

Inspired By Greatness

THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND CHRISTOPHER
APODACCA'S HANDMADE KNIVES

STORY BY JOSHUA SWANAGON – PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER APODACCA

NEVER heard of Stanley, New Mexico before? That's not too surprising, considering it only has a population of 70.



Christopher Apodaca began his knife journey six years ago.

But nestled in this small community is Christopher Apodaca, who will make you take note of the little neighborhood. Following are 8 facts about this new knife maker.

1 BEFORE THE KNIVES

Prior to making his own knives, Apodaca always made custom handle scales and sheaths for knives he purchased.

2 THE JOURNEY BEGINS

In 2009, Apodaca decided to take the journey of making his own

knives after he and his brother made an 18-inch Bowie knife out of a scrap piece of spring steel. Although he said it wasn't anything to look at and was unusable, it sparked a passion in him that carries on to this day.

3 SEEKING GREATNESS

The work of makers such as Ken Onion, Spencer Aplin and Pete Sloan have inspired him.

4 HIS PHILOSOPHY

Apodaca believes that utility and art can go hand in hand.



Ken Onion, among others, inspired Apodaca.

5 MATERIAL PREFERENCE

Combined with its excellent edge-retention capabilities, Apodaca prefers working with 1095 high carbon steel for its ease of maintenance and sharpening in the field.

6 HANDLE MATERIAL

Although he has experimented with many different traditional materials for handle scales, he prefers to use exotic woods like bocote, wenge and leopard wood because of their great character.

7 FOCUS ON UNIQUENESS

Considering his craft an art, Apodaca prides himself on the fact that all of his knives are custom and tries to avoid making "models," giving each blade its own personality. Because he enjoys using acid etching to make each knife stand alone, they are often confused as being forged.

8 REQUESTS

He does take customer requests from time to time, but he may decline a design if he isn't inspired by it. But not to worry, as he has many of his own designs from which you can choose. **KI**

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