

EUROPEAN BLADES MAG.

ISSUE NUMBER 66

Knife selection

Seven years of knife shows

Patent

Pencil sharpener

My knife

Pasi Jaakonaho

THE FIRST EUROPEAN BLADES MAGAZINE

SG/650

KNIFE SOLINGEN 2024

11 MAY: 10 am – 6 pm | **12 MAY:** 10 am – 4 pm

Consumer Fair for:

International Custom Knives

Renowned Knife Companies

Materials and Tools

With Demonstrations and Special Events

Location: Theater und Konzerthaus Solingen
(Theater and Concert Hall Solingen)

www.knife-solingen.de



Richard Kappeller, winner KNIFE Award 2023



IVSH
Industrieverband Schneid-
und Haushaltswaren



DEUTSCHES
KLINGEN
MUSEUM
SOLINGEN



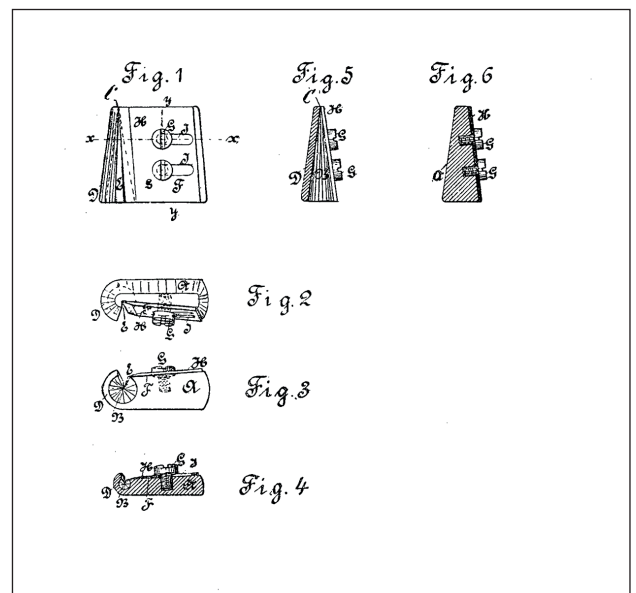


KNIFE SELECTION

My penultimate issue of European Blades Mag is a great opportunity for a look back at the knives featured in the magazine over the last seven years. Between the first issue in February 2017 (with a report on also the first edition of EuroKnife in Strasbourg) and now, I have visited dozens of knife shows all over Europe. Virtually scrolling through those issues, I have picked a number of knives to represent here.

Cutting tools exist in an almost infinite variety, with only a relatively small proportion as instantly recognisable pocket knives, fixed blades or kitchen knives. One of the most modest but equally indispensable applications is using a knife as a pencil sharpener: a tapered holder with a blade, which, after a few twists, gives you a beautiful point on your pencil.

PATENT



MY KNIFE

Where do knife makers get their ideas? What inspires their designs? Our series on custom knives tries to explain one specific knife. In this issue: the 'Loimut, 2023' by Finnish knife maker Pasi Jaakonaho.

ybbsitzer MESSERMARKT

15. SEPT. 2024

FeRRUM 
welt des eisens



Geöffnet von 9 - 17 Uhr

Eintritt: € 4,--

15 Uhr - Prämierung

„Best knife of show 2024“

www.schmieden-ybbsitz.at

ybbsitz

Schmiedezentrum

Titelbild: „Best knives of show 2023“
Feststehendes Messer von Paul Baleta (A)
Geschmiedete Messerklinge von Hans Birchner (D)
Klappmesser von Stefan Gobec (A)
Foto: Josef Hofmarcher

Changes

No doubt you have noticed: This issue of European Blades Mag does not appear on the website in the normal way, but as a pdf. There is no longer an option to click through to articles, advertisements or to previous issues. This has everything to do with costs, and with the upcoming 'hibernation' of the magazine - unless someone else comes forward to continue the project.

One more issue will appear from my hand, with a report on KNIFE 2024 in Solingen, and the spring knife fairs in Brno and Prague. As far as I am concerned, this brings the European Blades Mag project to an end after seven years.

For this issue, I looked back at the knife fairs I attended over the past seven years, and made a small selection of the knives that still caught my eye; whether by shape, technique or materials. It is a modest ode to the creativity and craftsmanship

of European knife makers. No doubt some of that will also be on display at the upcoming KNIFE 2024 in Solingen. With some 230 participants, this is now the largest European knife show, and the end is not yet in sight. Should you have the opportunity: go and have a look, on the upcoming 11 and 12 May.



