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'Arrotino' English Paring Knife Sharpening Guide

The guide is designed for use with the English pattern paring knife. It is simple to operate, and even inexperienced users can produce outstanding results.

It does not need expensive waterstones or elaborate sharpening systems; all that is required are readily available 'wet or dry' papers. These will stick, when wet, to a variety of smooth, non- absorbent surfaces including limestone, marble, granite or even Formica.

Blunt, rounded or damaged blades can be restored by using coarse grits to start with, (say 200 or 400) and then moving on to intermediate grits (600 or 800) and finishing with, say, 3000 grit for a fine mirror finish. After that the blade should only need honing with a fine grit to maintain a keen edge.

Instructions For Use

- 1 Slacken locking nut.
- 2 Slide blade into slot, bevel side down, until it touches the locking bolt. (fig 1)



fig 1

- 3 Align blade in guides and tighten locking nut. Do not over-tighten, finger-tight will do.
- 4 Place the pre-soaked 'wet or dry' paper on a smooth, non-absorbent surface.

- 5 With moderate pressure at the front of the blade run the guide back and forth using 4"-6" strokes. Use only enough pressure on the rear of the guide to allow it to move smoothly. (fig 2)



fig 2

- 6 Inspect the blade after every 15-20 strokes to check progress. Marking the bevelled area with a permanent marker helps to check that all areas are in contact with the abrasive surface.
- 7 Change the grade of paper as required.
- 8 The final tip-bevel can be obtained by placing two pieces of 2.5mm or 3.0mm card under the wheels for the last few strokes with the fine grit paper. (fig 3)



fig 3

- 9 Finish the process in the normal way with a leather strop.

NOTE - When using the guide, as shown in figs.2 and 3, take care to keep your fingers away from the abrasive paper. It is easy to rub the skin off the finger tips without realising it especially with fine grit papers.