

BLADE

STEEL
SECRETS

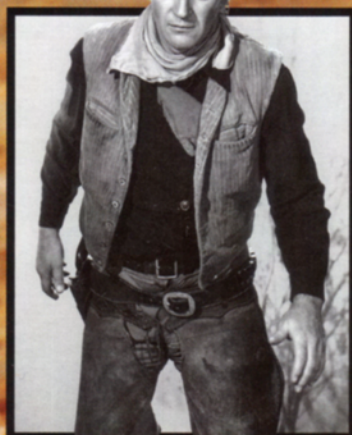
KNIFE SHARPENING DEMYSTIFIED!

SEPTEMBER 2008

BLADE

THE WORLD'S #1 KNIFE PUBLICATION

CASE AND
THE
DUKE



CASE'S NEW 52131 SS CANOE
WITH THE RED RIVER D SHIELD



GOLD STANDARDS OF
THE KNIFE INDUSTRY

THE LATEST IN
FACTORY/CUSTOMS

REBIRTHED! KNIFE
OF THE RENAISSANCE

www.blademag.com

fw

F+W PUBLICATIONS, INC.

US \$4.99



09

0 71486 50251 7

Display until August 4, 2008

factory focus
factory focus

THE MANTIS MILITIA WANTS YOU!



A parrot-beaked blade of 420HC stainless and Mantis' classic red accents top off the Caliper. The frame-lock folder is 5 inches overall in the open position.

By Dave Rhea

Mantis Knives USA

A 3 7/8-inch modified tanto blade of CPM S30V stainless, G-10 handle blocks and a titanium liner top off the MT-4 Chaos folder.



It seems that Jared West lives and breathes knives. The 27-year-old owner of Mantis Knives USA is enthusiastically immersed in the cutlery industry, and he's got a knockout line of edged beauties and a booming knife company to show for it.

"It's pretty widely known that I have been a collector since I was 10 years old," West clarified. "I've been making knives from kits since I was 17. I would buy knife kits from Jantz Supply and assemble them like model airplanes." He also spent time drawing sketches of what he thought "knives ought to look like."

A decade later, West has brought Mantis Knives to the attention of a market brimming with youthful excitement that would seem to be a perfect fit for Mantis' modern lines and forward-thinking designs.

After buying the existing inventory and machinery of GT Knives from Greg Bark and Todd Jones, West began his production

knife career in Anaheim, California.

"Todd is the nicest freaking guy ever," West enthused. "He would come up and show me how to assemble these knives and how to make modifications to his GT automatic. That was my cup of tea. I could spend all day in there doing knives."

Ultimately, Ken Onion was the final inspiration that pushed West past assembling and modifying other people's designs to eventually designing his own. And in designing, West reckoned that he'd find like-

minded and like-aged knife enthusiasts populating his customer list.

"Because my knives don't look like your grandpa's pocket-knife, I realized they would be accepted by the younger guys in the industry and the guys in the military," he pointed out.

West also appeared to know that younger people usually don't have as much money to spend, so he had to figure out a way to bring affordable knives to the table. He then crafted a business philosophy that hinged

"I'm not that different from the typical knife nut, really."
—Jared West

Gotta have it.

SAFEST FOLDERS ON THE PLANET.

AUTO LAWSKS™

Look for the red dot. Our exclusive patented* AutoLAWSKS™ mechanism turns equipped CRKT folders into virtual fixed blades. Get all the details on our web site.

www.crkt.com
Toll free 1-800-891-3100

*U.S. Patent No. 5,596,808, other patents pending.



Gotta have it.

Guppie™



Let me go to work for you.

Yes, ya gotta have a Guppie™. Adjustable wrench, knife, screwdriver with four hex bits, removable bit carrier, LED flashlight, bottle opener, and a handy carry carabiner plus a removable clip and the CRKT Limited Lifetime Warranty. It's the latest inspired design from I.D. Works™. Get all the details on our web site.

