

Knife Sharpening, Advanced, Retaining the "Belly of the Blade," or "Slicing Edge." DL Tips

Retaining The "Slicing Edge."

DL Sharpening Tips 001.

The Formal Name for what we have called the slicing edge, is the "Belly of a Blade."

"The belly of a blade is the curving section under the point....The belly increases the knife's ability to both slice and slash. It presents an ever-changing angle to the material being cut, and this means slicing efficiency is preserved across the cut."

[from: Belly of the Blade, Part of the "Blade Geometry" .html](#)

I was working with my Swiss Army Knife, on the Construction Site, when DL told me that I had reduced the front "slicing edge," by "flat sharpening" my working blade. I had never heard of this before, so he explained it to me. I will use many pictures, which you will need to allow time to load, and what he said, to explain.

Note that DL works mostly with files to sharpen his knives, and he was taught by his father and grandfather, their Finnish method of sharpening. (DL is a "made up" set of initials, that has no bearing on any real person's initials or name.)

You might want to open your browsers to "Full Screen". (F 11)

To begin, the Guillotine has a forward slanted blade.



It is slanted forward to give a "slicing action." If you have ever sliced meat, or tried to chop it with a cleaver, you can see why the slicing motion is easier, and more efficient.

The [Kukri](#) knife gives you the action of a "slice" with the power of a chop. The following picture is a Military Kukri.



[\(There is an entire section about the Kukri on my web site.\)](#)

Bear with me, I am making a point.

The "Becker Brute" has a curve at the front. The curve is there because it gives the knife a slicing action similar to both the Guillotine, and the Kukri.



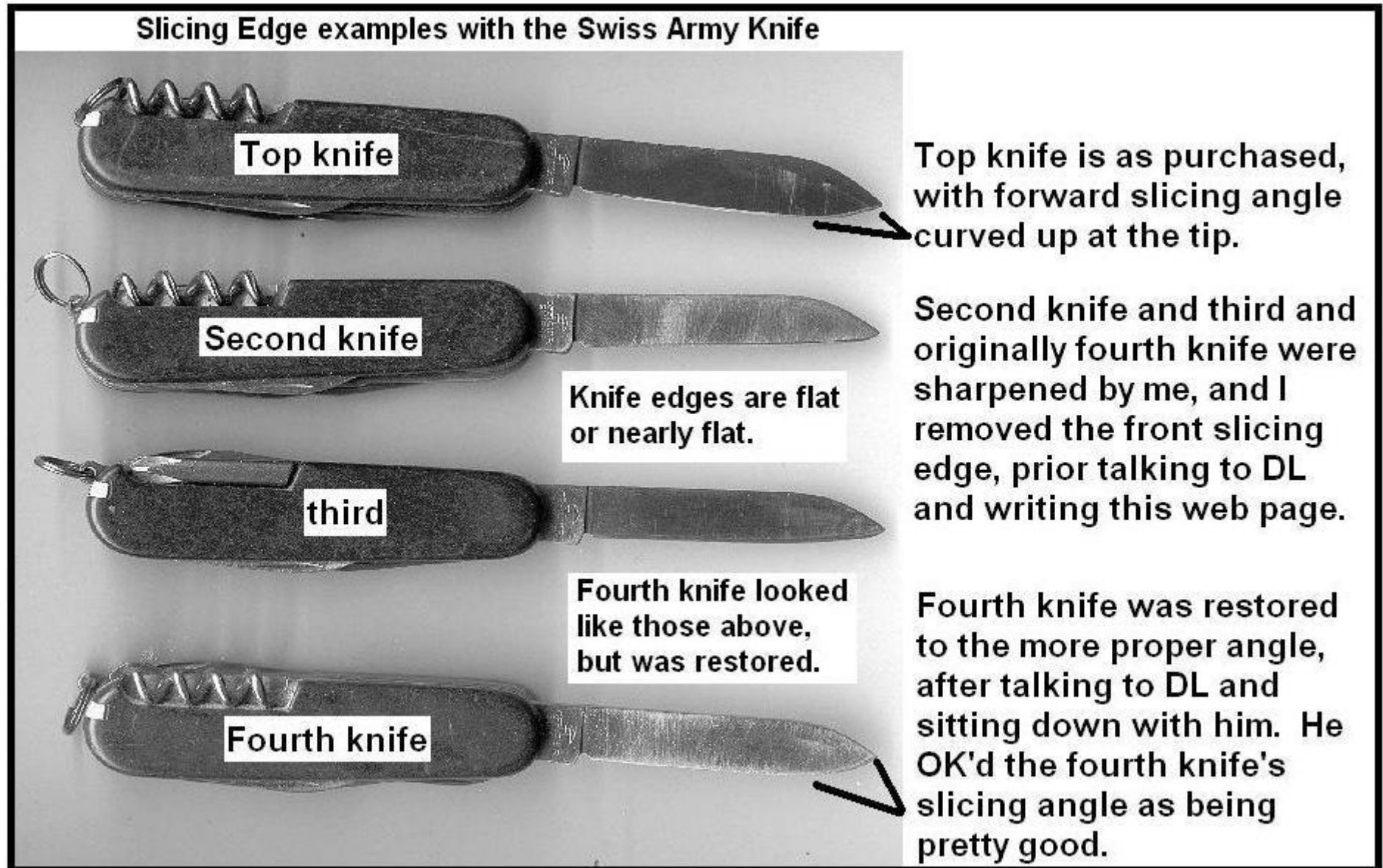
The Ka-Bar Camp Knife has a similar curve, for the same reason.



