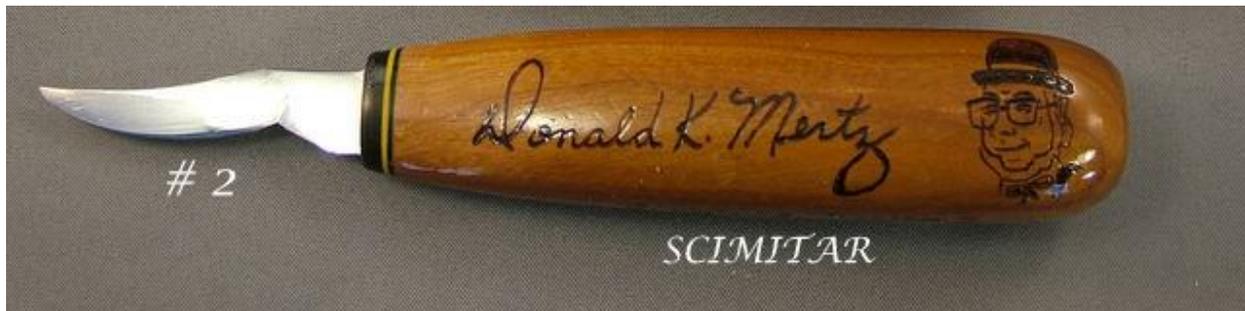


**GUIDE TO WOOD BEE CARVER
SIGNATURE SERIES KNIVES BY
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The basic design of the carving blade for the WOOD BEE CARVER Signature Series Knives was developed over a period of forty years of carving with a knife. During that time various shapes and angles were put through the trial and error process of discovering a blade shape that was the most functional for the style of Whittle-Carving using only a knife.

This basic blade design enhances the slicing process through the curved cutting edge which lends itself to a slicing cut in both the push and pull stroke. The curved cutting edge from tip to the heel of the blade at the notch between the blade and tang is the business end of the blade. An extended tang positions the cutting edge out from the handle so that all the cutting edge can be used without being impeded by the handle. The extended tang also allows for a place for the index finger while choking up on the blade to do detail carving. The extended tang also allows for a longer reach of the business end of the blade as well as enhances a levering action in the slicing process. The back edge

of the blade slopes to the tip of the cutting edge to fit into an area with a twelve degree slope which causes the cutting edge to approach the wood at a lower slicing angle.



All of the Wood Bee Carver Signature Series knives fit into this basic blade design. The only exception is the Drone Bee # 11 knife which has the common straight cutting edge blade. All other knives from # 1 to # 14 are variations of the basic blade design, and each one has its own characteristic of use. Any one knife can be used to carve almost any hand held carving project and yet a different size or individual shape can be an asset to any of the other knives. That is why there is such a variety within the basic blade design.

Which knife to choose as the first knife in this series is a question often asked. Any knife in this series would be a good first choice, so it is a matter of appearance and curiosity to guide in the choice. It should be noted that a curved cutting edge is a slicing tool and takes some getting used to doing a slicing cut all the time after one has been accustomed to using the traditional straight cutting edge knife. By slicing cut, think about slicing bread, or meat or vegetables as the action rather than the forcing of a wedge cut into the wood.

This guide will describe each knife using the format of being paired up with other knives in combinations of two, three and four in case someone would like comparable choices. Keep in mind that any one knife is sufficient while a variety will enhance the carving options.

The Wood Bee Carver's favorite knife is any one of these with one not being any better than the others since each have their own unique feel of cut. All of these knives are used regularly.



This suggestion for a three knife set joins together three knives whose individual characteristics will aid in carving a project alone but together each will complement the others.