\$39.99 MSRP

I.D. Works™
CRKT INSPIRED DESIGN WORKS

www.crkt.com
Toll free 1-800-891-3100

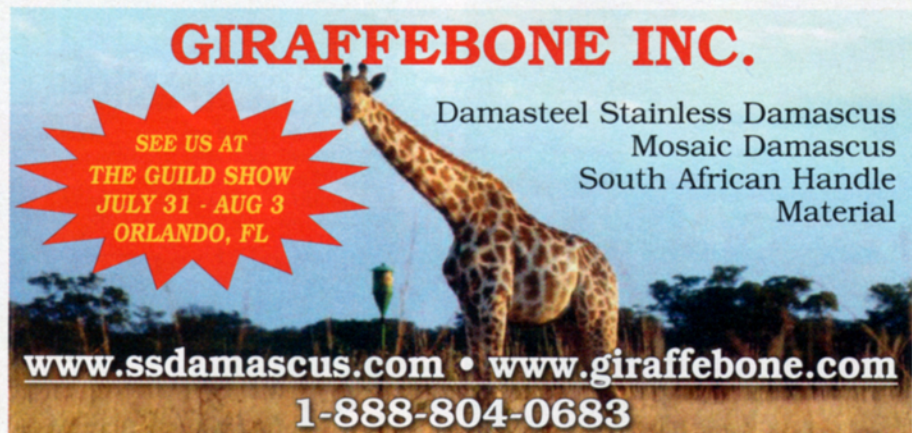


**LIGHTFOOT
KNIVES**

CATCH DOG
Blade: 4" Hollow ground BG-42
Carbon Fiber Bolsters, G-10 Scales
Titanium Liners, Skull Cracker on butt
Price: \$495.00 US

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
OF KNIFEMAKING

EXTREME JEWELRY
CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW!
WWW.LIGHTFOOTKNIVES.COM 780.846.2812



GIRAFFEBONE INC.

SEE US AT
THE GUILD SHOW
JULY 31 - AUG 3
ORLANDO, FL

Damasteel Stainless Damascus
Mosaic Damascus
South African Handle
Material

www.ssdamascus.com • www.giraffebone.com
1-888-804-0683



Lambert Knives

'Inferno'
(306) 737-2333
kirby@lambertknives.com
www.lambertknives.com

Photo: Jim Cooper



Marty Miller
marty@mmcustoms.com

800.966.3494

MM CUSTOMS

Purveyor of Fine Knives
www.mmcustoms.com

factory focus

on providing reasonably priced knives to accommodate what he accurately predicted would be younger buyers. "That was the major challenge that I faced when we first started," he admitted.

To realize his business plan, West contracted with a manufacturing company in Taiwan, which also handles some production for Buck, Benchmade, Blade-Tech and others, he said.

To make sure Mantis customers feel an extra level of personal service, the company founded its own collectors club and dubbed it the *Mantis Militia*. West said the Mantis Militia was created out of a necessity to "be one" with our customers."

"The Mantis Militia allows loyal customers to take an active role in the research and development of our newest products," he explained. "It's what real knife lovers crave. The unfortunate thing is that with the larger companies that surround us, the bureaucracy doesn't allow for this type of openness. That's a shame, because there are juicy ideas out there ready to be squeezed."

In fact, this past March and April, Mantis ran a contest among Militia members to name one of the company's latest knives—with the winning moniker being *Kunitza*. (According to West, a Kunitza is a small Russian panther, "a nasty, mean little animal that cannot be tamed. I felt that this name would be perfect for our new black beauty.")