Now lets look at what I had been doing wrong.

The following picture details how I first discovered the sharpening error I had been making, with the Swiss Army knife.

Please open your browser to Full Screen, F 11.



A similar action had taken place with my Guthook Skinner.

Slicing angle as I reduced it on the Guthook Skinner.



Slicing edge of top knife, is as purchased. Notice the full, graceful curve.

Bottom knife was sharpened over time, and front slicing edge angle has been reduced.

Bottom knife edge is flatter, lacking the forward curve of the original, top knife. (Less of an "S" curve.)

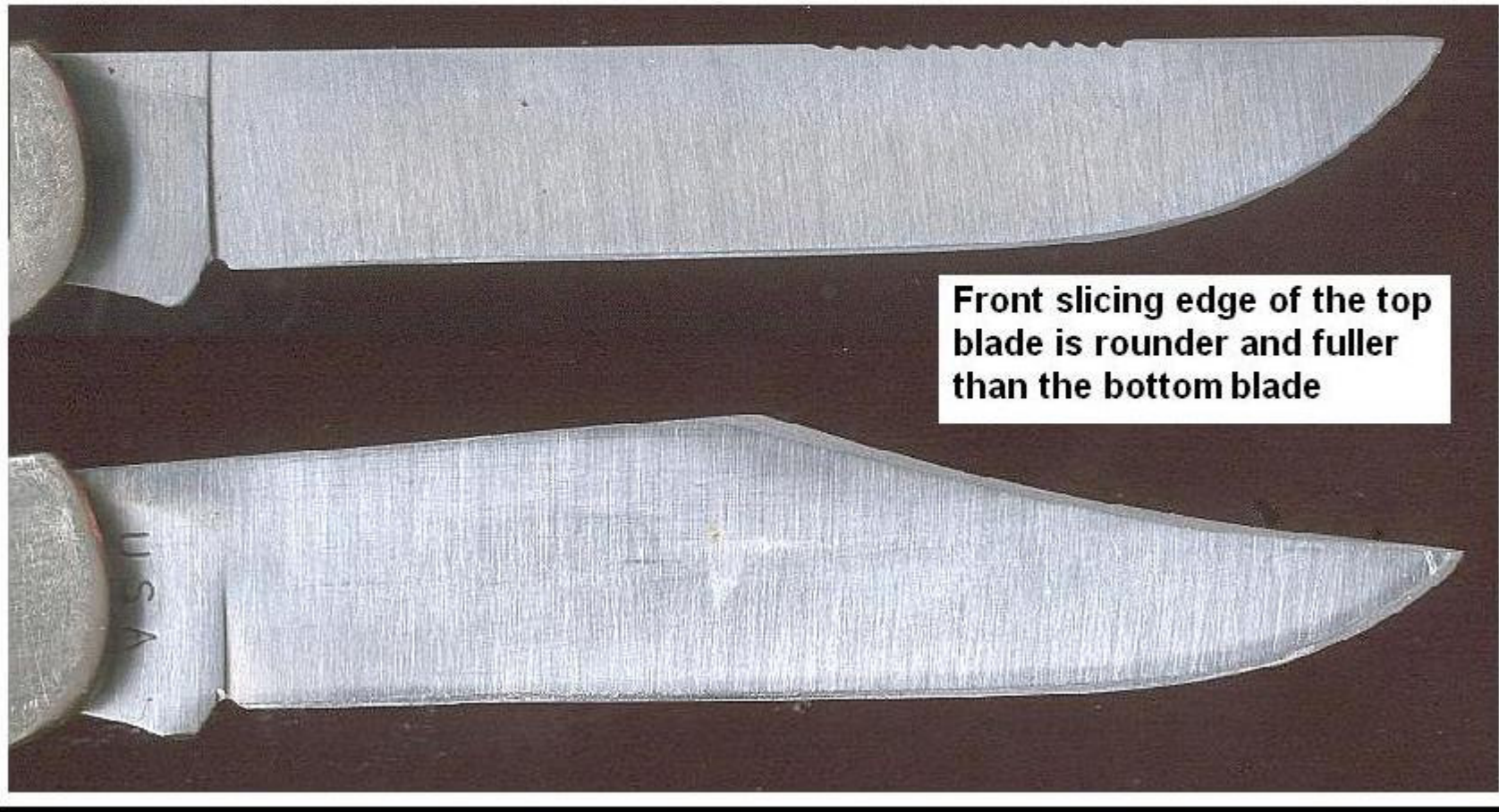
(The knife will be more useful if more of the original shape is restored.)

