



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Four Twin Sets
- ✓ Internally Pinned Scales
- ✓ Lost
- ✓ Wowser
- ✓ OKCA Club Knife
- ✓ Application for membership

Our *international* membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

February 2018

Four Twin Sets by Western

Martin Drivdahl

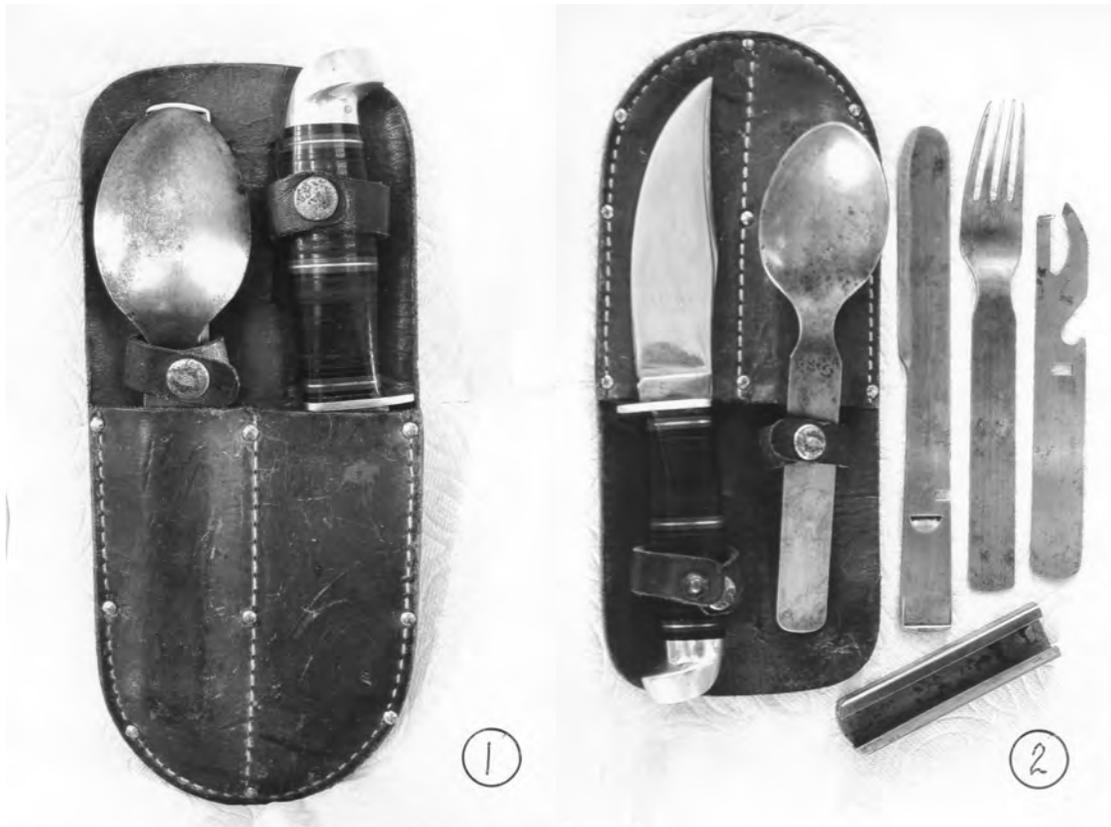
Finding factory made fixed blade knives, such as hunting knives or bird and fish knives, with more than one piece housed in a single carrying sheath is not a common occurrence. I've not witnessed nor seen any information showing that any such sets were made by Remington during their long run of RH series knife models that were manufactured between 1920 and 1940. My reference materials do show that W.R. Case & Sons produced a five piece "Sportsman" set of stag handled knives in 1930 and a twin set of stag handled bird and fish knives (one with a 5" blade and one with a 3" blade) during all years between 1940 and 1974. These are shown as TWIN-FINN sets. Of course, Marble's Coquina Set is considered to be the "holy grail" of Marble's collectibles. This is a three-piece set and includes two hunting knives and a sharpening steel housed in a single artistically adorned leather sheath. I believe these sets now to be scarcer to find than hen's teeth, and current trading prices to be approaching that needed for a king's ransom.

Western Cutlery Company made a very limited number of twin sets, four of which are herein presented.

The oldest Western made set in my possession consists of a leather handled hunting knife paired up with a set of metal eating utensils which are held together with a metal clip. These items are carried in a two-compartment plain leather sheath (see photo no. 1) The hunting knife is shown on a 1941 catalog sheet as an NX43 which has a 4-3/4" blade and is 9" long overall. The blade is stamped WEST-CUT/BOULDER, COLO./PAT. NO. 1,967,479 (in a three line configuration). The metal utensils include a spoon, knife, fork and a fourth piece with a can opener and cap lifter (see photo no. 2). This would have been a very useful set to take along to a hunting camp in days of old or even yet in modern times.