Mantis knives are indeed distinctive in appearance. With a wide assortment of contemporary designs and a black-and-red-colored trademark look—including a red

Mantis Knives USA
Dept. BL9, attn: J. West
1580 N. Harmony Cir.
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807
714.701.9136
www.mantisknives.com

Specialties Folding and fixed-blade tactical and utility knives, most in a red-and-black color scheme; fillet (folding), boot, scuba and neck knives, skinners, keychain knives, small multi-tool knives, karambits

Blade Steels M-VX, 420 HC, 420 J2, CPM 440V, CPM S30V, BG-42, 154CM and AUS-8 stainless, most in black oxide finishes

Handles Carbon fiber, G-10, 6061-T6 anodized aluminum, and polymers

Locking Mechanisms Frame locks and locking liners

MSRP Range \$16-\$260

The MR-1 Isosceles folder sports a modified, 2.5-inch wharncliffe blade of AUS-8 stainless and a 420J2 handle. Closed length: ~4.25 inches.



circle at the pivot that echoes the company logo—Mantis knives are unmistakable.

"When the knives are laying next to each other in a glass case—which is typically how knives are sold in retail stores—people will know that the knives are sisters, brothers or cousins," he stressed. "It's a theme that runs throughout our family of knives."

He said he realizes that Mantis designs are pretty radical and that not everyone is going to "appreciate our uniqueness," adding, "I use a saying that some knifemaker told me somewhere along the way. It's the rule of thirds. Out of 10 people, you'll get three people who love your stuff, three people who absolutely hate it and three people who don't give a crap. So, basically, I'm looking to please a third of the people with my designs."

The Mantis line ranges from \$16-\$260 in manufacturer's suggested retail prices. There seems to be something for everybody at a nice selection of price points—from snazzy everyday carry knives like the MR-1 "Isosceles" (2.5-inch blade, 6.75 inches overall with a black AUS-8 blade and 420 J2 handle); to hardcore tacticals such as the fixed-blade MF-4CM "Chaos II" (3.75-inch 154CM blade, 8.25 inches overall with a G10 handle and nylon sheath); to karambits such as the MK-3 "Cinq III" folder (2.25-inch blade, 5 inches overall, black AUS-8

Only Fine Knives

VAN BARNETT
WALTER BREND
TIM BRITTON
KELLY CARLSON
FRED CARTER
FRANK CENTOFANTE
JEFF CHAFFEE
DAN CHINNOCK
MATT CONABLE
JR COOK
DON COWLES
PAT CRAWFORD
RICK DUNKERLEY
DUANE DWYER
RICK EATON
RUSSELL EASLER
ALLEN ELISHEWITZ
KAJ EMBRETSSEN
JIM ENCE
STAN FUJISAKA
BARRY GALLAGHER
RON GASTON
CHUCK GEDRAITIS
RICK GENOVESE
JIM HAMMOND
TIM HERMAN
HOWARD HITCHMOUGH



WILLIAM HENRY
B10 LUXOR, ENGRAVED
WITH BLACK LIP PEARL SCALES



HOWARD HITCHMOUGH
DAMASCUS, BLACK LIP PEARL
LOCKBACK



TIM HERMAN
ENGRAVED SLIVER



CHRIS REEVE
PACIFIC

JESS HORN
JOHN JENSEN
KIRBY LAMBERT
GREG LIGHTFOOT
JOE KIOUS
PETER MASON
CLAUDE MONTJOY
DUSTY MOULTON
WARREN OSBORNE
FRANCESCO PACHI
WD PEASE
RANDALL KNIVES
STEVEN RAPP
CHRIS REEVE KNIVES
BILL RUPLE
JOHN W SMITH
JOSH SMITH
RALPH SMITH
KEN STEIGERWALT
MICK STRIDER
STRIDER KNIVES
SHANE TAYLOR
BOB TERZUOLA
BRIAN TIGHE
MICHAEL VAGNINO
ROBERT WEINSTOCK
WILLIAM HENRY KNIVES
OWEN WOOD

www.ONLYFINEKNIVES.COM

434 738 8647

factory focus

blade and skeletal handle); to marine models like the MU-1 "Mako" diving knife (3-inch 420J2 blade, 7.25 inches overall with skeletal handle and quick-release sheath).