The # 2 Scimitar is the overall basic knife blade design of a curved cutting edge that will slice in both the pull and push stroke and the extended tang allows for a longer reach of the cutting edge. The concaved curve of the back edge that mirrors the cutting edge is the basic shape of a scimitar blade. The scimitar blade shape allows for getting into tight areas. The four inch long fat cigar shaped handle allows for a comfortable fit in the palm of the hand for long periods of use and can be rotated easily in the hand while guiding the cutting edge in any direction of up, down or sideways. The fat bevel allows for a quick roll out in the "slice and roll" cut. This is a work horse blade for roughing out but can also do detail carving when using the tip end of the blade.

The # 8 Queen Bee is a smaller version of the # 2 with a thinner bevel which makes a slicing cut that feels quicker because of it approach to the wood is at a lower angle. The # 8 can be used to shape the wood in general carving as well as do fine detail carving. A smaller blade takes smaller cuts while a larger blade like the # 2 takes larger cuts. A smaller blade can reach areas that the larger blade would be hindered making the # 8 a good companion with the # 2.

The # 10 Hornet Bee has a small cutting edge blade at the end of a very long tang which has the advantage of a longer reach as well as the feel of a levering action of the cutting edge in certain circumstances. The four inch long torpedo shaped handle is comfortable for using the blade in various directions.

The curved cutting edge of the scimitar blade shape becomes very functional in making various slicing cuts. When the tip end of the blade is sliced forward it functions like a skew. The heel of the blade that curves into the notch of the tang functions like a draw knife in the pull slicing stroke. The belly of the curved blade between the tip and the heel creates a slicing cut imitating the effect of a number three gouge. Slicing cuts are the most efficient action for creating clean and precise cuts.

DUAL COMBO



The Dual Comb of the # 2 and # 4 pairs up the larger and smaller version of the same blade shape by which both have a fat bevel that allows for a quick roll out of the "slice and roll cut." The fat bevel causes the cutting edge to approach the wood at the beginning of the slice at a higher angle while the fat part of the bevel where it crests on the side of the blade provides a pivot point for a quick roll out. It produces a dished out chip in its strong feel of the slice through the wood. The tip end of the # 2 and # 4 serve as the detail part of the blade. The curved cutting edge, from tip to the heel where it meets the extended tang, slices in both the push and pull stroke. Both knives are the work horse carving knives. Hand stropping on a leather strop will tune up the cutting edge when stropped periodically.

Hand stropping on a leather strop will tune up the cutting edge when stropped periodically. Buffing on a motorized buffing wheel is not recommended because it will round the cutting edge rapidly.