The second Western twin set to be presented herein is a plastic handled set of bird and fish knives in a two compartment beautifully embossed one-piece leather sheath. It was probably a special-order knife set made in 1950, or shortly thereafter, and has two knives of different sizes with ivory colored

handles. Each knife handle is adorned with very detailed scrimshaw styled Eskimo scenes. These scenes show a dogsled team on the larger knife and a tundra or island scene with a few trees and an elevated food cache on the smaller knife (see photos no. 3 and 4). An identical twin set (without the etched scenes) is shown on a 1950 catalog sheet by Western. This 1950 set is shown as No. 84 Combination and includes Knife No. 48BGG which has a 4-3/8" blood grooved sabre blade with a plastic handle available in color choices of red, orange or ivory. The smaller knife is shown to be No. 48CAP and has a 3" sabre ground blade with a plastic

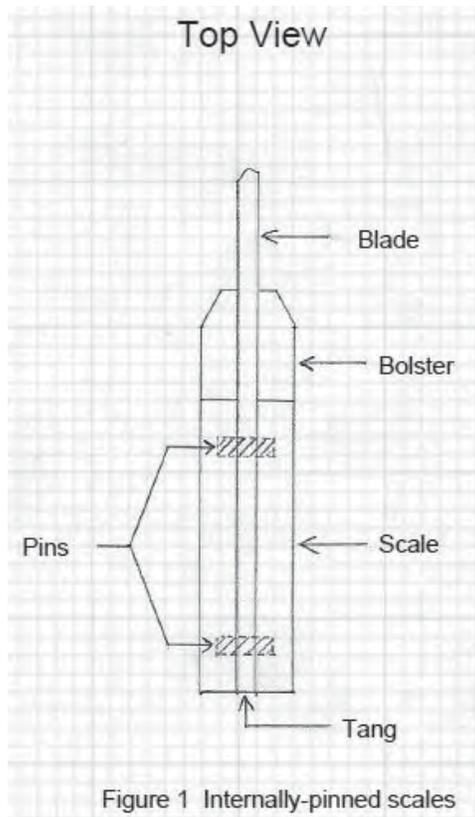


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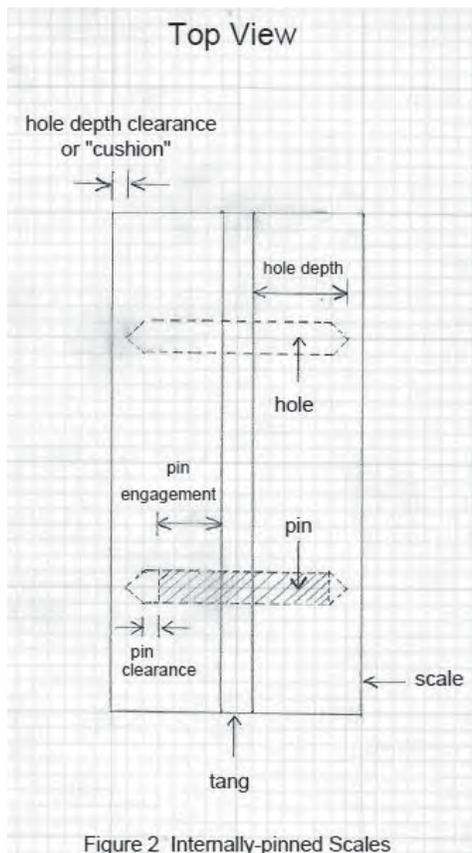
Internally-pinned Scales

Michael Faber

There are several reasons you may want to consider using internally-pinned scales. A through-pin that is undersized relative to the scale hole will result in a gap that may not be noticeable or may be glaringly obvious, depending on the scale material. Sometimes if you have a scale material with a beautiful pattern in it, the presence of any kind of pin can disrupt the pattern and be a distraction that detracts from the overall beauty. Finally, when using difficult-to-work scale materials (such as mother of pearl or ivory) chipping or splintering may occur at the edges of the holes during drilling. With internal pins, the holes don't go all the way through the scales (see Figure 1); and any gaps, chipping or



The key concepts that make this approach to internal pins work are perfect match up between the rear ends of the bolsters and the front ends of the scales, perfect match up between the pin holes in the tang and the blind pin holes in the scales, appropriate scale hole depth and appropriate pin length. If there isn't a simultaneous match up between the bolster/scale interface and between the pin holes in the tang and the scales, either the assembly won't go together or there will be a gap between the bolsters and the scales. Hole depth in each scale needs to be deep enough to give solid pin engagement, but not so deep that when you grind or sand the handle after assembly you cut into the bottom of the hole. The pins must be long enough so that when a pin is bottomed out in one scale hole, there is enough pin protruding through the tang to engage in the other scale. The pins must also be shorter than the combined hole depth of both scales plus the thickness of the tang (see Figure 2); or when you assemble everything,



splintering that occur will be on the inside of the scale and won't be visible. What's presented here is just one approach to internally-pinned scales. Of course, there are a number of things you can do differently to suit your own needs and style.

Let's look at the concepts, how to do the calculations and how to do the actual work. The general concepts presented here are mostly the same as those presented in a previous article, "Internal Pin Bolsters," OKCA. *Knewsletter*, March 2017), but the procedures are a little bit different.

there will be a gap between the scales and the tang because the too-long pin is acting as a stand-off. In this situation, trying to force the fit of a pin that is too long by pounding or clamping may work if the scale material is soft and compressible enough but may also split the scale.

I usually like to take the approach of doing all calculations first before starting the actual

work, but in the approach presented here a bit of back-and-forth is the most practical way. We can calculate a target hole depth up front, but we have to measure the actual hole depth before calculating a target pin length. Calculating nominal target hole depths and pin lengths is pretty straightforward; but it's important to give yourself some leeway, plan your tolerances so that everything will still fit even if you are off at the extreme ends of your ranges.

