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Our experts explainhow.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to todays most recentcoverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of EditorsPicks.Browse Editors' FavoritesQuick SummaryGood knife design is something that comes with time and experience. There are two main things youll want to keep in mind when designing knives. The first is what the knife will be used for. The primary use will drive many aspects of the design. The second thing youll want to make sure youre doing is creating a design that doesnt disrupt the flow of the lines defining the knife shape. If you do these two things, youll be well on your way to designing a good knife.Jump To: Knives have several different uses. Some are for preparing and eating food while others are intended for carving, hunting, and other pursuits. Each type is distinguished by the shape of its blade, which also directs how you use it. In this guide, well go over the most popular blade shapes and how you can develop the right one for your next project. We also have a free downloadable PDF of knife templates that you can use to start with.What are the Main Parts of a Knife Blade?Blades are made from different components, each of which can vary from one type to the next in order to give the knife its unique shape and cutting quality.Tang: The tang is the metal extension embedded in the knife handle.Heel: On most knives, the heel is the widest part of the blade. It is located at the end, right in front of the handle, and enables better control during cutting.Bolster: The bolster, which sits in front of the handle, is usually included on knives with heels. It is the thickest part of the blade and protects your fingers from coming into contact with the heel.Spine: Located opposed the blades cutting edge, it gives your knife structural integrity. In general, the thicker the spine, the more durable the knives cutting power.Edge: The edge is the part where the blade comes to a point. It is the sharpest section and does most of the cutting work.Point: The point is the sharp area of the blade where the top and bottom edges meet. Its main purpose is to poke holes.Tip: Sometimes confused with the point of a blade, the tip is actually the edge closest to the point.Common Blade TypesIn designing a blade, it helps to familiarize yourself with the most popular types of blades. Below are some common blade type options preferred by professionals and hobbyists alike.Clip PointAnother common knife type, clip point blades frequently appear on pocket and bowie knives. The spine dips halfway down the blade, usually in a concave shape, although it may be straight too.Drop PointA popular all-purpose blade, the drop point style has a spine that curves from the handle to the point. Although the point is not as sharp as other designs, it still does a great cutting job, which is why drop point blades are often used for pocket knives.TantoTanto knives have a high point with a flat grind. Although the available cutting edge is limited due to lack of curvature, the point is exceptionally strong, so certain tactical knives have tanto blades.SheepsfootSheepsfoot blades have a straight cutting edge and dull spine that curves at the end. They are great for cutting and slicing when a sharp point isnt needed, which is why they were originally used to trim the hooves of sheep.Spear PointAs its name suggests, spear point blades are symmetrical and have a center point like a spear. Some are sharpened at both ends, while others, like penknives, are only sharp on the bottom edge. Most knives designed for throwing have a spear point blade.Gut HookNormally used by hunters and fishermen, gut hook blades have a hook on the spine for dressing game and cutting fish. They also have a large belly that is perfect for any necessary skinning or slicing, making it an ideal outdoors knife.HawksbillWith this blade, both the spine and the cutting edge curve inward. Its downward point makes it a great choice for scraping surfaces, whittling, opening boxes, and other practical applications.WharncliffeWharncliffe knives are similar to sheepsfoot blades, but the spine of the former starts curving closer to the handle. The absence of a point limits its versatility but does make it safer to use, which is why sailors use them to avoid accidental self-stabbing during shipboard cutting work.RecurveRecurve blades have a large belly that tapers toward the handle to form an S shape. In addition to being a standalone blade shape, recurves appear on styles like drop point and clip point. While they can be difficult to sharpen, recurve blades have a large curve that supports more cutting options.Needle PointNeedle point blades taper more sharply than other types, so they are not especially strong, but they do an effective job of piercing when wielded with enough force, which is why you see them mostly on knives designed for combat.Spey PointSpey point knives have a straight edge that bends up at the point and a small clip on the heel. The lack of a well-defined point makes it impractical for penetrating, but it may be used for skinning or peeling.Creating Your Knife DesignOnce youve chosen a blade shape, you can draw a silhouette on a piece of paper or, if youve designed it using a CAD program or Microsoft Publisher, print it out. (Weve also created a downloadable template you can use to profile your chosen blade style.) Cut the shape