A low cost testing setup

Posted by cbwx34 - 07 Nov 2012 10:47

I wanted to create a simple, low cost setup that I could do some testing... this is what I came up with.

I bought a pack of utility blades. I had seen others use this to test, initially I didn't really like the idea. But then I tried it, and realized, it's great. Cost around $15... here's a sample:

www.homedepot.com/h_d1/N-5yc1v/R-1006549...d=10051#.UJp3nY4Tsy4

I found another small microscope, under $6, I thought would work a little better since it had a stand and clip:

www.amazon.com/SE-Illuminated-Pocket-Mic...words=led+microscope

The setup:

I can even snap a photo with my smartphone to document findings...

(That's a factory edge, btw.)

Having a number of blades, I can number or label them, to make comparisons of finishes, look at burrs, etc... quick, easy, and at a low cost.

Just thought I'd throw the idea out there!

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Re: A low cost testing setup
Posted by razoredgeknives - 07 Nov 2012 14:43

Wow! That's great! Thanks for the tip!

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Re: A low cost testing setup
Posted by FredHermann - 07 Nov 2012 20:30

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salutes the awesomeness

pressed done too fast.

Am I seeing heat discoloration oj that edge?

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Re: A low cost testing setup
Posted by Geocyclist - 07 Nov 2012 20:32

Thanks. Good idea. Not only is it cheap you can also use the blades for cutting tests, etc.

I use utility blades all the time. I am interested how they sharpen up being that they are very thin compared to regular knives.

May have to sharpen some of my own for special Wick Edge precision cutting jobs. I wonder what type of steel these things are made off? Has to be cheap stuff.

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Re: A low cost testing setup
Posted by cbwx34 - 08 Nov 2012 09:24

Fred, that could very well be from heat... I don't know for sure though.

Geocyclist, I'm glad you brought that up, I was going to mention that I sharpened a couple, and they come out great! Always makes me appreciate how "dull" a blade I once thought was sharp, really isn't.

The steel actually seems decent... they sharpen up nicely.

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Re: A low cost testing setup

Posted by FredHermann - 08 Nov 2012 23:52

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I like the microscope, that's a great simple one. How thick a blade can it hold?

Also, this looks like a great way to test and practice technique.

+ for great idea!

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Re: A low cost testing setup

Posted by cbwx34 - 09 Nov 2012 11:11

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The clips are too weak to hold a knife very well. For that, the scope pops off the stand, and I just use it like the other scopes.

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