

TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

BOBBY GARZA OF DIAMONDBACK COUNTRY KNIVES FINDS STRENGTH IN KNIFE MAKING.

TEXT BY JOSHUA SWANAGON | PHOTOS BY BOBBY GARZA



You have to take notice of a company motto such as “I build the knife, you build the story.”

Clean lines, tight fit and finish, and exquisite handle materials were what drew me to Diamondback Country Knives. As I was flipping through Instagram one night, I kept coming across knives that stopped me dead in my tracks and made me take a minute to examine the artistry that went into them. I was starting to notice that the same company was consistently making me stop: Diamondback Country Knives.

So, I decided to check out the company profile. Knife after knife, I couldn't help but want to reach out and take hold of them.

With knives that command attention like this, you have to know about Bobby Garza and Diamondback Country Knives.

01 A Healing Career

Having a passion for knives from a young age, Bobby Garza made his first knife for his father as a gift. His father liked it so much that they decided to work together to build something his father could carry on a daily basis. Unfortunately, tragedy struck, and Bobby lost his father before they could finish that knife. This brought a stop to his knife making for an extended period, until he found the strength to pick his head up and find his cure ... in knife making. He has since finished that

DIG
A LITTLE DEEPER

Instagram: @DiamondbackCountryKnives

Website: DiamondbackCountryKnives.com

knife and placed his father's ashes in the handle, calling it “The Guardian.”

02 The Challenges

Bobby finds that sometimes, it can be hard to build a reputation and show that you build a worthy tool and are not just a fly-by-night knifemaker. This can be a slow process. But he assures us that he will be making knives until his hands won't let him. I certainly hope so.

03 Finding Inspiration

His inspiration comes from his family first, and he has found support from them all along his path in knife making. But when it comes to designs and quality work, he looks to makers such as Jerry Hossom, Michael Trollsby, the Sobral brothers, Peter Kohler and Spencer Alpin.

04 What's in a Knife?

Bobby likes to work mostly with O1 tool steel for his daily users but will eventually be venturing into stainless steel as well.

He likes using Alabama Damascus for his light users and higher-end knives. For handle scales, he prefers to keep it natural and finds favorites in Hawaiian koa, ironwood burl and spalted maple burl. However, for hard-use knives, he does like to go with Micarta or burlap.

05 The Process

Bobby uses the stock removal process to bring his creations into shape, and although he doesn't have any production models, per se, he does have specific models—from small to large—that he makes regularly.

06 Ordering

He has slowed down on taking custom requests. Because his regular designs are doing so well, he has maintained focus on those. Even so, from time to time, he will take custom orders when he is preparing a batch of knives to go to heat treat. At the moment, his current wait time is one to two months for knives that have the heat treat completed—this is a short time to wait for a quality knife. **KI**

GETTING PERSONAL

City: Omaha, Nebraska

Education background: High school, Metropolitan Community College courses for Information Technology

Years making knives: Three

