

The English Cutler

Knife making kits – daggers – Contains a blade, handle, leather, needles and thread.

Making a knife using these instructions will be straightforward, but read them thoroughly first and understand each stage. This kit contains the hard to find components, every thing else is easy to find locally. If at any time you need help please give me a ring on 07957 434775. Good luck.

Tools and materials

Epoxy (Araldite)
6mm or 1/4" drill
degreaser (meths or similar)
sand paper

Handle

*If you want to change the shape of the handle do that first. Clean the tang area (part that fits inside the handle) with a solvent such as meths to de grease it.

*You fit the blade to the handle by drilling out the hole to fit the blade exactly. To drill it, push a 6mm drill into the hole rev it up and rock the drill from side to side so that the hole becomes wide enough to fit the widening taper of the tang, use a chisel or knife to trim the socket you have made to fit the blade well.

* Make sure the blade is well seated and then cut off any excess tang showing through the end of the handle, leaving about 1mm proud.

* Mix up and pour in enough epoxy so that when the tang is pushed into the hole and is fully home it just starts to squeeze out.

* Clamp the blade (in leather or aluminium protectors) in a vice and rivet over the end of the tang by gently tapping around the edges to mushroom it a little, peening over the end only as much as necessary or the handle may split.

Oil the handle with Danish or linseed oil.

Scabbard

*Wrap a piece of leather around the blade, mark it and cut it so that the seam is down one face of the blade. Repeat the process around the first piece of leather so that you will have a scabbard made of two layers of leather, the inner one is only shaped around the blade the outer one is stitched.

*Place the two pieces of leather on top of each other and pierce 3 holes parallel to the top edge and 3 along the centre line near the tip. Sew them together.

*Mark the leather on the outer piece to show where to make the holes for sewing it and pierce these holes with an awl (anything thin and sharp) by placing the leather on a magazine and pushing down through the leather.

*Thread both needles onto one piece of thread so that there is a needle on each end. Push one needle through the two holes at the tip of the scabbard, so that the scabbard is in the centre of the piece of thread and sew up the length towards the handle so that with every stitch the needles cross and change sides i.e. you are sewing with two needles at the same time; called saddle stitch.

*Cut two slits near the top of the outer piece of leather and before you sew all the way to the top thread the thong through the slits to provide the hanging thong, then finish stitching the scabbard.

*Dye the scabbard with shoe dye.