Let's look at hole depth first. To be clear about what I mean by "hole depth" or "total hole depth," I am referring to a hole made by a pointed drill bit and include the pointed part of the hole at the bottom as part of the hole depth, not just the straight-sided part. Go to your drawing or a finished knife you will be duplicating and measure the total thickness of the finished handle at the thinnest point at the edge of where the hole will be. Take this total thickness, subtract the thickness of the tang at that same point and divide the result by 2. This will give you the minimum thickness of the scale at the point where the hole will be. Now give yourself a "cushion" (I like to use .0625" on scales. You can get away with less; but, depending on how much filing and sanding you do, you may run the risk of cutting through into the bottom of the hole – a definite "oops!") then subtract that from the minimum scale thickness. This gives you your maximum hole depth. The hole may not need to be this deep, but it should not be any deeper. To minimize the risk of exposing the hole from the outside of the scale, don't make the hole much deeper than you have to. As long as you have the minimum pin engagement that you need, shallower is better than deeper. If you're using .125" diameter pins, you don't need more than .110" of engagement, and a little less can work just fine. Keep in mind that pin engagement only occurs in the straight part of the hole and not in the angled part at the bottom. (Yes, it's possible to grind your pin ends to match the angle of the drill bit tip to have them engage all the way to the bottom of the hole, but it's generally not worth the trouble of doing this unless you are working with very thin scales and struggling to come up with adequate engagement. If you have to do this, be sure to grind your pins at an angle equal to or very slightly less than the angle of the drill tip; or the angled part of the pin end will interfere with the angled part of the hole bottom and will fail to seat completely, resulting in a pin that is too long.

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Don't let this be your last *Knewslettter*.....

As a courtesy we are mailing this *Knewslettter* to those who might have let their 2018 membership slip between the cracks. It is easy to tell; the address label tells you whether your membership is current. 2018 or better in the upper left placement tells all. Membership supports this Organization. If a visitor to our April Show, you will be able to enter free including Friday, members only and table-holder set-up day.

We are just.....

A few tables short of a sold out April Show. If you were contemplating a table, you best jump to it pretty quickly. An application form can be found on our website.

Shipping Knives to the April Show

We have for years used the Barons Den Shooting range as a depository for those who ship their knives to the April Show. The Barons Den closed their doors, so an alternate plan has been arranged and put into concrete. The **GunRunner** is located seven miles northeast of the airport and easy to locate. The store has a security system and will receive and send your packages. Be sure your packages are labeled OKCA Show with your name on the outside of the carton. Check them out at <https://gunrunnerarms.com>.

The Silent Auction

You can do your part by contributing knives for our Silent Auction as a means to support the OKCA.

Custom Knife Competition

The details about the Custom Knife Competition were printed in our November 2017 *Knewslettter*. If that issue is at the bottom of the bird cage, you can find a copy on our website. Either link to the Site Map page and use the link for custom knife competition or link to the *Knewslettters* page and locate November. The judges for this event have already agreed to do the judging for the April Show.

Lotsa Knowledge at the Show....

In the past we have referred visitors to several of our table-holders who have knowledge on special categories. In the hopes of increasing this education, we are expanding our list. We have specialists of antique knives, Buck knives, Japanese swords, military knives, pocketknives, Randall knives, William Henry knives and other specialties who we will mention in future *Knewslettters*. The latest specialist has volunteered to evaluate wood knife handles. You might now be able to name that wood specifically rather than call it "tree wood."

Articles this month....

are from **Martin Drivdahl, Michael Faber, Merle Spencer, Roger Worley, Little Orphan Annie, and Auggie Schmirtz**. There is some great reading this month which is truly educational. I must remind our membership that all our *Knewslettters* are available on line, and the Google bots pick up on these articles. That makes these words available worldwide. You are an expert on your specific collecting interests, be they antique or custom, so let us hear from you and do an article for us.

Demonstrations at the Show

We will again have demonstrations/seminars on Saturday of the Show. The same popular events will again be there. Forging, sharpening, martial arts, custom knife to do, kitchen cutlery, flint knapping, Medieval sword education, engraving, scrimshaw and more

Custom Knife Awards for 2018

Gene Martin designed the blank for the *kukri* knife that will be customized and completed by knifemakers who volunteered to do this project. The following have accepted the 1095 steel blank: **Chuck Cook, Gary Griffin, Cameron House, Jim Jordan, David Kurt, Gene Martin, Craig Morgan, Lynn Moore, Jeff Murrison, Bernard Ortiz, Sterling Radda, Blair Todd and Bryan Wages**. Thank you for your participation in our event. These knives will be awarded to the display table-holders for their displays at the 2018 Show. Hopefully we will get these way before the Show so we can toot your

name. None received thus far.

Mobile Assistance

Last year was the first ever that we decided to locate a company that would provide mobile assistance vehicles like wheelchairs and scooters to our visitors and table-holders. See the ad in the advertisers' page in this *Knewslettter*. No need to get pooped out walking through the Show when you can scoot right along. I might have to get me one, so I can catch speeders and beat them to the best deals.



2018 Club Knife...

The sales for the OKCA 2018 Club Knife (see last page) has been brisk. All the serial numbered knives have been sold. but we still have a slight few of the non serial numbered knives available. Don't get left out. Our sales projection was dim because of the quantity of the knives available, but the bright light of sales has prevailed. Thank you all who have supported our money raising project. There is little doubt that if (?) there are any knives still available by Show time, they will get snapped up quickly.

Ebay search:

I always for grins like to see what the number is of one word searches on eBay. There were two surprises. One was the number of hits on the word "knives." I will let you the reader figure out the next surprise in word use. Rare - knife - cutlery - knives - scarce - vintage.

The Sizzler..

Don't forget our monthly meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant. It is the third Wednesday of the month, which makes it **February 21, 2018**. I always look forward to this gathering so mark your calendar and come be with us. Come smile with us with your latest purchase or that which will educate us. It is always nice to see my fellow knife enthusiasts that are a cut above. 

