



MAN CRATES
PROJECTS

SLASH AND STASH

DIY FOLDING KNIFE-MAKING GUIDE



A man's knife is only as good as it is accessible.

That razor-sharp blade sitting on your workbench ain't doing you any favors when you're trying to skin and fillet a squirrel in the backcountry. And unless you're Crocodile Dundee, you're probably not cruising through town with a fixed blade nestled neatly on your hip. A folding knife is the convenient and non-crazy-looking way to

**KEEP A TRUSTY
KNIFE FOREVER
BY YOUR SIDE.**

KNIFE ANATOMY



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The Blade

The full knife assembly involves two torx wrenches and very tiny parts that could easily be lost due to earthquake or butterfingers, so be careful. On the bright side, they are too small to be a choking hazard, so swallow away.

The AUS8 Drop Point Blade is made of heat-treated and subzero-quenched stainless steel with incredible temper and hardness (57-58 HRC). This folding beauty features thumb studs for easy access and a liner lock for extra protection.

The Handle

This is the most intimate and personal part of your knife that you will be feeling every day. Shape your handle to a perfect fit with a gamut of files, grades of sandpaper, and a portable bench vise. The linen Micarta handle scales are made from layers of hardened resin linen and are incredibly durable. The struggle of shaping and sanding will reveal a beautifully unique wood grain pattern.

REFILL KIT: The Folder Knife Refill Kit comes only with items 1, 2 and 3.

Step 1: ASSEMBLY

Alright, MacGyver, time to start putting things together. Using the diagram on the opposite page, begin assembling the knife. Start by attaching the bolsters to the liners. Next, place the blade between the liners, and make sure to include the teflon washers, standoffs, and blade stop pin. Push the pivot pin through and screw it in place. Make sure to include the O-ring. Tighten, open, and close the blade until you're confident the liner lock is holding the blade open properly. If it doesn't look like a knife, disassemble and try again.



When mounting the handle scales, make sure the holes line up perfectly and the screws enter easily. If the fit seems off, don't force it. Brute force never truly solves anything. Simply remove the scales and sand the edge of the scale that contacts the bolster until you've reached perfect alignment.

PRO-TIP: These pieces are easy to lose. Work over a large table so you can find any screws you drop, and chain up the Roomba outside, just in case.



DIAGRAM

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Blade | 6 Round-head Screws (8) | 11 Blade Stop Pin |
| 2 Teflon Washers (2) | 7 Pivot Pin Screw | 12 Pivot Pin |
| 3 Left Liner | 8 Left Handle Scale | 13 Right Bolster |
| 4 Left Bolster | 9 Flat Head Screws (2) | 14 Right Liner |
| 5 Neoprene O-ring | 10 Standoffs (2) | 15 Right Handle Scale |



Step 2: **SHAPING**



PRO-TIP: You'll be shaping the handle with the blade open. 10 out of 10 doctors and mothers advise you mummify the blade in many layers of masking tape to protect yourself while you work.

Use the rasp and file set to shape the handle. When in doubt, file with the passion of a disinterested 1960's secretary keen on nail care. The Micarta is a very hard material, so work patiently. Remove material on the edges until the handle scales are flush with the steel liners. Once the profile is finished, work on the transition between bolster and handle. The bolster can also be sanded and smoothed at the end, but be delicate; it's a bolster, not a scratch-off lotto ticket.



Step 3: **FITTING**

Now it's time to maximize fit and character. Remove material until the grip is comfortable. Keep a careful eye on preserving symmetry. Round the edges, and don't be afraid of taking some tops off the screws. They can be sanded down for a smooth touch and still be deep enough to unscrew later.



The Micarta is made of layers of linen encased in a hard plastic. As you work through layers, it will reveal a wood grain pattern. You can use the fine files to create unique patterns and grips for you handle.

PRO-TIP: Use the files to remove any deep scratches you made with the rasp before moving on to sanding.

Step 4: **SANDING**

Woah there, Cowboy, don't start sanding until you've achieved the final finished shape of the knife. The 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. No finish is required since the material is synthetic, so stop sanding once you've achieved your desired look.

100
GRIT



220
GRIT



400
GRIT



600
GRIT



Step 5: **POCKET CLIP**

Your knife won't be complete until it's found a comfortable home. In this case, your pocket. The pocket clip comes with three long, round head screws. Tighten those screws and wear it with pride.

In some traditions, a new blade is given a name when it draws first blood. You might want to start giving that some thought for the first time you accidentally cut yourself using it.



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