



BY SFC KIM BREED
5TH SPECIAL FORCES

Bryan Baker Peasant Knife

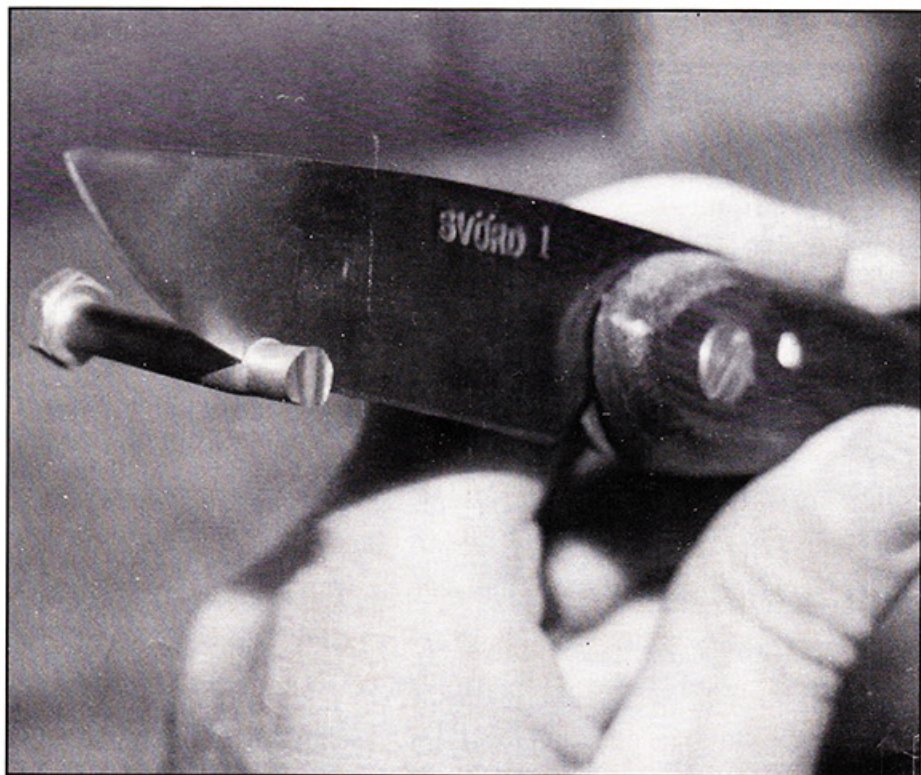
Bryan Baker stresses the importance of correct aerodynamics in regard to edge shape and high carbon steel correctly heat treated. These are principles taught him by his mentor, Bohemil Nebesky. Baker combines these principles to make high performance knives. Like the name implies, Peasant™ Knives are tools for a low price—no frills or bells.

Bryan pays a lot of attention to the heat treating of his steel. He has boxes of broken blades from his own testing. Not only will his blades pass the 90° flex test, they will also cut 1/4-inch soft steel bolts with no edge damage. Legendary makers Frank Richtig, Rudy Ruana and Bill Scagel also cut steel with their blades and Baker's Peasant Knife blades are only 1/16 inch thick!

The Test

First I pounded the Peasant Knife blade through 1/4-inch soft galvanized bolts (not high tensile). There was no damage to the edge or back of the blade. This shows the toughness that can be achieved using excellent tempering procedures.

Baker gave the go ahead to flex the Peasant Knife 90°. I easily disassembled



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ing the blade snapped, but the toughness was impressive.

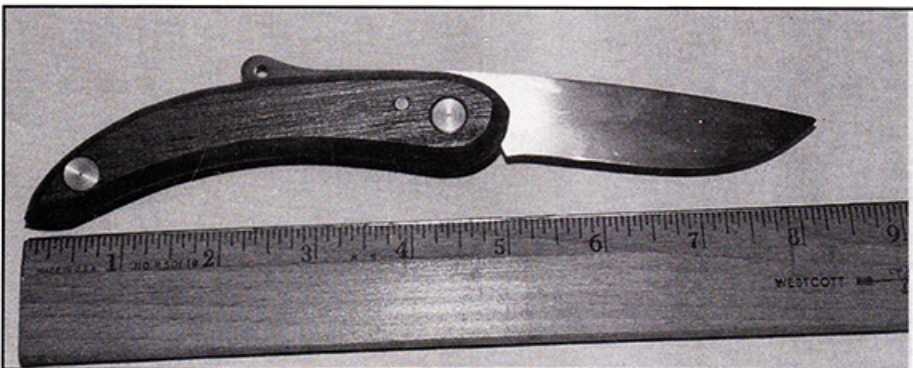
Baker provided another knife for the cutting evaluation. I sharpened the edge with a worn 400-grit belt and stropped it with jeweler's rouge on leather. Even though this produced a hair-popping

palm. The Peasant Knife cut a total of 50 times! The edge would still cut hair. (Author's note: This working edge is also obtainable by using an India stone.)

Overall

Baker's knives sharpen extremely quick. Edge holding is in the upper 10 percent of the knives I've tested. In a Baker knife you get an excellent piece for a good price.

For more information contact B.W. Baker, Dept. BL, Smith Rd., RD2, Waiuku, New Zealand phone/fax +649 235-8846. **BLADE**



Baker's friction folder is 8 1/4 inches long in the open position.

the knife and went to the vise. (Author's note: This is a destructive test.) The Peasant Knife flexed 90° with no edge cracking as per the American Bladesmith Society journeyman smith test. It also survived a 90° bend in the opposite direction, still with no edge cracking. Excellent toughness! Upon restraigh-

edge, it only lasted four cuts on 3/4-inch manila rope.

I switched to a new 320 belt. This produced seven cuts. Still not satisfied, I used a worn 150-grit belt. Bingo! This produced the best working edge. After 30 cuts, I had to put on gloves because the locking hump was digging into my

SPEC CHART

Model: Peasant Knife
Pattern: Friction folder
Blade Steel: Swedish high carbon
Blade Length: 3 inches
Blade Stock: 1/16 inch
Handle: Rosewood
Rockwell Hardness: 57-59
Suggested Retail: \$30