

## Milling Machine Used To Make "Rasp File Knife"

Greg Korner recently sent photos of a big, "sword-style" rasp file knife that he made using his Bridgeport milling machine.

The knife measures 16 1/2 in. long overall and was made from an old flat rasp bar from a farrier shop. The blade is hollow-ground on both sides and has a rounded end. The teeth on the rasp bar show through at the middle on both sides of the blade.

The file was originally 5/16 in. thick. Korner ground it down 10 thousandths of an inch on each side in order to smooth out the rasp "teeth".

Korner made the knife for Brian Vigar of Lancer, Sask., who called Korner after reading an article on "rasp file knives" in FARM SHOW (Vol. 41, No. 1).

"This is one heavy-duty knife. It looks a lot like a small Roman Centurion sword," says Korner. "Vigar has a knife collection and wanted to add to his collection."

"Using a bench grinder to make a file knife this big would have taken a long time, and it would have been very difficult to produce

uniform, hollow-ground edges on a knife this big."

The Bridgeport milling machine has a 39-in. long table that can be moved back and forth, and a head that mounts on a turret allowing it to be rotated 360 degrees. Korner fitted it with a big 10-in. dia. aluminum oxide grinding wheel.

"I moved the table back and forth to grind the edge of the blade strip by strip, raising the table as needed. Once I reached the center line of the blade I removed the clamp and flipped the blade over so I could grind the other side," says Korner. "The knife is precision ground from one end to the other, and the blade edges are as sharp as a razor blade."

He used an ordinary bench grinder to make the rounded nose and added a mahogany handle with brass rivets.

Vigar paid \$250 for the knife.

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Brian Vigar got in touch with Greg Korner after reading an article in FARM SHOW about Korner's knives made out of files and rasps. Vigar says this unusual sword-like knife, fashioned on a Bridgeport milling machine, will be a unique addition to his knife collection.

## Manure Spreader Collection Steadily Grows Bigger

When Randy Schoenfish and his son-in-law, Brian Beran, saw a restored manure spreader in a parade, they caught the bug. Today they have 66 spreaders, with a dozen fully restored and the remainder in various stages of repair.

Schoenfish had a couple of restored tractors he would take to a local antique tractor show. He and Beran decided to restore a spreader to go with one of them that matched the featured brand the coming year.

"When we decided to restore a second spreader the following year, that's when the disease kicked in," jokes Schoenfish. "One of our goals became having a spreader from each major equipment line. We're still looking for a Co-op brand spreader and a Blackhawk."

His list of brands are a who's who of farm equipment, from full lines like Cockshutt, IHC, John Deere, Allis Chalmers, Case, Massey Harris, Oliver and Minneapolis Moline. Short lines like New Idea, New Holland, Patz, Shuler, Schultz and Kelly Ryan are also well represented.

"There are so many short lines; I know we will never get them all," says Schoenfish.

There is some duplication (8 IHC No. 100's). However, most are singles, including a MML S300 that belonged to Randy's wife's parents and a John Deere L that belonged to Randy's parents. Some are rubber-tired, while others are steel wheeled. They include 2 and 4-wheel models.

Some are more unusual than others, like the IH 103 with a long drive belt to power it or the AC 110 and Galloway spreaders with their front unloading action.

"The front unloading spreaders were pretty heavy on the front end, so that probably provided traction for the tractor," says Schoenfish. "They have a hood to protect the driver. Inside the hood are propellers that appear to throw the manure out to either side. The mechanisms are similar to old end gate feeders. I would love to hear from readers who are familiar with them."

Prices paid vary as well, based on the shape the spreader was in plus its rarity. About 2/3 of his spreaders cost less than \$500, with many in the \$150 or less group. Schoenfish has paid as little as \$20 for a 4-wheel, New Idea 10A in poor shape. His top price was

\$3,000 for a Ferguson No. A-JO-20 that was already fully restored.

"That seems like a lot of money until you figure the cost of new tires, labor and materials that go into a manure spreader restoration," says Schoenfish. "Not many people collect manure spreaders because they can get so rusty and worn out. Sometimes all you get is a frame. Then you find a manual and start buying lumber."

Schoenfish notes that parts are often hard to find, and they have to rely on a machine shop to make a missing piece. One shop in a local Hutterite community often makes up decals for his spreaders as well.

"So many brands have merged or changed. You can't get a decal, so I'll find a picture of one and draw it out, figure out the colors and the print shop will make it for me," says Schoenfish.

A CPA by trade, Schoenfish relies on Beran and a cousin, Glen Ziegler, to do much of the restorations.

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"Before" pic shows an Allis Chalmers 110 front-unload manure spreader as it was when Randy Schoenfish and Brian Beran bought it.



"After" pic shows the results of months of work by the two men. They have 66 spreaders in their collection.

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