DUAL COMBO



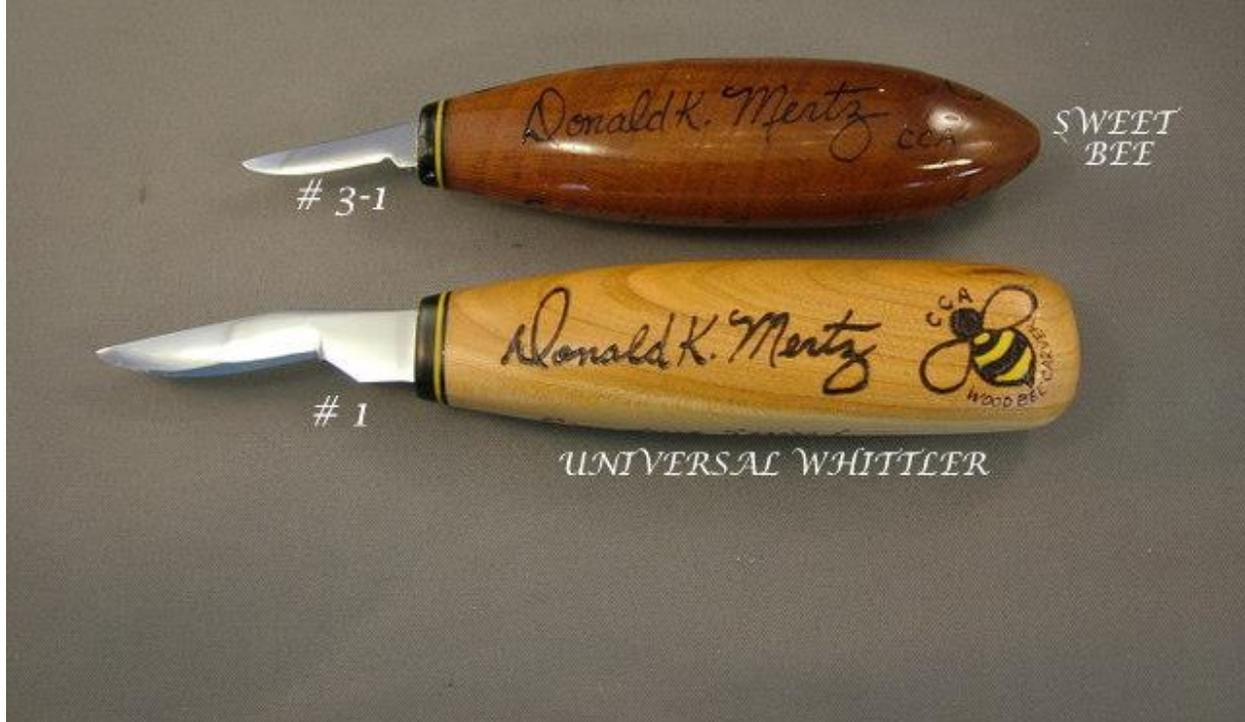
This Dual Combo pairs the traditional straight cutting edge with the curved scimitar cutting edge. Both the # 11 Drone Bee and # 12 Cuckoo Bee are made of a specialty steel that produce a unique feel of cut.

This combo would be an excellent choice for making the transition of learning the different feel of cut between the common straight cutting carving knife and learning to use a curved cutting edge.

The curved cutting edge allows for more of the cutting teeth of the cutting edge to approach the wood a various angles. The straight cutting blade can only approach the wood on the straight even when the blade is skewed. In essence the curved cutting edge can carve around corners and reach in areas that the straight cutting blade can not reach. A full description of these two knives can be seen on posting entitled "Carving on the Edge"

<http://woodbeecarver.com/carving-on-the-edge/carving-on-the-edge>

DUAL COMBO



The # 1 Universal Whittler and the # 3-1 Sweet Bee are paired together because that have the same blade shape with the back edge sloping at a twelve degree angle to meet the curved up tip of the cutting edge. The # 3-1 is a detail knife for carving small projects as well as detail carving. The # 1 is Universal in that its tip is the detail part of the blade while the rest of the blade is for larger slicing cuts. Some carvers prefer to begin with these two knives to become accustomed to carving with the curved cutting edge of the "slice and roll" action.

Hand stropping on a leather strop will tune up the cutting edge when stropped periodically. Buffing on a motorized buffing wheel is not recommended because it will round the cutting edge rapidly.

DUAL COMBO



This Duel Combo of the Mini Mertz detail knives begins with the # 6 with a small curving cutting edge blade in a small and narrow handle to be used like holding a pencil. It is paired up with the # 6-2 BH with a long and narrow scimitar shaped blade in a big handle. This combo can be used for carving to shape small figures or subjects and then detail carve to complete the carving.

Hand stropping on a leather strop will tune up the cutting edge when stropped periodically. Buffing on a motorized buffing wheel is not recommended because it will round the cutting edge rapidly

TRIPLE COMBO



This Triple Combo combine three knives to tackle most hand held projects. The # 5 Stinger Bee is a large quick slicing knife that creates shallow and long chips due to the thin bevel. # 8 Queen Bee is a smaller version which slices in the same manner only with smaller slices. The # 10 Hornet Bee with its extended tang positions the small cutting edge blade away from the handle for a longer reach and a levering action of the slice. Combined they make a good combination for most carving projects.

Hand stropping on a leather strop will tune up the cutting edge when stropped periodically. Buffing on a motorized buffing wheel is not recommended because it will round the cutting edge rapidly.