Bas Martens
bas@europeanblades.com



TITANGRINDER
PROFESSIONAL TOOLS KNIFE MAKERS

info@titangrinder.com
www.titangrinder.com



30T 7,5 CM-SEC

MONOFASE

10th ANNIVERSARY
TITANGRINDER
PROFESSIONAL TOOLS KNIFE MAKERS
www.titangrinder.com



Chrome edition
Motor 2,5 HP

NEW



My penultimate issue of European Blades Mag is a nice opportunity for a retrospect of the knives featured in the magazine over the last seven years. Between the first issue in February 2017 (with a report on the first edition of EuroKnife in Strasbourg) and now, I have visited dozens of knife shows all over Europe. Virtually scrolling through those issues, I have picked a number of knives to represent here. This is not a 'Best of' (because how do you compare a folder to a Chef's knife), but a selection

of the knives that caught my eye because of their shape, materials or technique. Tastes differ, and this selection is based on my taste alone. It is also limited to the shows I visited myself, which explains the absence of most participants from the Czech shows. So this is not a value judgment, but rather a big compliment to the hundreds of knife makers who put so much time and love into making just about the oldest tool of man, which has lost nothing of its importance.

Text and photographs: **Bas Martens**



Aad van Rijswijk, Gerdbloux 2023



Achim Wirtz, Gembloux 2022

Franck Thomas, EKS 2017





Attila Kertész, Solingen 2023



Bernd Rutzinger, Ybbbsitz 2017



Bastien Toubhans, EKS 2023



Alain and Joris Chomelier, Coutellia 2017



Denis Mura, Pisa 2019



Dietmar Kressler, Olching 2019

Eric Parmentier, interview 2018



Erik Markman, Solingen 2022



Filip de Leeuw, Gembloux 2023



Filip Kurota, Gembloux 2018

Gert van den Elsen, EKS 2017



Gunther Löbaxch, Solingen 2022



Ivo Filippi, Pisa 2022



Janusz Kozolubski, Sindelfingen 2018



Jean-Baptiste Lévêque, EKS 2023



Johannes Ebner, Sindelfingen 2019



József Fazekas, Sindelfingen 2018



Heinz Kocher, Sindelfingen 2017



Mathias Maresch, Solingen 2018



Michel Grini, Gembloux 2022





Moreno Feltresi, Coutellia 2018



Nicolas Bedrtet, EKS 2023

Oliver Goldschmidt, interview 2019



Ostap Hel, Warsaw 2018



Pascal Sabaté, Coutellia 2019



Petr Weingärtner, EKS 2020



2024



Richard Spitzl, Ybbsitz 2018

Simen Stryckers, Gembloux 2023



Stefan Steigerwald, Sindelfingen 2017



Stéphane Espi, EKS 2023



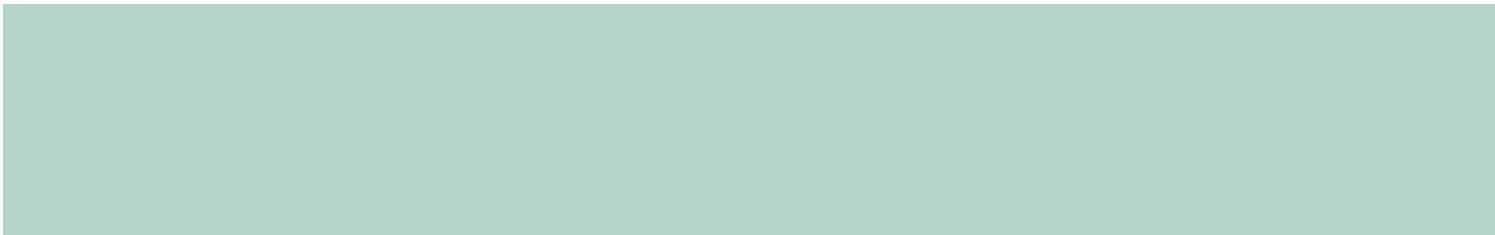
Thomas Hauschild, Solingen 2023



Two4Sharp, DKE 2017



Veronique Laurent, Gembloux 2023



Wolfhard Sollorz, Solingen 2022

2024

Jean-Louis Regel, Coutellia 2017



Stéphane Uhlen, EKS 2017



Where do knife makers get their ideas? What inspires their designs? Our series on custom knives tries to explain one specific knife. In this issue: the 'Loimut, 2023' by Finnish knife maker Pasi Jaakonaho.



Pasi Jaakonaho is a versatile man. He lives in Inari, in northern Finland, and has been making knives for more than 30 years. He is also a lecturer at the Sámi Education Institute, a vocational school for indigenous people's – the only institute of post-secondary trade school education in Finland, with three campuses. There, he teaches knife-making, silversmithing, woodworking and blacksmithing. Jaakonaho is a master bladesmith (a title awarded by the Finnish National Agency for Education). He is writing his doctoral thesis on the cultural significance of Puukko knives in Finland. As a bladesmith (currently part-time), Jaakonaho concentrates on traditional Nordic knives, such as the Puukko and Leuku, and practical outdoor knives such as hunter/skinners. He uses almost exclusively natural materials from his immediate surroundings, such as reindeer antler and birch lear. He buys his steel, but makes the blades himself,

Pasi Jaakonaho

sometimes also from used steel. As he explains: "I like the idea of recycling".