In addition to an array of fixed blades and folders, Mantis also offers some unorthodox little utility knives called "Necessikeys." West said his motivation for the Necessikeys came from the 2006 *Wall Street Journal* article, "How New, Deadly Pocket-knives Became a \$1 Billion Business." It is the same story that *BLADE*® panned in the November 2006 issue and drew condemna-

tion throughout the knife industry. West, though, showing his youthful, half-full-vs.-half-empty enthusiasm, found a way to turn it all into a positive.

"[In the *WSJ* story] I read about how 'technology has made blade length irrelevant,' which sparked a flurry of ideas," he maintained. "There was also one very memorable quote [in the story attributed to Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® Chuck Buck]: 'It's a testosterone thing,' as he described our tactical market being a \$1 billion dollar retail business. Basically, the article gave me both things I needed: ideas and motivation."

To arrive at his wide variety of knife styles, West draws from many influences,

Mantis offers a selection of karambits in assorted blade configurations, all with 2.25-inch blades of AUS-8 stainless and the traditional handle holes for forward, reverse and other grips. Closed lengths: ~2.75 inches.



Beckwith's Blades

AL MAR
KNIVES

The right knife...
at the right price...
for the work you do!!!

Adventure
Medical
Kits

BENCHMADE
KNIFE COMPANY

DMT

EMERSON

COLUMBIA
RIVER KNIVES

EMERSON



EMERSON

HANWEI
Knives, Inc.

KA-BAR
Knives, Inc.

Kershaw

Lane Wolf Knives

MEKWORKX

LANSKY
SHARPENERS

PROTECH
USA

SOG

SPYDERCO VICTORINOX

MICROTECH

Smith & Wesson

W&B

www.beckwithsblades.com

713-935-0886 - 10801 Hammerly Blvd., #240, Houston, TX 77043

DARREL RALPH

TRIGGER IMPULSE

EXCLUSIVE DESIGN

TITANIUM FRAME LOCK FLIPPER

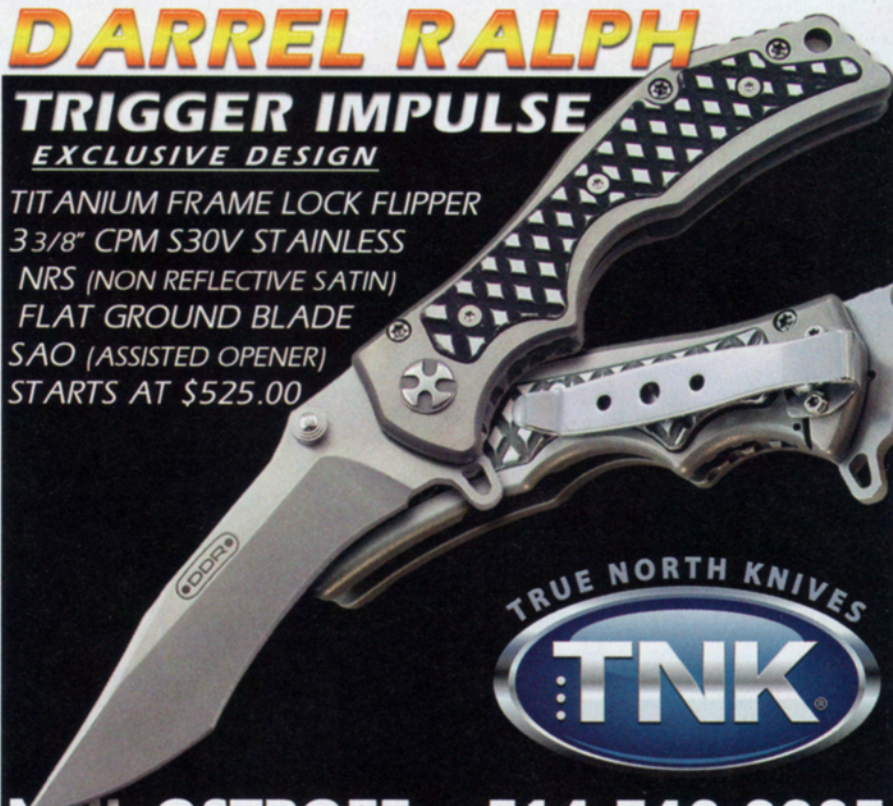
3 3/8" CPM S30V STAINLESS

NRS (NON REFLECTIVE SATIN)