The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The January meeting was held January 17, 2018 at Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway. There were 25 present.

January was the election of officers. A motion was made by **Larry Criteser** to elect our current slate of officers to another term. It was seconded by **Martin Brandt**. The membership passed the motion. The officers are **Craig Morgan** - President; **John Priest** - Vice President; **Elayne Ellingsen** - Secretary/Treasurer; **Joshua Hill** - Master At Arms; **Dennis Ellingsen** - Show Chairman. Thank you for your support of our efforts on behalf of the Oregon Knife Collectors Association. Hopefully this will be a good year for our upcoming Show.

As of this meeting we do have a few tables available. Please promote our event. We do want a full Show. We have flyers for the 2018 April Eugene Show available to be mailed to you. Please contact us if you can distribute these in your area. (541)484-5564 or email okca@oregonknifclub.org

All the 2018 membership cards and table confirmations have been mailed. If you have not received your cards or table confirmation, please contact me. I can mail another card so you will have it available for April.

Table-holders - You will receive your table-holder badges at the check in table on Friday, April 6. You will have two badges (per table-holder) available to you. Please contact me if you did not provide a name for the

second badge or need to confirm the name you provided. I need this information before March 15 so I can have the table-holder badges printed.

We are mailing this to all 2017 members (who will need to renew for 2018 Show attendance) as well as all members who have paid the 2018 membership. We are hopeful this will be the nudge necessary to encourage renewal of your membership if it is not current 2018. If you want to attend the 2018 April Show, I would suggest you renew now. If we do not have **receipt** of your renewal membership by Wednesday, April 4, you will not be allowed entry on Friday, April 6. We do not accept payment for new or renewal memberships on Friday, April 6, which is members-only and table-holder set up day. Please note the date above your address on this *Knewsletter* to determine your membership status. If I have made an error, please contact me and it will be corrected.

After many hours, Dennis has converted all of the 35 mm photographs that we had to digital.



Having a high level talk eye to eye

All of the serial numbered OKCA 2018 G E C C l u b Knives have been sold. We do have a few of the GEC knives

available that are not serial numbered.

We have already received the printed 2019 OKCA Show flyers and 2019 OKCA table application forms. The theme for the 2019 April Show will be Bowie Knives. The display award knife will be a Bowie blank.



When you ship your display award knife to the OKCA, please ship to OKCA - 3003 W 11TH PMB 172 - EUGENE OR 97402. All correspondence, membership payments, knife orders, Knewsletter articles, etc. mail to PO BOX 2019 - EUGENE OR 97402.

We will have two tables at the Willamette Valley Arms Show March 17-18 at the Lane Events Center, Eugene OR. If you interested to sell some of your knives at this event or promote our Show, please contact us. Please join us as we support the WVACA Show. If you are not a WVACA member, your OKCA membership card (2018) will allow you free entry to the Show.

Thank you, **Bernard Levine**, for your email to the members to remind them of our meetings. Thank you, **Liza Wages**, for your contribution to our Facebook page. We thank all of the members who have contributed to our *Knewsletter*. This publication helps to bind our group together. If you have words to share but do not type, handwrite the article; I will type it for publication. We all have a want to share our knowledge and interests.

See you at the meeting, February 21, 2018, at the Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway Blvd, Eugene/Springfield. Come join us. 🗨️



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

email: okca@oregonknifclub.org

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Eve (_____) _____ Day (_____) _____ Date _____

Collector Knifemaker Dealer Mfr./Distrib. Other _____ Email _____

OKCA membership includes knewsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows.

____ Start/ ____ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$25 family) \$ _____



handle in the same color choices. Both knives have a large number of spacers in red, black and orange and are fitted with brass half guards and aluminum bird head pommels. Both knives are blade stamped WESTERN/BOULDER, COLO./PAT'D. MADE IN U.S.A.

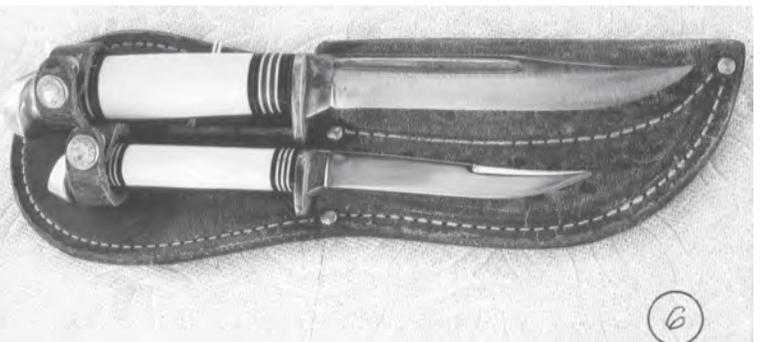
A Western Cutlery Co. catalog sheet from 1958 shows a line of their West-Cut brand sheath knives with the letter K in their model numbers. Four K-series knives are shown with their overall lengths ranging from 7- 1/8" for the K-3 to 9-3/8" for the K-1. These numbers are blade stamped on the file side, and on the mark side is stamped WEST-CUT/BOULDER, COLO/MADE IN U.S.A. From my observations, WEST-CUT stamped knives are of the same high quality as WESTERN stamped knives, only the WEST-CUT knives have slightly thinner blades. Herein is presented a twin knife set containing the K-2 and K-3 stamped knives. The K-2 is the largest having a 4-1/4" flat ground blade and is 8" long overall. The K-3 is a smaller knife having a 3-5/8" flat ground blade and is 7-1/8" long overall. This twin set is housed in what appears to be the same flower pattern tooled leather sheath as the previously described No. 84 combination set except that the snaps are slightly different (see photo No. 5).

