

A Survival and Bushcraft Technique

Batoning



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1. What is Batoning

Batoning is a survival and bushcraft technique of chopping wood with a knife into small pieces that are easy to burn.

Wood-chopping with an ax and hatchet

You can make use of the power by swinging them or the weight of them to chop wood. It is essential to have the necessary skills and maintain a careful posture to avoid injuries due to the flying tip of the ax, firewood, and the blade, which may stick to your body.

Batoning with a bushcraft knife

Place the knife blade on top of the wood. Strike the spine of the blade. Consequently, the wood splits little by little. This method is relatively safer than using an ax or a hatchet. Also, this method does not require physical strength. Therefore, everyone can enjoy chopping wood.



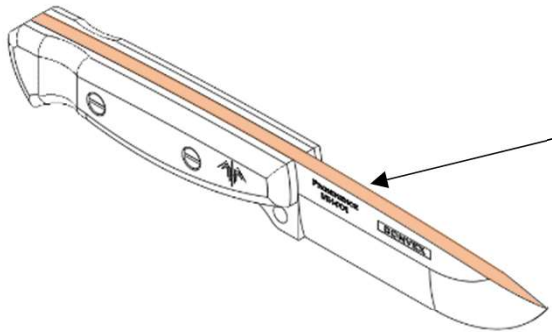
2. Suitable knives for batoning

The sturdiness of the knife is essential because batoning involves repeatedly striking the spine of the blade.

Recommended : Full tang knife(Bushcraft Knife Prominence MH-001)

A Full Tang knife has a single piece of metal that runs from the cutting edge to the end of the knife. It is sturdy against striking, However, be aware that the flexibility and thickness of the steel will make a difference in rigidity.

The recommended spec for blade Hardness: HRC60 or less
Thickness: 4mm or more



The full tang structure is a type of knife where the blade and handle are integrated, with the blade sandwiched and fixed within the handle.

Not-recommended : Hidden Tang(e.g. Mora Knives)

Inexpensive knives have resin handles, which may cause the handle to apart from the blade and breaks the inside of the structure when batoning. The inside structure of the handles is invisible and the blade inside is usually skinny and short.



Cost reduction is achieved internally. The striking impact is low, and internal breakage may occur.

Not-recommended : Folding knives(e.g. Victorinox)

Portable and vulnerable to impact due to its folding mechanism. Breakage may occur.

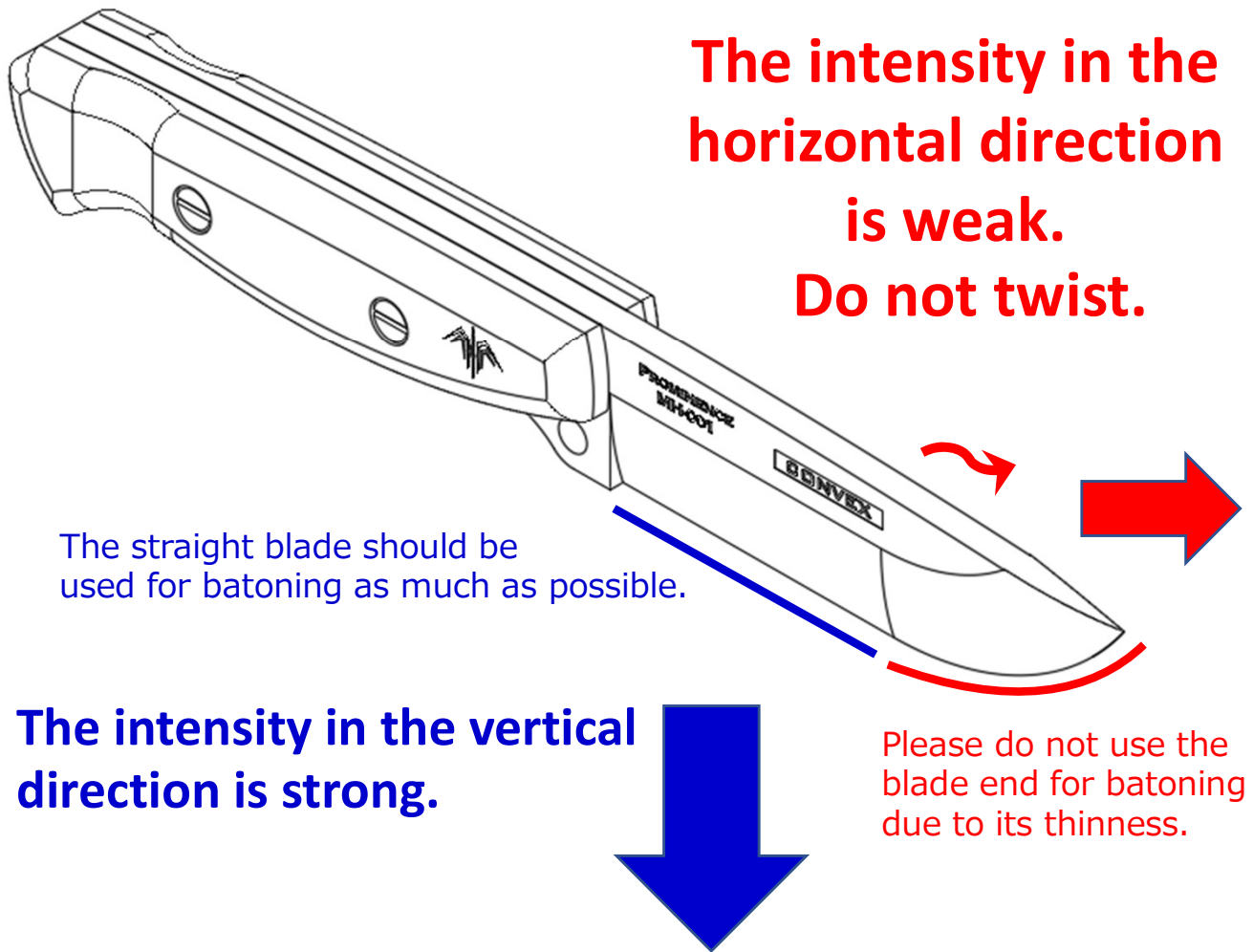


Due to the rotating mechanism, it does not have impact strength.



