# A2 tool steel as used by Bark River Knives

Posted by leomitch - 20 Jul 2012 16:40

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Bark River under the direction of Mike Stewart has grown awesomely in the past few years. Their success is due to two reasons as I see it...excellent knife design by Mike and the wise use of the best steels, A2 being among the best carbon steels around IMHO.

I have two BRK with this fine steel, the Bravo 1 which was designed by Mike for the Marine Corp chaps who infiltrate beyond enemy lines to gather intelligence. They wanted a survival knife that was strong, took a great edge with good edge retention, easy to sharpen in the field and when necessary, to use as a tactical knife. Bravo 1 was the outcome of the competition...A2 was the steel that impressed the Marines and had all the characteristics they were looking for.

The Gunny is a smaller version of the Bravo 1, but not significantly smaller...to my mind it may be an even more useful knife for most chores, while its big brother may do a better job of heavy jobs like batoning.

In any case the A2 steel is an excellent, all around metal and next to 3G is my favourite.

The Bravo 1 is next to last on the right and the Guny is the one next to it.

A2 is a very desirable steel IMHO.It is an air hardening steel rather than one requiring quenching in oil or water.It is considered a general purpose steel.

The components are 1.0% Carbon, 1.0% Magnesium, 5.0% Chromium, 0.3% Nickel, 1.0% Molybdenum, 0.15–0.50% Vanadium.

Cheers

Leo

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## Re: A2 tool steel as used by Bark River Knives
Posted by wickededge - 20 Jul 2012 17:35

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Leo,

Great photo of a bunch of beautiful knives. That Bravo 1 is exceptional. Now I'm going to have to think about picking one of those up

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## Re: A2 tool steel as used by Bark River Knives
Posted by leomitch - 20 Jul 2012 17:52

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Just to rub it in more, here is another shot of the two knives...the Bravo 1 has Spalted Maple Burl scles and the Gunny Desert Ironwoo scales. Sorry chum, I couldn't resist tempting you some more. It is a really great knife. I would be interested to see how it would do in the other half of your life hunting/guiding et al. Sorry for all the dust on the knives!

Leo

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## Re: A2 tool steel as used by Bark River Knives
Posted by AnthonyYan - 20 Jul 2012 19:09

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If you are unfamiliar with Bark River Knives, then I highly recommend you watch virtuovice on YouTube. He is a deer-hunter in Japan who collects knives. His favorite knives are from Bark River. Please keep in mind he is Japanese, so his English has a very strong accent. To me, he seems to be quite an interesting and refined guy. When I have the spare cash, I may try Bark River Knife or two, because of

virtuovice.

www.youtube.com/user/virtuovice

Here is a video of his I randomly selected, where he talks about 3 of his Bark River Knives:

Sincerely,

--Lagrangian

P.S.  If you are squeemish, then simply avoid the virtuovice videos with the title "deer hunting".  His other videos are fine for squeemish people like myself.

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## Re: A2 tool steel as used by Bark River Knives

Posted by leomitch - 20 Jul 2012 20:08

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Thanks Anthony! I watch virtuevoice all the time on YouTube...I have great respect for his knowledge of knives and hunting...and his wisdom in a broad range of fields.

" Hello Knife people!"

He is one of the good guys!

Leo

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