The last WESTERN made twin knife set to be featured herein is shown on a 1959-1960 catalog sheet. This set is designated on the catalog sheet as No. P84 and contains two knives numbered P48A and P28. The P48A is identical to the knife previously numbered 48BGG with a 4-3/8" sabre ground blood



grooved blade having a plastic handle and in '59-60 was available in ivory, red or yellow. The P28 knife has a 3" flat ground blade and a very narrow plastic handle available in ivory or red. The P28 knife differs from the knife numbered 48 CAP for the twin set shown on the 1950 catalog sheet in that the blade is flat ground and much narrower as is the handle. The twin sheath for this knife set is a two-compartment one-piece sheath

embossed with an oak leaf and acorn pattern. The knives for the set presented herein both have ivory tenite (plastic) handles with many spacers in black, red, and ivory. (See photo no. 6). Both knife blades are stamped WESTERN/BOULDER, COLO./ PAT'D. MADE IN U.S.A. The knife I.D. numbers are not stamped on the blades or guards, nor were they on the set shown on the 1950 catalog sheet. ↘



Lost..., Or Just Misplaced

Merle Spencer

I have read or heard a number of stories about lost knives or recovered knives, and several were as strange as to tax belief. I have lost several knives, myself, and later found - even as much as a year later - that they were just misplaced. Some of those instances have been recounted in these pages.

Here is an experience of my own that can be called strange, practical or just plain lucky.

One day in the late 1960s I was in a farm supply store in Eastern Oregon; and there in a display case, a hunting knife caught my eye. It wasn't just the usual stacked leather handle dependable type that Western and others offered then. This one had a handle in which a piece of stag was inserted and riveted on each side - beautiful! It was labeled "Anton Wingen." Not only that, but the blade had a graceful up sweep to a narrow point. It came with an attractive sheath; but the belt loop was soft and narrow, allowing the sheath to flop around.

I didn't know a lot about knives then, except that if you had one that felt good in use and could be kept sharp, you could do a creditable job of dressing game. I was more interested at that time in rifle make and caliber and hand loading cartridges for accuracy. However this knife became my companion during elk season for several years; and I liked it a lot, except that the up sweep at the point got in the way when dressing game. It was great for skinning, though. It also sharpened easily. The steel in the blade was soft enough that I eventually filed about a quarter inch off the point. Now it was fine for dressing and skinning.

A small group of us "hardy lot," as a game commission publication of the time stated that the elk hunter was, had camped for several years at the forks of a small stream in some rugged, steep country in the mountains of Eastern



Oregon. Later on we acquired a 1930s CCC squad cabin from a labor camp that was closing. It could be dismantled and moved on a flatbed truck. We hauled the sections up to our campsite (on some private land by permission) and bolted it back together. We spent weekends there during elk season for years. Several of our sons grew up and hunted there.

But I digress. I plead necessarily so, though, as the cabin is central to my story.

One morning, after cooking pancakes, bacon and eggs for the guys, I headed up the east fork trail before dawn. I had on my wool shirt, heavy pants, Red Wing lug-soled boots and red leather bill cap. On my back was a surplus military aluminum pack board with a coil of rope tied on and my red wool Mackinaw hung over the top. My Winchester Model 70 rifle I had slung over my shoulder and on my belt, of course, was my Anton Wingen knife.

After about a mile hiking along the side-hill trail, I crossed the stream and climbed and climbed and climbed till I topped out where I could see a lot of country. I spent the morning hours hunting this area. No game appeared for me, but I did hear shooting back towards the cabin.

Before noon, I made my way down the long ridge that would put me just a quarter mile above the cabin. Deciding to take a short cut, I walked and slid down toward the creek and came upon a little clearing where the hillside leveled off a bit. There were the remains of a recently dressed elk. From the sign it was easy to tell that a party of hunters had come down

from above me and dressed and skinned the animal before packing it back up on top where a road allowed vehicles to come in from a highway.

The hide was still fresh and soft, and I remembered that one of our young hunters had said he wanted a hide to get some gloves made, so I thought I would take it down as far as the creek. Rolling it up and tying it in a bundle was fairly easy; and since it weighed some 40 or 50 pounds, I decided dragging it down was the simplest way. I grabbed the rope and headed downhill. In several places I had to force my way through brush tangles.

On reaching the bottom in about 15 minutes, I stopped to catch my breath and check my gear. I felt my belt and my beautiful knife was gone!...



I was certain it had to be somewhere back up the three hundred yards to the clearing, so I carefully back tracked myself up to the clearing - and back down the creek- and back up to the clearing- and back down to the creek again. No luck. Well, we

were still going to be there tomorrow, and the knife wasn't going to go anywhere; so I gave it up for the day.

Next morning the first place I went was back up to the clearing and back down to the creek. By this time I had memorized almost every yard of my passage down that steep hillside. In some places the hide had left telltale marks - faint though they were, but readable to the experienced tracker I fancied I had become. We had a couple weekends left, so I was sure I would find it.

During the week following, I purchased another knife.

I never really liked this knife, but it was just something so I wouldn't be knife less for the rest of the season. It didn't feel right; it was awkward to use and didn't cut right. Turned out the edge hadn't been

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ground all the way back. However, it was easy to let go of when I later decided to get rid of it, and easy to forget what happened to it. I just don't remember.

