

ZHEN Full-tang Blanks

These instructions are a beginner guide to make a wood handle for ZHEN full-tang knife blanks small size models.



Models

- GC5B - 3-Layer Forged High Carbon Steel Paring Knife Blank Kit 3.5-inch
- GC9B - 3-Layer Forged High Carbon Steel Small Santoku Blank Kit 5-inch

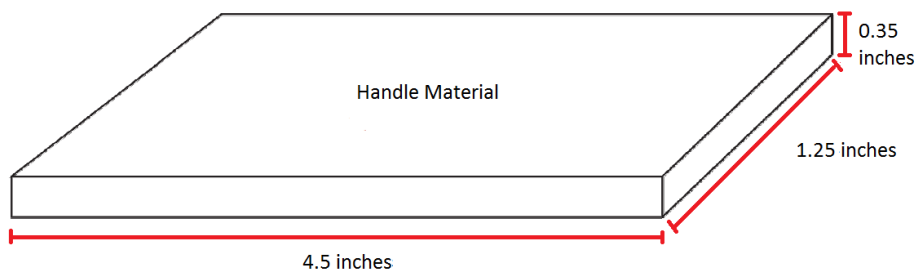
Supplies

- ZHEN Knife Blank
- 2 pieces of Handle Material/Knife Scales (at least 4.5" x 1.25" x 0.35" each)
- Drill Tool and Countersink
- Brad-Point Wood Drill Bit (15/64 and 9/64, or see pin measurements)
- Saw for cutting wood (Bandsaw, scrollsaw, coping saw, circular saw)
- Clamps
- Epoxy or other adhesive
- Double-sided tape
- Wood rasp/file, or sanding drum
- Sandpaper
- Pen/Marker for use on wood

0.232 inches (5.89 mm)



0.13 inches (3.3 mm)



Instructions

1. Lay the tang of the knife blank flat on one of the wood and trace around the shape of the tang. Repeat on the other side of the wood. Repeat the process for the second piece of wood.
2. Using a saw, cut to the outside of the traced lines.
3. For each handle piece, mark the sides that will be outside and be seen (face out) and the sides that will face the tang (face in).
4. Use sandpaper to sand the sides of the wood that will touch the tang (face in).
5. **If using the rivets**, use double-sided tape to fix the two handle pieces together and lay the tang on the handle pieces to trace the location of the rivets. Make sure the handle pieces are aligned properly, then use a drill tool and countersink, and the appropriate brad-point drill bit (size depends on the rivet of the knife model) to drill a hole for the rivets.
6. Separate the handle pieces and clean off any oil, dirt, or adhesive. Use sandpaper to sand the knife tang and wipe the tang clean. (You can use acetone for cleaning).
7. Apply epoxy or adhesive on both sides of the knife tang and the face in sides of the handle pieces. (Some types of adhesive may need to be mixed beforehand).
8. Glue the handle pieces to the knife tang, make sure that the face out and face in sides are correct and that the handle pieces are flush with the bolster. The handle pieces should line up to the profile of the tang, not too high or too low. Use the clamps to lightly hold the handle pieces to the tang and wait for the adhesive to set.
9. **If using the rivets**, follow the same steps as above, but insert the rivets into the holes and press the rivets together until firmly seated. (You can use hammer and punches to do this more effectively).
10. After the adhesive has set, remove the clamps and use a wood rasp/file, or sanding drum to make the rough handle shape. Final shaping and sanding should be done by hand and with sandpaper. Do not remove too much material from the handle, focus on shaping the edges and finger grooves (if desired). Hold the handle in your hand to get a feel for the fit and shape to test your progress. Finish sanding the handle and apply a durable wood finish.