out, place it on sheet metal, and trace the outline with a marker.NOTE: While there are no strict guidelines about handle length, most knifemakers recommend a grip of at least four inches, so youll want to allow for that amount of length.Knife Design TipsWhen Youre creating your knife design, there are a few things you should keep in mind that will ultimately help you create better knives.Consider use: Intricate features and a unique shape are great, but if the knife isnt very functional for its primary use, itll be rendered useless. The starting point for all of your designs should be considering how it will be used. Once you know how the knife will be used, you can test out various existing knives in that use category to figure out what works well and what could be improved.Think of your knife as one cohesive unit: When designing knives, its possible to fall into the trap of separately designing the blade and handle. However, these two parts should work together synergistically. Youll typically get a much better knife if you design your blade and handle shapes together.Test and evaluate your designs: Before sending a new design out into the world, its always best to test it yourself first. Being able to test it yourself will allow you the opportunity to evaluate whether or not your knife design truly works. You may find that a feature you thought would be cool actually detracts from the knives functionality.Study knife designs: Studying knives from other makers can help improve your own knife designs, especially if youre new to knife making. There may be certain aspects of other knives that you really like and want to incorporate into your own designs with your own personal flare.Good design evolves over time and your knife designs will evolve as you gain experience and knowledge. As a golden rule, the one thing you dont want to do is design features that disrupt the flow of the lines that define the knife shape. As long as youre following that rule, the rest will come with time and youll eventually develop your own unique style.Free Knife Design TemplatesBefore starting with your own knife designs, it can help to grind a few existing designs first or modify some existing designs slightly to make them your own. Red Label Abrasives has compiled a PDF of over 40 knife designs that you can modify, print off, and use to get started with knife design. You can download our free knife design template here.Grinding Out the SilhouetteOnce you have your design, the next step in the process will be transferring the shape to your blade stock. There are a few different ways to do this. You could cut out a print or sketch of your design and glue it directly to the stock metal. You could also use the cutout to trace the shape onto the metal with a sharpie.The technique used for shaping the initial profile varies from knife maker to knife maker. Some knife makers like to start with an angle grinder and then clean up the shape with a belt sander, while other makers like to go straight to the belt sander first.Before grinding steel, some knife makers like to test their knife designs by grinding the shape with wood first or cutting the shape out on cardboard. Wood is easier to grind and less expensive than most blade materials as well. Cardboard is also a fast way to create a quick prototype. Testing your design with wood or cardboard can help you iron out the kinks before moving to the real material. Are you a hobbyist or do you craft blades for a living? Red Label Abrasives manufactures the sanding belts you need for each stage of the blade shaping process. We have been in the abrasive manufacturing industry for over 35 years and can help you select the right materials for your knife making projects. For more information, please call 844-824-1956 or fill out our contact form. Bladesmiths are particularly reliant on the generosity of other makers when they are first starting out. As anyone who has done one of our courses will attest - we have no secrets at Tharwa Valley Forge. All of us here have benefited from the generosity of some incredibly talented craftspeople. In this spirit we are pleased to host a library of our own knife designs and templates, free for anyone to learn from and use. Check back now and then as we are always adding more. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Japanese kitchen knives seem mysterious and exotic to many people. Their most characteristic feature is their design language - in particular the blade geometry. Not only does it seem exotic to western eyes, but it is an example of form and function defined by manufacturing technology and a culinary tradition that is markedly divergent from the western experience. Japanese Knife Templates Folding knives have been around since at least the year 600 BCE. You don't have to be a precision machinist to make one, but you do have to take care to be accurate. These designs are suitable for anyone with a drill press and some basic hand tools. Folding Knife Templates This is a tribute to Lloyd Harding, Western Australian Master knife maker, 1921 to 2003. It is only a small sample of his work - much of it is unrecorded. This archive contains 104 templates and 300 drawings which have been scanned to scale to allow them to be printed as templates. Lloyd Harding Archive Are you a knife enthusiast or simply someone who appreciates the art of blades? If so, youll be delighted to know that there are numerous free printable