The next two weekends found me looking for my knife as I climbed that steep slope on the way to the top. No knife was found.

Winter passed...into February.

Lincoln's birthday was an unseasonably warm and sunny day. My wife and I decided to drive up to the cabin to see if the road had washed out again and if the cabin had suffered any damage. As expected, the road was impassable in some places, so we hiked the two miles up the little creek. Everything seemed to be fine. No pack rats had got in and no trees had fallen.

I said to Janie, "I'm going to look for my knife."

She decided to stay at the cabin and rest..

When I started to climb, I watched very carefully as I went. There being no snow,

all the terrain stood out well in the sunshine. By the time I reached the clearing, no knife had appeared.

As I stood there looking around catching my breath, I took particular note of my surroundings. Before, I had always glanced around and started moving in any plausible direction that might hide my lost treasure. This time something caught my eye that started me to thinking. At the end of this little level spot was a 20 foot patch of thick head-high tangled brush just before the steep part began again. A faint game trail wound around it to the right, and that was the way I had always gone.

While standing there, I thought that since I was dragging a heavy load, why would I go around? Wouldn't I go straight through? I parted the brush and plunged through. At about my second step, I looked down, and there was my pretty knife!

It was half buried in shed fir needles, and it probably would have been completely covered in another season. I was lucky I found it this soon. I picked it up and carefully inspected it. The knife was

in very good condition considering the circumstances! There was some discoloration on the blade, but no pitting. The stag had loosened a bit.

A friend had access to a lapidary outfit, and the blade came back to its nice shine after using that fine abrasive wheel. The wire-size rivets in the handle came out easily.

The first thing I did after getting it in new shape was to take it to a saddle shop and have a new sheath made out of heavy leather with a secure keeper strap. The cost was more than the knife had cost. I carried that knife for more years until we moved to the coast, and I didn't hunt any more.

We had a moving sale prior to our going, and that knife left for the same price I paid for the sheath. At a later time, I saw one for four times that much. As I said before, I didn't know much about knives then.

You can look on line and see that the company is still in business. There's a picture in vintage knives there that looks similar to my misplaced knife. 🐾

"WOWZERS!"

Roger Worley

My friend, Phil White, is a serious fishing tackle collector from nearby Nampa, Idaho, who introduced me to his term "WOWZER" in the late '80s when we were attending an Expo Antique show in Portland. He purchased a tangle of about a dozen fishing lures for \$200.00 telling me, "I believe I spotted a good one down in there." Back home after research, he ended up selling the bulk of those lures for about double what he had paid. The one he held back until attending a tackle show in Florida, where he sold that one for \$3800.00 cash. That was a "Wowzer."

In the early 90s at an antique show in Boise, I purchased a slew of stuff, including three old hunting knives, a Western-Boulder and a Kabar for \$10.50 each and a third, larger knife that was in a neat old time looking handmade sheath for \$17.50. When I got home and was sorting out, I examined the larger knife closer, finding a tang stamp, "M PRICE SAN FRAN." The examples of Price knives that I had seen in books were much fancier than this plain stag handled hunter, and I was dubious about it. Showing it to several local collectors, the consensus was that it was probably a fake,



though obviously an old one. Checking back with the dealer I had purchased it from, I found that the deceased owner had been a lifetime resident of Idaho City, about 30 miles north of Boise. In the 1800s Idaho City was a booming gold and silver mining community, and for a short time the most populated city in Idaho. I was able to find relatives and was told that he was a young sailor stationed in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, but was on shore leave in downtown Honolulu during the attack. Space does not permit relating all his adventures, the interesting part to me is that he carried this knife all during the war and then used it for hunting through the years afterward.

Not knowing for sure who could help me check the knife out, I took it to the Portland Expo show where I ran into long time OKCA member Larry Cook. Larry told me that it looked right to him; and if I wanted to leave it with him, he would show it around to some serious collectors. I had first met Larry at

one of Mel Brewster's NWKC Shows in Tacoma. Earlier that year I had purchased a rather mediocre Remington R1123 Bullet knife which I didn't want to keep because of condition. I had purchased it for \$75.00 and thought to double my money at \$150.00. Larry was interested but told me that he thought that \$150.00 was all he could get for it, would I let it go for \$125.00? I did so and was happy with the sale. When about an hour later Larry returned to my table and told me, "I got more than I thought I would, here's your other \$25.00." That's integrity. I had no problem leaving the knife with Larry. About a week later, Larry called and told me that he had showed the knife to a number of collectors, and that not one of them had a problem with it. He told me that if we shopped it long enough, he thought it might bring \$10,000.00, and that his fee would be 20%. I didn't hear any thing back for a month or two, then one night Larry called, saying that he had an offer for \$7,500.00, which would bring me \$6,000.00 cash. I said, "Well, you know how much I have in it, what do you think?" Larry says, "Well frankly, I could use the \$1,500.00." So I told him, "Then go for it." When I made it over to the OKCA Show later that year, Larry paid me off in cash. Did I sell it too cheap? Maybe, but to me, it was a "WOWZER." 🐾

If you're worried about having adequate pin engagement, you might also consider using a larger number of smaller diameter pins.) To calculate your target hole depth, just add the drill tip depth to your target engagement depth. To determine the drill tip depth, the quickest way is just to measure the distance from the shoulder of the drill bit to the tip using calipers. (You can also look it up in an industrial supply catalog or calculate it using simple trigonometry. I've done all three and consistently found my measured value to exceed the catalog or calculated value by a few thousandths – a little extra “cushion.”) To calculate your drill stop depth, just add your target hole depth to the thickness of the tang at the hole. If your tang has a taper, you'll need to do separate calculations for front and rear holes; because the tang thickness will be different.

