

THE HUNT ISON

MIKE MALOSH'S EDC KNIVES TAKE YOU BACK TO COWBOY COUNTRY WITH A UNIQUE, MODERN FLAIR

STORY BY JOSHUA SWANAGON | PHOTOS BY MIKE MALOSH



On my flight home from this past Blade Show, I took the opportunity to catch some needed sleep. While I was dozing, something irritated my arm that felt suspiciously like a bug. As I woke and swatted at it, I realized it was the shirt of the gentleman sitting next to me, whose arm I had just accidentally hit. After apologizing, we struck up a conversation and I discovered that I was chatting with Mike Malosh of Malosh Handmade Knives. He was very nice, and once I got home I decided to take a look at his knives. It didn't take long to realize that he would be perfect for this issue, due to great work and his focus on hunting knives.

01 Down the Rabbit Hole

For a long time, Mike had been buying production knives to fill his different cutlery needs. Eventually he turned his attention to custom handmade knives. At the time, he was working in a tool shop but decided that he could make a knife just as easily. In March of 2006, he began his trip down the rabbit hole of knife-making.

His first 20 were stock removal, which he used to jump right into the deep end by taking them to the Wolverine Knife Show the following month. He used the money he made at that show to purchase forging equipment and begin his part-time shop in Gladwin, Michigan, or as he calls it, the Western Plains of Grout TWP.

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER

Instagram:
@Mike_Malosh_Knives

Website:
MaloshHandmadeKnives.com

02 The Challenges

Mike has found that promoting his work has been a bit difficult and is constantly changing. At first, he would travel to 12 shows a year, but now he finds that people travel less to shows and use social media more, so he has been adjusting his methods to keep up with a developing promotional landscape.

03 Inspired

With his style following the traditional cowboy hunting knives, Malosh finds his inspiration from William Scagel, but more importantly the Jim Behring Scagel model. Mike has received a lot of help from Jim Behring throughout the years, and that has provided a lot of inspiration. He also finds a lot to like in Tad Lynch's cowboy-style knives and their clean construction.

04 Mediums

Malosh has found that W2 has been the best tool steel for his style of knives; although, in the past year he has been seeing knives made out of CPM 3V and has been impressed with it. For his handles he likes the Scagel style and uses natural materials, such as bone, antler and leather for stacked spacers; although, he likes black G-10 for his block handles.

05 Old School

He started with stock removal, but Mike has been forging his knives for almost the entirety of his 12-year career, adding to the authenticity of his style.

06 Ordering

Mike does not have any production models, but he does have about a dozen patterns he forges to. Because of this his knives are totally custom, and no two are the same. The best way to purchase one of Mike's knives it to continue checking his website for availability. He does take requests, but he typically shies away from very specific requests and mostly works on his own style with input from the customer. **KI**

GETTING PERSONAL

City: Gladwin, MI
Education Background:
High school, trade school

Family: Awesome wife
and two kids he'd move
the moon for

Years Making
Knives: 12

