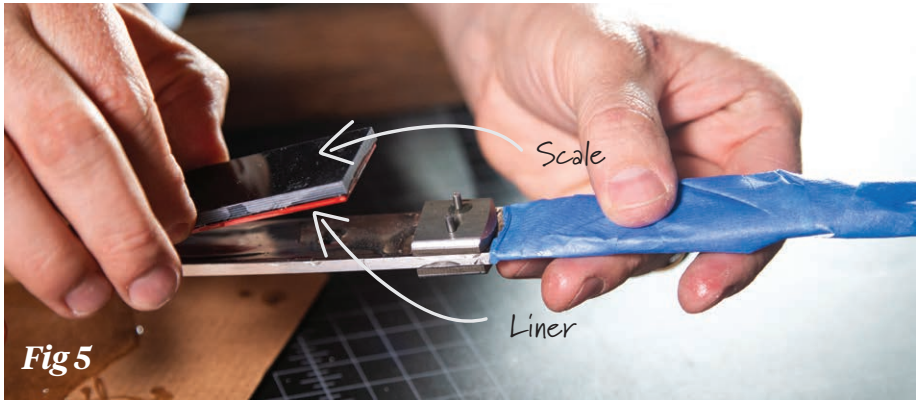


Fig 5

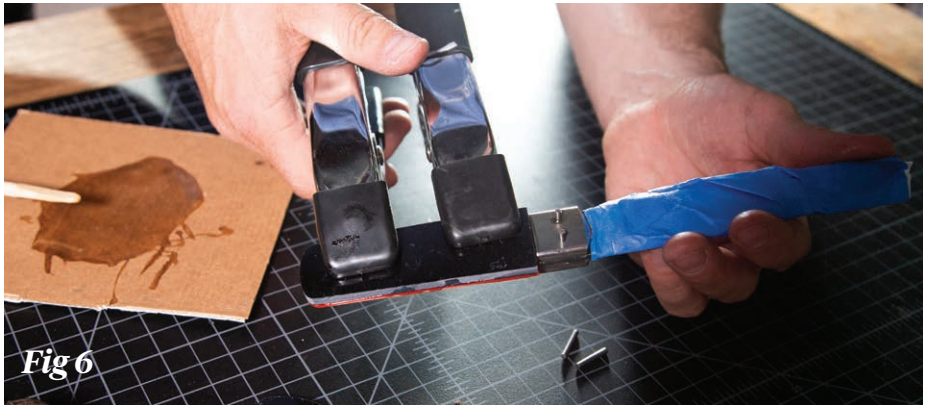


Fig 6

5. Epoxy one of the liners to one side of the tang. Then, epoxy a handle scale onto a liner (Fig 5) and lightly clamp it in place (Fig 6). Ensure both pieces stay flush to the bolster and wipe away excess glue.

6. After it cures, use the holes in the tang as a guide to drill holes in the attached handle-scale. Use a 1/16" bit for the small holes and a 1/4" bit for the large hole (Fig 7).

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


Fig 7

Fig 8

8. Finally, load up the handle pins with epoxy and tap them into the holes you've drilled (Fig 8). Allow the epoxy to cure for at least 12 hours before attempting to shape the handle.

SHAPING

Fitting the handle to your hand

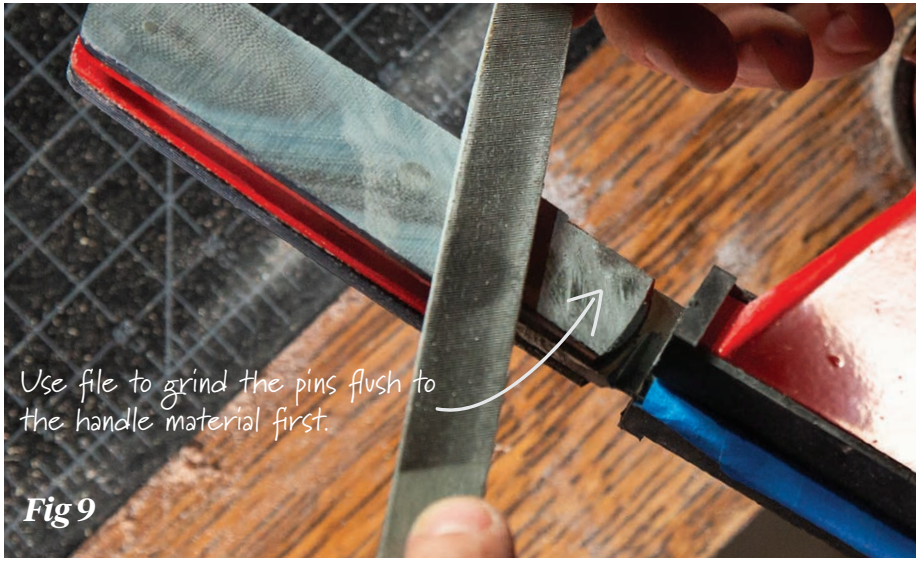


Fig 9

Fig 10

Pro Tip:

You can use a rasp and file set to shape the handle. If you're not into carpal tunnel, you can also use power tools, like a belt sander, grinding wheel, or rotary tool.

1. Start by grinding the pins flush with the bolster and handle scales (Fig 9). Next, remove material on the edges of the handle scales until they are flush with the tang of the blade (Fig 10). *If you're using a course tool like a rasp, leave 1/16" of material around edge so that you can work out the scratches with a finer tool like a file.*

2. Use the same tools and techniques to shape the rest of the handle. Start with your coarse tools (like a rasp), and work toward finer tools (like a file). Be sure to work out all the deep scratches before moving onto the next tool. You can use the file on both handle and the bolster.