With target hole depth and drill stop calculations out of the way, let's look at an approach to actually drilling some holes; then we'll move on to calculating pin lengths and grinding pins. Let's start by ensuring a good tight match up between the bolster rears and the scale fronts. Milling the bolster and scale ends square on a milling machine is a very precise and clean way to do this, but good results can also be achieved by grinding the ends square on a belt grinder against a flat platen. One trick you can use to ensure match up is to grind the bolster end with the outer face up, then grind the mating scale end with the inside face up. This will ensure perfect match up, even if the angle between the work rest and the platen isn't a perfect 90°. With the bolster and scale ends ground or milled square, it's best to pin, glue and clamp the bolsters and allow them to set before drilling holes in the scales. Be sure to clean any excess glue off of the bolster rears and the tang. To ensure perfect match up between the pin holes in the tang and the pin holes in the scales, it's best to clamp the scale in place and drill through the tang into the scale. With the bolsters firmly glued, put one of the scales in place. Press it firmly up against the bolster rear and clamp it in place. Check to be sure there is no gap between the bolster and the scale, reposition if necessary. Now set up your drill stop, keeping in mind the front holes may have a different target depth from the rear ones. I like to use a piece of tape wrapped around the drill bit at the desired depth setting – it's quick, easy and accurate enough (remember, you have a

.0625” “cushion,” so drilling .010” deeper than you were intending to isn't likely to matter). Drill gently through the tang hole into the scale and stop when the bottom edge of the tape just touches the tang. You'll know you are going too far when the edge of the tape starts to curl up. Drill both holes in one scale, then repeat this process with the other scale.

Depending on your actual pin diameter and the precision of your drill bit (they do vary), you may need to ream the scale holes to get a fit that doesn't require forcing. If this is the case, use a reamer that has almost no shoulder on the end. If your reamer has a point on the end, you can either grind it off square to the end leaving almost no shoulder or grind the point to an angle flatter than the angle on the tip of your drill bit. This way the end of the cutting flutes of the reamer will bottom out at the shoulder of the hole allowing the pin to seat all the way to the shoulder.

I'll define a made-up term I'm using here: hole engagement depth. This is simply the depth of the straight part of the hole and does not include the angled part made by the drill tip. With the scale holes drilled and reamed, now you can measure hole engagement depth and calculate your target pin grind-to-length. When you measure your scale hole engagement depths, you will need to measure each hole individually (using a drill stop, whether it is mechanical or just a piece of tape wrapped around the drill bit, will result in some variation in depth from hole to hole) so label each hole and write down the measured engagement depth for each hole. A quick and reasonably accurate way of doing this is to insert a test pin of known length into each hole and measure by difference. Assuming you will be using square-ended pins, make a test pin by grinding the ends square and putting the tiniest little bevel on them, just enough to de-burr them. The exact length of the test pin isn't critical – it just needs to be long enough to bottom out at the end of the straight part of the hole, with enough of the test pin sticking out that you can grab onto it and pull it back out again. Grind a small flat the entire length of this pin to allow air to escape when it is inserted into a hole, allowing it to seat fully. To determine a hole engagement depth by difference, you need to make and record three measurements: the length of the test pin, the thickness of

the scale at the point of the hole and the distance between the bottom of the scale and the top of the test pin when it is fully seated in the hole (see Figure 3). Overall height (A) – scale thickness (B) gives you pin protrusion (C). Test pin length (D) – pin protrusion (C) gives you hole engagement depth.

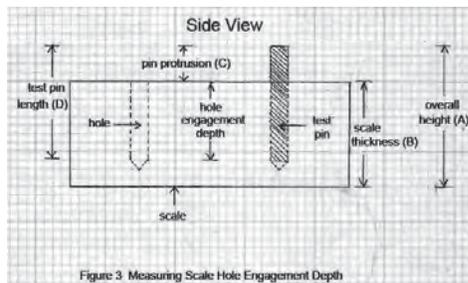


Figure 3: Measuring Scale Hole Engagement Depth

Calculating the nominal scale pin length is simple –

just add together the hole engagement depths in each scale and add the tang thickness – but you need to give yourself a cushion so the pin will never bottom out in both holes at once. I like to give myself .005” pin clearance. Additionally, it's time-consuming to consistently grind your pins to an exact length, so allow yourself a little grinding tolerance. I give myself $\pm .005$ ” to the grind to length. So, to calculate a target pin length to grind, take the nominal pin length (tang thickness plus total hole engagement depths) and subtract the pin clearance and then subtract the pin length tolerance. If you have a number of different designs you are going to do this for, it may be worth your while to set up a simple spreadsheet to do the target hole depth and pin length calculations for you. This way you only have to deal with the relationships and math once. After your pins are ground to length and beveled (just enough to deburr them), grind a slight flat along the length of each pin. During final assembly this will allow air and glue to escape from the holes as the pins go in and keep the pieces from flying apart again as soon as you let go of them. Be sure to label your pins so you know which pin goes with which set of holes. It's a good idea to make a dry assembly to be sure everything fits correctly before gluing it all up.

Hopefully this overall approach will be of use to you in understanding the concepts and some techniques for implementing them, and that you will be able to apply them to the extent that meets your needs for making scales with invisible pins. This is just one approach to making internally-pinned scales. If you have alternatives or improvements, please share them with us!

