

# The English Cutler

**Knife making kits – eating – contains a blade, sets of handle scales, rivet material, leather, thong, 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 needed**

Epoxy (Araldite), hack saw, 2.5mm or 3.2 (1/8<sup>th</sup>)mm drill, de-greaser (meths or similar), sand paper, file, hammer

## **Handle**

\*Cut the wooden scales (pieces that form the handle) roughly to the shape of the tang (steel piece that runs down the centre of the handle) but do not contour them yet i.e. keep them flat.

\*Clean the tang area with a solvent to de-grease it and bond one scale to the tang with epoxy.

Drill through the holes in the tang so that they go right through the scale, using a 2.5mm or 3.2mm (1/8<sup>th</sup>) drill.

\*Bond the other scale onto the handle and drill through both scales and the tang. This will give you accurate holes right through the handle area.

\*Using a file or coarse sand paper wrapped around a file, shape the handle to the tang and contour it.

\*Cut lengths of the rivet material 2mm longer than the depth of the holes through the handle and file off the burr that was made by sawing them. Push the rivet through the handle and place the bottom of the rivet on a piece of steel or the top of a vice so that you are holding the blade in one hand with the rivet vertical.

\*Gently tap the rivet with slightly angled blows all round so that the top face becomes slightly mushroomed. Turn the knife over and repeat so that the rivet is fatter at each end and holds the wooden handle onto the tang. Do not make the rivet too long or hit too hard as the wood will split.

\*Sand the rivets with a fine paper to remove any sharp burrs and sand the handle until it is smooth. Any scratches in the tang can be removed with wet and dry paper. Oil the handle with Danish 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. Cut the leather to be a little loose.

\*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 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.

\*Dye the scabbard with shoe dye.