3. Don't move onto sandpaper until you've achieved the desired shape with the file. Start with the rough papers and don't move on until all deep scratches are removed (Fig 11). Work your way up to 400 grit sandpaper on the handle and 800 on the bolster for a polished finish.

Fig 11

FINISHING

Add some final touches to make it unique

If you're feeling confident in your skills, you can add an extra level of texturing to your knife. Using a fine rat-tail file, angled file, or rotary tool, carve grooves or patterns into the G10 to expose its alternating pattern.

1. Before starting, plan out your pattern and measure regular spacing for your grooves.

2. Use your files or other tools to carve in your texture and pattterns. Move slowly and check your work if you're trying for a symmetrical pattern (Fig 12).

Fig 12

Fig 13

3. To sand, wrap sandpaper around the tapered end of the file and sand to your desired level of finish. Holding the sandpaper in your hands can round edges you might prefer to keep clean.

4. Once you're finished with the handle, carefully remove the tape and tissue paper you've been using to protect the blade.

Pro Tip:

The synthetic material doesn't require any special finish or polish. Simply sand to your desired level of finish and call it a day.

THE SHEATH

Assembling the sheath and making a cord wrap

Fig 14

1. Align the two sides of the sheath and use a flathead screwdriver and the screw rivets to assemble the sheath (Fig 14).
The sheath should have a tight friction fit to keep the knife secure while being carried.

> ***Pro Tip:***
> *Use the tip of pencil or pen to push the end of the paracord through when the channels start getting crowded.*

2. Feed both ends of the cord through the holes near the opening of the sheath. Center the cord so that equal length come out of each side. Take the one side and pass it through Slot 2, then back up through the Slot 1 (Fig 15).
3. Wrap the cord end around, passing through Slot 1 and underneath what will become the belt loop. After 5 passes, finish with the cord, emerging on the belt loop side of the sheath (Fig 16).
4. Repeat the process with the other end of the cord, this time overlapping your initial wrap (Fig 17). Keep tension on both ends of the cord to keep the wrap snug.
5. Take one cord and pass it across the wrap you just finished into the opposite side of Slot 2 (Fig 18). Make 4 more wraps (Fig 19).
6. Repeat the process with the other end, overlapping the same area but going in the opposite direction (Fig 20).

Fig 15

Fig 16

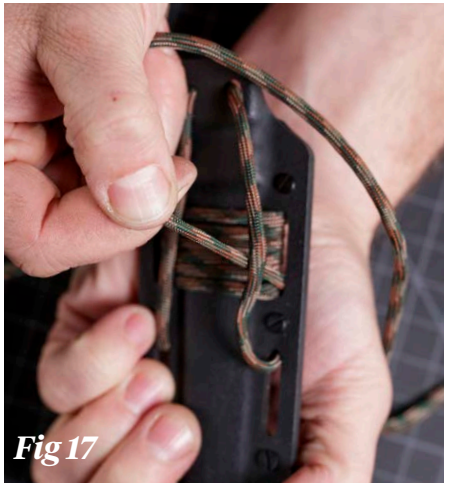


Fig 17

Fig 18

Fig 19

Fig 20

Fig 21

Fig 22

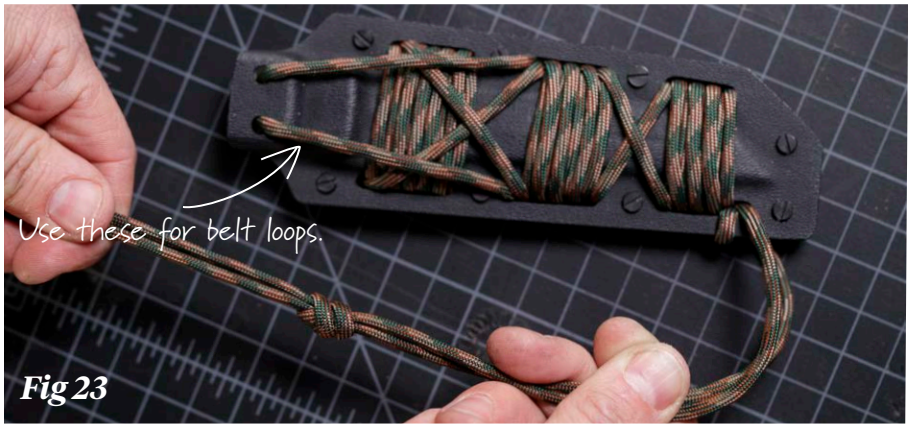
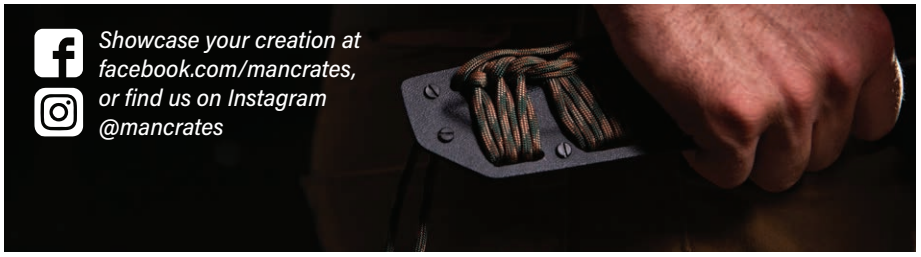


Fig 23

7. Repeat the process for the last slot with both cords (Fig 21, 22). Finish each end by wrapping the end around the edge of the sheath creating a half hitch knot (Fig 23).

8. Lastly, take both loose ends of cord and knot them together. Use these ends for an around-the-neck carry, or weave it into a lanyard.



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