Michael Faber can be found at table S02 at the April 2018 OKCA Show. 🐾



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For Rental - ALL-MED Medical Supplies - Mobile assistance vehicles and chairs for use at the Oregon April Knife Show. susan@allmedoregon.com Ask for Susan @ (541)485-3411

Eugene 5160 Club: A Club for knifemakers of all stripes, meeting monthly. Check out our newsletter archive to get a feel for the group: elementalforge.com/5160Club. Sign up for newsletter & meeting reminders by finding us on Facebook at "5160 Club" and click the "Newsletter Signup" tab. Non Facebook users can still find us at: facebook.com/5160Club.

Shelton Pacific - Some of the finest curly koa in the world outside of Hawaii. We will be in our usual place at table S06. There are also the ever popular "Shokwood" (hybrid) knife handleblocks and scales. Please come by to see us.

For Sale: Model 4500 Sherline bench top lathe \$450.00. Call or text Zac & Sara Buchanan (541)815-2078

Loveless Style Sheaths: made to order. Call or text Zac & Sara Buchana (541)815-2078

Niagra Knife Steels: email zacbuchananknives@gmail.com for a quote.

For Sale: Dan Osterman custom Bowie knife. ATS 34 blade, ivory handles, gold pins and fittings. Sheath made from silver. Display stand. Show quality. Paid \$2,500.00 will sell for \$2,000.00, firm. Call Steve Huey evenings (541)234-2664.

For Sale: Steve Huey custom Bowie. ATS 34 blade. 9" blade. Stainless fittings. Ironwood handle. Made in 1988. With sheath. \$595.00. Call Steve evenings (541)234-2664.

Wanted: Remington scout/utility knife with pioneer boys or highlander boys shield or heroism shield. Email jpitt306@earthlink.net or phone Jim (562)716-9857

For Sale - William Henry Knives - 2004-2009. OKCA knives 2008 Humenick & 2009 Ruple, 7piece Miyabi block set, new; misc. production. See Glenda at (table #M01) at the April Show.

For Sale - Hardcore grinder 1.5 hp variable speed 8" wheel \$1800.00. Black G10 1/4"x4' x 3' sheet \$480.00 Gary (253)307-8388

Buying club knives for my personal collection. Looking for the 1998 Wayne Goddard with the wood beaver handle and the 2010 Lone Wolf Paul Defender. I would consider buying other club co Kopas. Call Jordan at 310-386-4928.

For Sale - Recon, turquoise, lapiz and coral. I will trade for knives, Damascus or parts. This material is used by D-alton Holder, Randy Lee, David Yellowhorse and many other famous makers. Perfect for scales, full handles, jewelry and wood inlay.- Elliott Glasser - Hiltary Industries - Scottsdale AZ (602)620-3999

Randall Made Knives. Buy, Sell, Trade. Also a good selection of Case knives, and many custom knives for sale or trade. Jim Schick www.nifeboy.com (209)295-5568.

Looking for 1902 US Saber marked "1st. Lt. Robert M. Porter". Please contact Don Hanham at dwhanham@gmail.com.

Wanted : Western Wildlife Series knives produced from about 1978 to 1982 (letters B, C, D, E, F). I'm missing the knives with blade etches of eagle, elk, cougar, hunting dog, antelope and bear. Call Martin at (406)422-7490.

Knives For Sale: Antique, custom & factory, pocketknives, folders, fixed blades, dirks, daggers, bowies, military, Indian, frontier, primitive & ethnic. Other collectibles also. Current colored catalog - FREE. Northwest Knives & Collectibles (503)362-9045 anytime.

Wanted: 2012 Case XX USA medium stockman #6318 PU CV jugged bone w/punch w/signature of Skip Lawrie. Nuno Sacramento (916)682-9305.

For Sale: Buck knives. Large consignment list available from Larry Oden. Typically have Buck standard production, limited edition, BCCI, Buck Custom and Yellowhorse models. Email loden@dka-online.com or call (765) 244-0614 8AM-8PM EST.

For Sale: older knives. Please visit HHknivesatwww.allaboutpocketknives.com. Thanks for looking.

Mosaic pins and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at www.customknife.com, email at sally@customknife.com. Table Q10 at the April Show. Phone (541)846-6755.

Blades and knifemaker supplies. All blades are ground by Gene Martin. I also do custom grinding. See at www.customknife.com, contact Gene at bladesmith@customknife.com or call (541)846-6755. Table Q11 at the April Show.

Useful reference books on blades. Collectible knives, custom knives and knifemaking, military knives, swords, tools, and anything else that has an edge. Email for a list. Quality Blade Books C/O Rick Wagner P O Box 41854 Eugene OR 97404 (541)688-6899 or wagner_r@pacinfo.com.

Knife Laws on-line. Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 www.knife-expert.com.

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The Oregon Knife Collectors 2018 Club Knife will be a new offering from Great Eastern which they call the "Oregon Pattern." This specialty knife is a single blade pocketknife. The blade is 1095 steel and will be tang stamped Northfield. Size closed is 4.25". The scales are antique jigged bone. There will be a total of 100 knives, 50 will be serial numbered. All 100 knives will be etched with the Oregon Knife Collectors logo and have the beaver on the handle. They will be housed in a Great Eastern tube with the OKCA label. This offer is only available to OKCA members.

This is a funding project for the OKCA which allows members to support the organization and get a great return for their investment. We have a special offer to those who purchase a serial numbered knife in 2018. You can purchase a serial number, plus up to three non-serial numbered knives, for \$95.00 each. Offer ends February 1, 2018. After this date, all unclaimed serial numbers and other knives will be offered at the price \$115.00.



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