

Adding Scales to a Mikov Marking Knife Blank



Scales examples in Bloodwood and Ipe

These Mikov Dual Bevel Spear Point marking knives are made by Mikov, a world-class Czech knife maker. These blades can be used either unhandled or wood scales can be added to create a comfortable, easy-to-grip handle. These knife kits contain a blade blank and 2 brass pins needed to affix scales to the blade. All you need to add are the wood scales. Adding wood scales is very easy and a great way to use some of those small hardwood or exotic wood scraps you have lying around.



Knife kit with blank, brass pins and user supplied wood scales

To get started, rip two pieces of thin stock for the two scales. To determine the best thickness, subtract the thickness of your blade from 0.400" and divide by 2. Rip scales to 9/16" wide and cut to 4" long.

Create identical chamfers on the ends of both scales



Apply double-stick tape to both scales.



Stick one scale to the blank and center allowing wood to overhand both sides and the end of the blade.



Use an 1/8" twist drill bit and drill through the hole in the blank and wood scale. Use a backer board to prevent blow out. DO NOT use a brad point drill bit for this step!



Stick the other scale to the blank being careful to line up both chamfered ends.



Drill through the existing hole in the wood scale and then through the entire assembly.



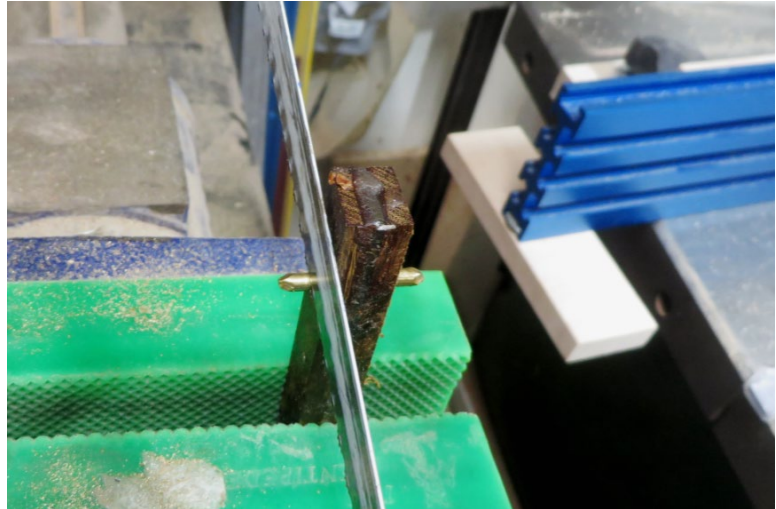
Separate the pieces and mark them to ensure proper reassembly.



Using slow drying epoxy, glue and clamp the assembly together inserting the pins through the holes. If using oily exotic wood, wipe down each glue surface with denatured alcohol or lacquer thinner to remove surface oils. Make sure to clean any excess epoxy from the blade before it dries. Let blank fully dry for 24 hours.



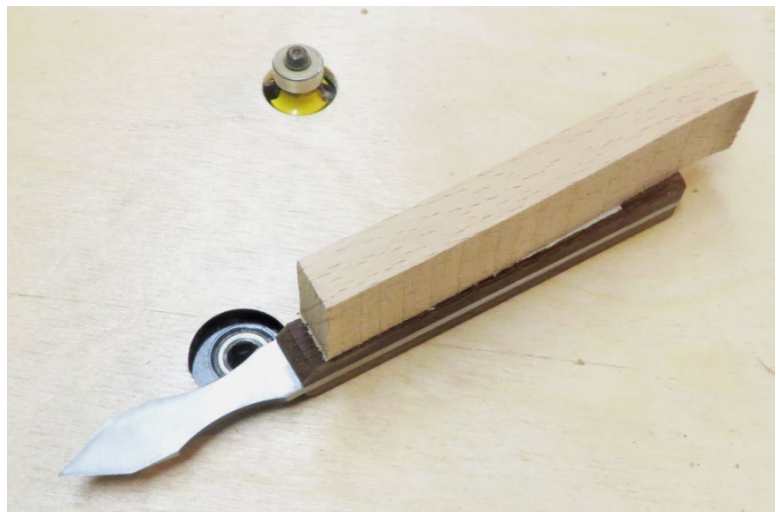
Using a hack saw trim the excess off the brass pins.



Sand down sides and faces using a power sander or 120 grit PSA sandpaper affixed to MDF or plywood. Sand through 220 and 320 grits. If using power sander, be mindful of heat build up as excess heat can weaken the epoxy bond.



Route the handle as desired. Use an 1/8" round over or small chamfer bit to soften the edges. Routing small pieces can be dangerous, so double stick tape a piece of 1/4" plywood over the router table opening to prevent pieces from falling into the opening. In addition, double stick tape a handle to the blank to keep your fingers far away from the spinning bit.



Sand all edges and profiles with 320 grit sandpaper. Apply a few coats of your favorite finish. Your knife is now ready for use.

Supplies:

Mikov marking knife kits available here: [HERE](#)

3/16" twist drill available [HERE](#)

Double sided tape available [HERE](#)

30 minute 2 part epoxy available [HERE](#)