knife templates available online. These templates allow you to design and craft your own custom knives, giving you the opportunity to create unique and personalized blades. In this article, we will explore the world of free printable knife templates and how they can help you unleash your creativity.The Advantages of Free Printable Knife TemplatesUsing free printable knife templates offers several benefits for knife enthusiasts and craftsmen alike.1. Quality DesignsWhen you search for free printable knife templates online, you will find a wide range of designs created by talented knife makers and enthusiasts. These templates are often created with precision and attention to detail, ensuring that you have access to high-quality designs for your custom blades. Whether you prefer a classic design or a more modern and unique blade shape, you can find a template that matches your preferences.2. Time and Cost SavingsBy utilizing free printable knife templates, you save both time and money. Instead of starting from scratch, you can simply print out a template that suits your desired blade shape. This eliminates the need to spend hours sketching and designing your own template. Additionally, purchasing pre-made knife templates can be expensive, but with free printable options, you can access a wide variety of designs without breaking the bank.3. Customization and PersonalizationOne of the major advantages of using free printable knife templates is the ability to customize and personalize your blades. Once you have chosen a template, you can modify it according to your preferences. You can adjust the size, shape, and even add your own artistic touches to create a truly unique and one-of-a-kind knife. Whether you want a hunting knife, a chefs knife, or a decorative piece, the possibilities are endless with free printable templates.4. Skill Development For knife making enthusiasts and beginners, free printable knife templates can be a valuable tool for skill development. By using existing templates, you can learn about the different blade shapes, handle designs, and overall knife construction. This allows you to practice your craftsmanship and gain experience before venturing into designing your own templates from scratch. With each project, youll refine your skills and enhance your understanding of the art of knife making.5. Community and Inspiration The online knife-making community is full of talented individuals who freely share their knowledge and experiences. When you explore free printable knife templates, you become part of this community and gain access to a wealth of inspiration. By seeing what others have created using these templates, you can gain new ideas and insights for your own designs. This sense of community and shared passion for knife making can be incredibly motivating and inspiring.Conclusion Free printable knife templates offer knife enthusiasts and craftsmen a world of creativity and customization. With a wide range of designs available, these templates provide the opportunity to create personalized and unique blades without the need for extensive design skills or expensive purchases. Whether youre a seasoned knife maker or a beginner, these templates can serve as valuable tools for skill development and inspiration. So, go ahead and explore the world of free printable knife templates to unleash your creativity and craft your own custom blades!Experience More With Our Free Printables... Copyright Notice:The images on our site are not our own and are procured from the internet. Should you own copyright to any image and wish for its removal, please contact us. Knifemaking is one of mans oldest trades. From the first sharp rock to now humans have designed knives for every possible purpose you can think of. Weve designed knives to open oysters, to create thin delicate slices of salmon, to chop through 2x4 in only a couple strokes.Due to knifemaking being such an old craft means that there is really very little new aspects that people can design in their knives. The benefit of this is that we have a wealth of resources available to us at our fingertips.Knife templates what are they?Googlingknife templates youllsee hundreds of images similar to this.Most of the time you can look up what knife design youre looking for and if youre lucky youll find what you want. From there just print it out and youre good to go!However if you cant find something you like it at least gives you a baseline for you to draw your own. Premade knife templates are the quickest and easiest way to get into knife designas a lot of design concepts can be seenfrom looking and what other people do well and not so well.The Template LibraryKarim at Tharwa Valley Forge has templates you can accesshere.Tharwa also has a Tribute to Lloyd Harding and his collection of designs here.Pinterest hashundreds of thousands of templates availablehere.Jay Fisher has a library you can accesshere.DIY Knifemakers Info Centre houses plenty oftemplates availablehere.If you knowwhere there are anytemplates, please send us a message. The above are some of our favourites that we know of.If you still cant find what you want in all these templates, then its time to pick up the paper and pen and start drawing until you find what you want. Drawing your own designs helps you learn about the shapes and designs that work best in knifemaking. If it doesnt look right, it likely isnt.

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