TRIPLE COMBO



This Triple Combo combines three knives with long extended tangs for a unique approach to carving. # 13 Bumble Bee can be used for rough shaping as well as detail carving even though it has a hefty feel in its reach and slicing cut. The # 10 Hornet Bee possesses a smaller cutting edge blade that is very functional for detail carving as well a general purpose shaping. # 14 Wasp Bee is made of specialty steel whose feel of cut is a little different than the other two and yet has a place of its own.

Hand stropping on a leather strop will tune up the cutting edge when stropped periodically. Buffing on a motorized buffing wheel is not recommended because it will round the cutting edge rapidly.

TRIPLE COMBO



This Triple Combo combines three whose blade shape are similar to the scimitar blade shape. The # 2 has a fatter bevel while the # 5 and # 13 have a thinner bevel. All can be used for rough shaping, smooth shaping and final detail when using the tip end of the blade. "Slice and Roll" is the most efficient way to carve with these knives.

The most efficient cut is a slicing cut and the most efficient slicing cut is accomplished with a curved cutting edge knife blade. Learning to slice with every cut does take some practice to get over using the wedge cut or short forced cuts. Learning to Slice and Roll with a curved cutting edge takes some practice to get used to the feel of the action but once learned the Slice and Roll of the curved cutting edge will become a favorite in the carving journey that will set the carver free to be more creative with the various ways a carving knife can be used. (from "Carving on the Edge" <http://woodbeecarver.com/carving-on-the-edge/carving-on-the-edge>)

TRIPLE COMBO



This Triple Combo combines three knives each made with a different specialty steel. # 7 Honey Bee is made of steel what has some give to it as it is sliced through the wood creating its own "feel of cut." # 14 Cuckoo Bee has its own "feel of cut" due to its specialty steel. In like manner # 14 Wasp Bee also has its own unique "feel of cut" because of its specialty steel. The point being made is that every steel that is used to make a knife blade will have its own and unique "feel of cut" which does not necessarily make one any better than the next. It still boils down to the personal choice of the carver as to what knife produces the best "feel of cut" while carving. The key for any knife is to keep it tuned up by hand stropping on a leather strop ever so often. The stropping action "polishes" the teeth of the cutting edge keeping them clean and aligned to do the slicing cut.

Hand stropping on a leather strop will tune up the cutting edge when stropped periodically. Buffing on a motorized buffing wheel is not recommended because it will round the cutting edge rapidly.

DETAIL 4 COMBO



The Detail Combo combines the three details knives with one of the Mini Mertz knives with a small handle. The # 3 series comes with two handle shapes, the handle shape pictured here and the handle shape illustrated in the # 1, # 2 and # 4 (as in previous photos above) The Sweet Bee # 3 has a fine curved cutting edge blade and the Sweet Bee # 3-1 has the shape of the # 1 Universal and the Sweet Bee # 3-2 has the shape of the # 2 Scimitar. The # 6-2 Mini Mertz has a thicker detail blade of the scimitar shape without extended tang.

Hand stropping on a leather strop will tune up the cutting edge when stropped periodically. Buffing on a motorized buffing wheel is not recommended because it will round the cutting edge rapidly.

SCIMITAR 4 COMBO



The Scimitar 4 Combo combines the four knives that have the basic scimitar blade shape. The # 2 and # 4 have the fatter bevel for quick roll out slicing cut. The # 8 Queen Bee has a thinner bevel for quick slicing action. The # 9 Killer Bee is the largest knife in the Signature Series. It has the thinner bevel design and is intended for removing large chips while rough shaping a carving and for making strong cuts. Once a carver gets used to the feel of using a longer bladed knife it will become a favorite.

The favorite knife becomes the one in the carver's hand while carving based upon the "feel of cut" as an extension of the carver's hand in shaping the wood. Always remember to slice with the cutting edge for the best results.

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