

Navarrete Knives

PASSION TURNED INTO CALLING

STORY BY JOSHUA SWANAGON - PHOTOS BY NAVARRETE KNIVES



A busy mind and creative drive can drive some people crazy, but for others, like Josh Navarrete of Salem, Oregon, it can drive them into a new passion.

Having made his first knife, after watching a do-it-yourself video back in 2014, Josh says "it was the ugliest thing you have ever seen," but when he looked at it, he saw the most beautiful thing in the world. This began his walk down the path of a new calling.

1 The Challenges

As with many knifemakers, Josh has struggled with time management. But lately he has been working to prioritize

and get that under control. However, he is still battling his tendency to overthink things.

2 Finding Fulfillment

Josh finds great joy in the knife community as a whole and finds that it is one of the strongest communities he has ever belonged to. The relationship between knifemakers has become a brotherhood and his relationship with his customers is more than a business transaction and has resulted in some great friendships.

3 Finding Inspiration

Doing mostly custom work, he works directly with his customers to help bring their vision to reality. He finds his greatest inspiration during this process.

4 Material Preference

Josh prefers to work with 1095, O1, CPM 3V, S35V and Damascus. For his handle scales he likes to work with exotic woods such as Amboyna Burl, African Ebony, Snakewood and Mexican Cocobolo, but he has recently started making his own Micarta, and it is quickly becoming his favorite.

5 Creative Process

When getting ready to start working on a design, Josh likes to sit in his shop and play with a few of his knives for a while and think about the design. He then begins sketching, focusing on the customer's needs.

6 Personal Favorites

When asked what his favorite designs to work on are, he said that he likes making drop point with a high flat/saber, straight clip point and straight point with a Scandi/saber or Scandi/convex hybrid grind.

7 Looking to the Future

Josh is currently working on a production model of one of his knives and will have it available soon. He is also hoping to get into forging someday and plans to use that process to make neck knives.

8 Ordering

Josh considers his customer requests to be his bread and butter and his favorite work to do. For that reason, when ordering a Navarrete Knife, the wait time is approximately 16 weeks. **KI**

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