FLAT GROUND BLADE

SAO (ASSISTED OPENER)

STARTS AT \$525.00



TRUE NORTH KNIVES
TNK

NEIL OSTROFF ~ 514.748.9985
WWW.TRUENORTHKNIVES.COM

though nothing has bubbled to the surface like his love of motor sports and racing.

"I love drag racing, motorcycles, boats, jets and mountain bikes," he said. "A lot of [Mantis' knife] designs were inspired by these interests—I'm not that different from the typical knife nut, really."

That is also the reason Mantis Knives sponsored Rick Wall in the 2007 NASCAR series. Now, as Mantis moves into a more global market, company officials seek new sponsorship opportunities with the Formula-1 and Le Mans racing series. "The fenders on these cars are obviously the most coveted [advertising] real estate in racing," he noted.

To ensure that Mantis continues its cutting-edge approach, West has devised his own proprietary blade material called M-VX tool steel. When asked about the specifications of his carbide-infused boutique blend, he smiled. "Wouldn't you like to know! The M-VX steel is an alloy to end all arguments. It offers the best possible combination of edge retention, resistance to corrosion and ease of re-sharpening," he explained.

Predicting the popularity of the steel, he



Seven and one-quarter inches long overall, the Mako comes in a quick-release sheath. The 3-inch blade is Teflon™-coated 420J2 stainless for maximum corrosion resistance.



Company owner Jared West is a big NASCAR/racing fan, which helps explain why Mantis helped sponsor Rick Wall in the 2007 NASCAR series. As Mantis moves into a more global market, company officials seek new sponsorship opportunities with the Formula-1 and Le Mans racing series. (Mantis photo)

indicated that other manufacturers may be knocking on his door to license its use. The first knives constructed with M-VX steel will include a new neck knife to be called the MU-5 Gyro. West said there are four new Mantis knives in the creative pipeline that have not been seen by anybody outside Mantis headquarters in Anaheim Hills, California.

"We will be working diligently on their development between now and SHOT Show 2009, when the public will catch its very first glimpse of what's in store," he related. "I can guarantee that as we move forward, we will continue to make our own impression on the industry, and bring to the market a variety of eye-catching and functional knives."

BLADE

Dirt to Dagger Class

By: ABS Mastersmith Ray Rybar

Learn the ancient mystery technology of iron smelting adjusted for the contemporary, small blacksmith shop. For more information contact Ray Rybar (602) 523-0201, 726 W. Lynwood St., Phoenix, AZ 85007 or see me at the Blade Show, table N-17



HAWKINS KNIFE MAKING SUPPLIES

110 BUCKEYE RD., FAYETTEVILLE, GA 30214

PHONE 770-964-1023 FAX 770-306-2877

Contact us for your

Knifemaking Supplies and Equipment!

www.HawkinsKnifeMakingSupplies.com

Send \$2.00 for Complete Listing • ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



Knife by Barry Davis



PARAGON SPORTS®

New York's Finest Sports Specialty Store

18th Street and Broadway, NYC 10003 (212) 255-8036

WWW.MYKNIFEDEALER.COM

Featuring:

Unique custom and production knives

OFFERING:

"Local dealer" service with

"Internet dealer" Pricing

"A.G. Barnes"



Phone: 800.207.6615

Email: blade@myknifedealer.com

LYNN O OLSON