

DESIRE TURNS TO REALITY

EDWARD RATANUN REVISITS AN OLD AMBITION

STORY BY JOSHUA SWANAGON | PHOTOS BY EDWARD RATANUN

It was the clean lines and striking handles that caught my eye. Although purposeful blade profiles and beautiful Damascus steels get my attention when perusing knives, nicely shaped two-tone handles will almost always make me stop and take a second look. It was at that time that I decided to select Edward R Knives to cover in this issue. With well thought out blade profiles and well executed handles, he just felt like the right choice.

01 The Fast Track

Starting out in leather work, Edward got his start in knife making around a year and a half ago when a friend received a new knife from Chaves Knives and commented that Edward should start working with steel. This comment reminded Edward that he had been interested in knife making since high school, so he thought his friend might be on to something.

02 The Challenges

Edward finds that his biggest struggle is acquiring the equipment necessary to make his job easier. He also still struggles with accurately estimating the time it will take during each step of the knife-making process, which can cause issues with scheduling.

03 Inspired

When asked about his inspirations, Edward rattled off a list of impressive knife-making talent, such as Donny Nguyen, Mareko Maumasi, Nick Wheeler, Greg Cimms and Rad Knives. But he gave special mention to Mike from Ekim Knives and his "How to make a chef's knife" video.

DIG
A LITTLE DEEPER

Instagram
@ed_jits

Website
EdwardRKnives.com

GETTING PERSONAL

City: Orlando, FL

Education
Background: Associates
Degree/General Course
Study

Family: Not married, no
children

Years Making Knives:
1.5 years

04 The Materials

Always looking to make knives that have serious curb appeal, Edward likes using 1095HC and CPM 154, with his favorite being 1095HC for its ability to take a beautiful hamon. His scale material of choice follows the same reasoning, and he opts for the striking looks of really curly koa, burl/resin hybrid materials and Blood Money from Workerman.

05 Custom Work

Currently all of Edward's work is custom and is by customer request, however he is currently working on a couple of production models for the impulse buyer.

06 Ordering

Even though his work is currently all custom jobs, you can still expect to receive your knife with a quick turnaround of three to four weeks. Although once he gets his production operation up and running you should be able to get your hands on an Edward R knife much quicker. But it should be noted that a three-to-four-week turnaround for a custom knife can only last so long. You might want to get in touch with him before his schedule fills up. **KI**

