Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by RICKLINDSEY - 19 Oct 2012 19:53

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I keep hearing about people getting new ball joint arms.(due to problem with the old ones maybe?)

I have a F&S. Is there some reason I should get them too? Or am I missing something?

Thanks in advance...

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 20 Oct 2012 11:47

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Scott..

I wouldn't worry about it. If you have something to write...wrie it down. It keep things lively around here and get things discussed that are of general interest. That is what this forum is all about. This whole thing with the WIKI ... I brought up because I wanted to have an easy way to point you to information in answer to your questions.

Phil

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by Scott Sherman - 20 Oct 2012 12:12

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No worries Phil, I am not going anywhere soon. I am quite invested in this hobby of mine (ours) and I know my inquisitive nature is shared by many here. While I don't really know anyone here other than by their posts, most seem pretty friendly and happy to share ideas and curiosities. There will always be some who will be critical of others, it seems to be in the nature of our species, but in an open forum with a very narrow focus such as this, I know it is the things in we have in common that matter not the things that divide us.

Dawg, to answer your question... before I retired, I was a Detective on a metropolitan city police department. Now I'm just a retired guy living on an island in Washington, enjoying several pass times and of course my time here and on other forums of interest.

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by DAUG - 20 Oct 2012 12:58

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Ahh, that's where that natural inquisitiveness comes from.

Pleasure to meet you and I enjoy your questions too.....

So please carry on.....

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by Geocyclist - 20 Oct 2012 18:39

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Scott, while we are talking about you what is the black stick you are holding in your photo? Assuming it's you in the photo?

My 2 cents. I am planning to get the upgrade from day one. I have hear 50/50 that the old work fine or the new are much better. I would rather just learn with the new from day 1 rather than upgrade later. Not that there is a big difference in how you use them, just talking about getting used to something then changing it later on.

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by Scott Sherman - 20 Oct 2012 23:03

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Well I'm not sure how this thread became about me, but it is me in the picture and the stick I am holding is a collapsible mono pod for mounting a 35mm camera when you don't want to carry a tripod. The dog is Charlie one of my 2 labs. I got the old arms with my PP2 but the new ones are so slick that I never even looked twice at the old ones. They seem kind of puny next to the new ones.

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by Billabong - 21 Oct 2012 05:54

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Scott Sherman wrote:

Well I'm not sure how this thread became about me,

You are "trending" Scott, WickedEdge and Scott come up together in all my searches now.

I got the old arms with my PP2 but the new ones are so slick that I never even looked twice at the old ones. They seem kind of puny next to the new ones.

The new ones are thicker.

Now my 2cents!

If the old arms were perfectly made, then I might agree with those that say they are fine.

The truth is, they could be better with the design they are now.

The joints have too much play , the arms are not thick enough.

It's well documented about people adding washers and putting straws on the arms.

You don't need to be a rocket scientist to realize that ball joints are much better than a universal joint.

My guess it's a big part of why the WEPS won the "Accessory of the Year" at the 2012 "Blade Show and International Cutlery Fair".

Of course they were prototypes or adapted then.

A mighty achievement!

Who should buy them?

If you can afford them, then you!

Clay is keeping them as part of the "non-Pro II" kits, simply to keep cost down.

Along with the new arms, you also now have the "longer angle bar" which allows a broader range of angles, and the new arms are a tighter fit on the bar.

You have added "micro adjustment".

Thicker arms, so no more straws.

Can you still sharpen a knife to "push-cut" with the old arms?

Of course, nothing compares to a WEPS, full stop!

So, it comes down to $$$$$$, as for value, I wish the whole thing was cheaper, but it's the price we pay until mass production is a reality.

I find it hard to use the old arms when the new arms fix the only negatives I have with the WEPS!

edit - If I was selling them, then I would hope everyone buys them (old arms) now until there is no stock of old arms on the planet!

Will they continue to be made, simply to provide a cheaper option?

Will they be slightly improved if they are?

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?

Posted by wickededge - 21 Oct 2012 09:37

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Billabong wrote:

Will they continue to be made, simply to provide a cheaper option?

Yes, although not just for cost; the arms as is are very functional and you can get terrific edges with the Basic Kit. The little bit of play is generally a non-issue as your hand naturally finds a consistent hold and pressure. Over the years, I've never had any issue with the quality of edge I can produce. (*edited after thinking about it a little more.)

Billabong wrote:

Will they be slightly improved if they are?

We may make some tweaks to the production process but probably won't see those until sometime in the middle of next year. At the moment, I wouldn't hesitate a moment to order the Basic Kit with the stock

arms knowing how well they've worked for me. (*edited after updating the timeline with our factory)

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by MartinSinger - 22 Oct 2012 09:47

Received my new arms last week. They offer a much mre pleasant sharpening experience for me. I usually avoid the inevitable challenges.

I visit daily without logging in but enjoy the forum and Scott's observations and questions. Scott, don't wimp out like I did early on.

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by Billabong - 22 Oct 2012 10:17

Retracted!

Apologies.

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Re: Should I get new ball joint arms?
Posted by Scott Sherman - 22 Oct 2012 11:28

MartinSinger wrote:

I visit daily without logging in but enjoy the forum and Scott's observations and questions. Scott, don't wimp out like I did early on.

Well, now I do feel special.

Okay, it's Monday morning so all you youngsters go out to work and build stuff or take your kids to school or whatever , while us retired guys chat it up a bit. It'll all be here for you when you get back. Don't worry there will be lots of dumb questions to amuse and pointed critiques and technical questions to entertain and enlighten. I'll see about ways to get more creative also. for example it occurs to me that

now that we can hone our edges to a mirror polish, perhaps there is a way to inscribe fancy writing or designs in the little tiny edge shoulder that can only be seen with a microscope. I seem to recall seeing something somewhere where artists were writing and drawing on things like rice kernels for example. Lots of food for thought and it gives me something to do in between grits and knife sharpening in my spare time while I search for more gadgets and gizmos to buy.

I'm a bit interested in that ultra sonic bath thing a ma jigger I saw in another recent thread to clean my new stones. 😀

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