His 'Loimut, 2023' follows the Finnish tradition, where a knife maker makes everything himself. The 95 mm blade is Böhler N690 steel. The knife handle is birch root burl and reindeer antler, the knife sheath has the traditional Sámi construction with the upper part of leather and the lower part of reindeer antler, with 925-silver rivets. The antler has handmade engravings, on both the



knife handle and the sheath. At first sight, this may appear to be scrimshaw, but it is in fact 'push engraving', done with similar tools as gold and silver smithing, and with very small cutting tools. The motifs and design are partly historical, partly the maker's creativity. For Jaakonaho, it is important that the material remains visible in the process.

Although a Puukko with its typical tapered blade is a traditional knife, the design still allows for some artistic freedom. The handle length is normally between 10 and 11.5 cm; the other dimensions can be determined by the maker, based on his or her knowledge and experience. Jaakonaho's mark, his name's initials stylized like a birch leaf, is etched on the blade, and carved in relief in the scabbard, with a corresponding cut-out in the leather.



ho



Cutting tools exist in an almost infinite variety, with only a relatively small proportion as instantly recognisable pocket knives, fixed blades or kitchen knives. One of the most modest but equally indispensable applications is using a knife as a pencil sharpener: a tapered holder with a blade, which, after a few twists, gives you a beautiful point on your pencil.

Right: The drawings from Swiss patent CH 4378, granted 21 November 1891 to Albert Maecker, for his pocket pencil sharpener.

"Pocket pencil sharpener"

The first specialized sharpeners date back to the early 19th century, with French mathematician Bernard Lassimone usually cited as the inventor. In 1828, he was granted a patent for a rather complicated device. The invention of the modern portable pencil sharpener, or pocket pencil sharpener, is usually attributed to American John Lee Love, who was granted a patent for his 'Love Sharpener' in 1897. That may perhaps be a little too much honour, because six years earlier, in 1891, a certain Albert Maecker (or Mäcker) from Elberfeld, Germany, was granted Swiss patent 4378 for a 'Taschenbleistiftspitzer mit einstellbarem Messer', or a pocket pencil sharpener with an adjustable knife. The (translated) description in the patent is as follows:

„The pocket pencil sharpener consists of a wedge-shaped metal body A, which encloses a hollow cone B on one side. The cutting edge

of the knife H diverges from the hollow cone tip C in Fig. 1 at a very acute angle with the tangent end of the cone casing, the wall D of which has a recess E extending towards the tip C for the shavings to escape. The steel knife H is placed on the wedge surface F by means of two adjusting screws G, the slots J of which allow the knife to be adjusted.

PATENT CLAIM:

A pencil sharpener which is characterized by the fact that a knife which can be adjusted by means of an adjusting screw G and slots J is placed on a wedge-shaped metal body A which encloses a hollow cone B on one side, in such a way that the knife, or rather its cutting edge, diverges from the cone tip at a very acute angle with the tangent end of the cone casing, which has a wall recess E extending towards the tip C for the chips to exit."

Albert Maecker.
21. November 1891.

Patent Nr. 4378.
1 Blatt.

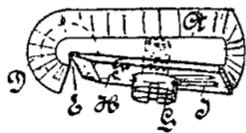
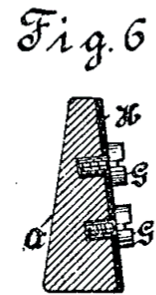
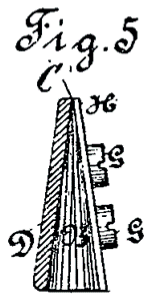
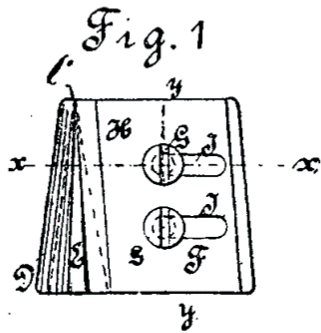


Fig. 2

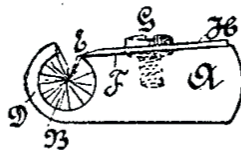


Fig. 3

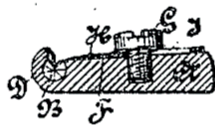


Fig. 4

SGI(b50)

KNIFE SOLINGEN 2024

11 MAY: 10 am – 6 pm | 12 MAY: 10 am – 4 pm

Consumer Fair for:
International Custom Knives
Renowned Knife Companies
Materials and Tools
With Demonstrations and Special Events

Location: Theater und Konzerthaus Solingen
(Theater and Concert Hall Solingen)
www.knife-solingen.de



DEUTSCHES KLINGEN MUSEUM SOLINGEN



COLOFON

European Blades Mag.
is published by
European Blades
P.O. Box 446 | 6800 AK Arnhem
The Netherlands
info@europeanblades.com

Publisher and editor
Bas Martens
bas@europeanblades.com