

Gavin Hawk

From wooden knives to steel, this teenager is doing pretty good

Idaho City is a small historic gold rush town tucked away in the mountains of South Central Idaho. Gavin Hawk was born there in 1982, and by 1994 had begun to take an active interest in knife making. It probably helped to have a father making knives, but it was Gavin who decided, that in spite of all the attractions competing for the attention of a teenage boy, he would give knife making a try.

His first knife was made from an old file that was about to be thrown away. He drew the temper with a torch, laid out a pattern on the steel and sawed out the profile with a band saw.

When he got to the point where the bevels were to be ground, he followed his father's advice to set aside the steel knife and practice on wooden knives. The theory being, that if a wooden knife could be ground correctly, then the odds of successfully grinding a steel one would be measurably improved.

Gavin worked hard at his wooden knives and was soon able to hold relatively straight and even grind lines. After fin-

ishing his first steel knife, he realized that with just a bit more planning and a little extra effort, he could make a really good knife.

For his next knife project he collaborated with his father on the design for a through tang, stack handle hunter. He wanted to make a knife that would use the same unique handle material as that being used by his father. Gavin's other job is performing part of the processing necessary to turn raw horse hoof into knife handle material for his dad's knives. Also borrowed from his dad is the zig-zag finish he puts on the blade flats. The finish is produced by a hand crank machine made out of an old telescope slide. He also makes his own sheaths from scratch, lacing the edges



Gavin Hawk pays special attention to hand fitting a guard on one of his knives, through use of a microscope.



Hours of making wooden knives taught Gavin how to achieve an acceptable grind line on his first knife made from a file.

with rawhide.

Anyone interested in a very nice knife at entry level prices may contact him at: Gavin Hawk, Box 41, Idaho City, Idaho 83631; (208) 392-4911.

•KNIVES•



This well-made sheath is made of 10-12 ounce vegetable tanned leather, laced with rawhide.

Gavin's second generation design for a hunter features an ATS-34 blade with horse hoof and elk antler handle. Fittings are brass.