Again, with an older Ka-Bar I had removed the useful forward, slicing edge.



This blowup of the blades of my Case Folding Hunter, 189 (6265SS) shows two front edge "slicing edge" angles.

**The two blades of the Case Folding Hunter, 189 (6265SS).
Front edge slicing curve of the top, skinning blade, is rounder and
fuller than the bottom, working blade. Illustrates two front edge
"slicing curve" angles and their possible uses.**



**Front slicing edge of the top
blade is rounder and fuller
than the bottom blade**

Two other blades, and their "slicing edges."

Schrade USA 152 Deerslayer, and Schrade SG7 Knives. Two blades with "slicing edge" curves that I like.



The Point is that over time, I want to retain a similar curve to the "slicing edge," even after many sharpenings. Paul.

Upon continued sharpening, and use of my knives, I want to retain the front "slicing edge" similar to what it was when I first bought them. Prior to this, I had no idea that this point was important. Thanks again, DL.

Paul.

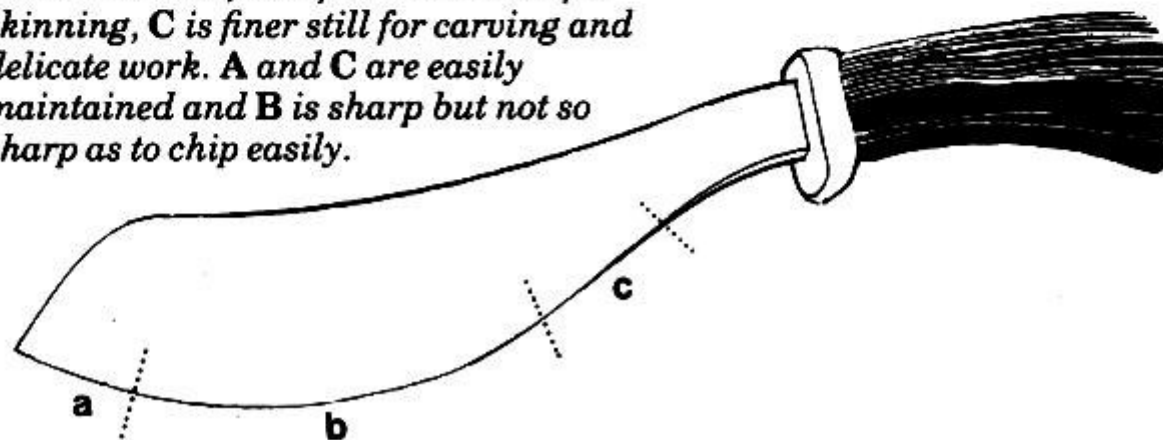
addenda: note the slicing edge of the Parang:

Parang

This is the Malayan name for a type of knife with a large curved blade like a machete. It is too large to be carried in normal daily life but ideal when going out into the wild.

A parang 30cm (12in) in overall blade length and weighing no more than 750g (1½lb) is best, the blade 5cm (2in) at its widest and end-bolted into a wooden handle. The curved blade enables maximum effort to be applied when cutting timber and the blade arrives before the knuckles, so giving them protection. Even large trees can be cut down with a parang, which is especially useful for building shelters and rafts.

The parang blade has three different edges: B does the heavy work of chopping wood and bone, A is finer and used for skinning, C is finer still for carving and delicate work. A and C are easily maintained and B is sharp but not so sharp as to chip easily.



Page from:

John Wiseman SAS Survival Guide; ISBN 0 00 470 1674 (abridged, pocket sized)

John "Lofty" Wiseman; The SAS Survival Handbook; ISBN 0 00 26531407, (unabridged)

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