

Hock Tools 12-inch Knife Steel Can Be Used as a Burnisher in Your Woodshop!

from *Sharp & to the Point*

#2/2018



Hock Tools 5-inch and 8-inch chef's knives from our kits, plus the new 12-inch knife steel with handle and, as it comes to you, without. Just like the knife kits, you put on a handle to suit, and perhaps match your knives.

Yes, the Hock Tools 12-inch Knife Steel works as a burnisher, too.

As you now know, Hock Tools is offering a 12-inch knife steel to go with our kitchen knife kits.

The plan was to fill-out the line of knife kits with a high-quality smooth steel for honing your kitchen knives rather than abrading metal and shortening the life of a valued knife. But, it came to mind that you might be interested in one of our 12-inch knife steels for use in your shop.

And that brings me to our burnishers. Because Hock Tools burnishers are high carbon, polished tool steel rods hardened to Rc64s, they more than

meet the demands of honing or creating a burr on your scraper, which must tackle the challenging task of scraping difficult wood surfaces. Most other woodworking burnishers are *not* hard enough to stand up to the constant use on scraper edges. And, that's probably the most important thing about a good burnisher: it must be harder than the scraper blade or scraper plane blade.



Hock Tools 8-inch burnisher.



Hock Tools 12-inch knife steel, with handle and—as it comes to you — without a handle.

Our new 12-inch kitchen knife steel offers the same specifications of the Hock Tools 8-inch burnisher for your woodshop. That's because we are so clever, that we simply lengthened the burnisher and called it a knife steel!

This makes me think about the questions Ron gets about using burnishers. People so often think that the burnisher is a sharpening tool. But, that's not *exactly* the case. Like a steel for your kitchen knife, a good burnisher flows the metal, and *can* make a blade (such as a scraper blade) sharper – but, unlike sharpening, the flowing action does not take metal *away*. In the case of burnishing a scraper blade, you begin with a well sharpened blade, and use the burnisher to “flow” a burr on it. It's the burr that acts like a plane. This burr-plane has an extremely high cutting angle, which helps to cleanly scrape wood fibers, namely from demanding wood surfaces.



Ron Hock explains how to sharpen a burnisher in [*Sharpen a Scraper*](#) by [Popular Woodworking's](#) video on YouTube. In this short YouTube video, Ron shows how he sharpens a bench scraper.

Ron also covers this topic in Chapter 8, page 132 of *The Perfect Edge, the Ultimate Guide to Sharpening for Woodworkers*, also by Popular Woodworking Books. The pictures in [*The Perfect Edge*](#) beautifully describe what happens when a scraper and a hooked scraper meet wood.

You can read the product introduction article about the [Hock Tools Scraper Plane Kits](#) in our [August 2016 issue of *Sharp & to the Point*](#). It includes a Q&A on why the angle of the blade is at 95°, why there is no chip breaker, why the plane's throat is bigger than that of a regular plane, points about safety and keeping your fingers out of harm's way, and the reveal about why scraper shavings are thin and *crinkly!* — Linda at Hock Tools

Check next page for a short list of resources. ↓

Don't forget the Hock Tools Scraper Plane Kit!

Our woodworking maven Isaac Fisher makes this kit for [Hock Tools](#). Isaac both helps to design or completely designs our kits, as well as makes them. This kit is complete with everything you need to successfully build your own scraper plane, including the blade.



The basics of the scraper plane kit—from the [Hock Tools](#) website.

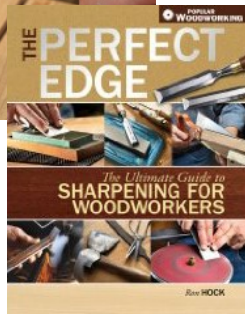
Resources



Paul Mayer, *Tools We Love: A "Real" Burnisher Makes All the Difference*; *Woodworkers Guild of America*, March 2013.



Marc Spagnulo of The Wood Whisperer goes to William Ng's School of Fine Woodworking and videos William give an impromptu lesson in scraper sharpening during a Greene & Greene coffee table class; *The Wood Whisperer*, April 2011.



The Perfect Edge; the Ultimate Guide to Sharpening for Woodworkers by Ron Hock, Chapter 8: Scrapers and Scraper Planes.



We sell scraper blades to go along with our 8-inch burnisher. Made for the Stanley #12, 12½ and 112 Scraper Planes, these blades are 3/32" thick (less flexible, most popular) or 1/16" thick (more flexible) by 2-7/8" wide and 5" long with a 45° bevel on the cutting edge.



Thank You for Choosing Hock Tools

Hock Tools The Perfect Edge

Ron Hock