Knives and blades are sturdy for vertical direction and weak for horizontal one.

Incorrect usage may result in chipping or breakage of the blade. Therefore, make sure to consider the wood's cutting direction, grain, and hardness while batoning.



The intensity in the horizontal direction is weak. Do not twist.

The straight blade should be used for batoning as much as possible.

The intensity in the vertical direction is strong.

Please do not use the blade end for batoning due to its thinness.



Please be aware of the following two laws when using and carrying knives in Japan. In the worst case, you may be arrested.

1. Firearms and Swords Possession Control Law
(Japan's Firearms Control Law)
2. Japan's Petty Offence Law
(prohibition of concealing a weapon)

3. Type of firewood

There are two types of firewood. Choosing a suitable one is essential for the campfire.

1. Conifer (cedar, cypress, pine, etc.)

With the fine air holes inside and low specific gravity, they are suitable for ignition.

- Easy to ignite
- Burns out in a short time
- Easy to chop
- Few burls and knots

2. Broadleaf tree (oak, Quercus autosome, zelkova, birch, etc.)

As the wood is dense and heavy, the wood is often used to keep the fire burning for a long time. Due to the hardness and the fibers of the wood, it is not recommended for batoning.

- Hard to ignite
- It burns for a long time
- Difficult to chop
- Many bumps and knots

(An ax is suitable to use this type of wood.)

Specific Gravity of Conifers

Cedar	0.38g/cm ³
Cypress	0.18-0.30g/cm ³
pine	0.47g/cm ³

Specific gravity of Broadleaf

Oak	0.67g/cm ³
Sawtooth	0.82g/cm ³
Zelkova	0.69g/cm ³
White birch	0.62g/cm ³

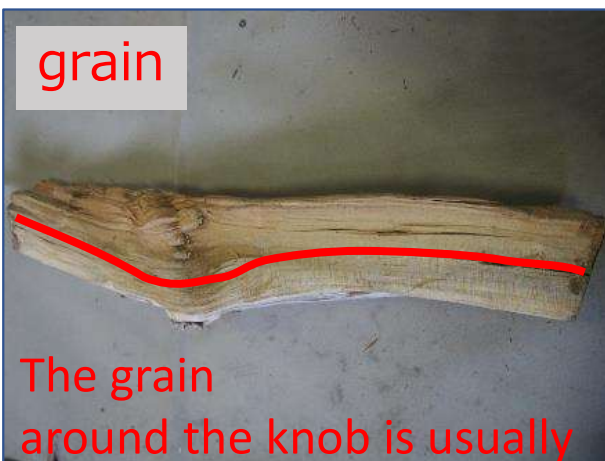
※Amount of Water:1.0g/cm³

Lower numbers indicate that the woods are batoning-prone and burnable.



Broadleaf tree

Conifer



The grain around the knob is usually not straight.



There are almost no bumps, and the wood grain is straight and easy to split.

4. Batoning technique

By cutting the right way, you can enjoy batoning safely and have no damage to the knife.

Tools for batoning

- 1) Wood (e.g., Conifers)
- 2) Knife (recommended: full tang, 4mm thickness or more)
- 3) Gloves
- 4) Firewood splitting stand (Approx. 10 cm high; or hard and flat ground is applicable.)
- 5) Batoning mallet (A firewood is applicable for replacement.)

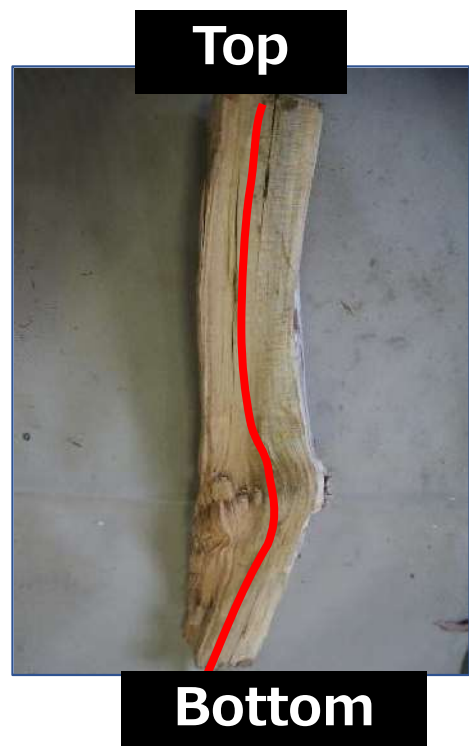
Batoning procedures :

- 1) Select woods
 - *Select woods that have split-prone thickness and wood grain.
- 2) Place the firewood in the center of the firewood splitting stand.
 - ✂️Apply a careful inspection on the wood grain, and stand the straight grain end of the firewood upwards.

Not good : Too big wood



The maximum thickness of the wood is approximately 60% of the width of the blade.



- 3) Place the knife at least 1 cm away from the root of the knife against the wood.



- 4) Strike the knife's spine until it sinks into the firewood. The point of impact is right above the firewood (in the middle of the blade). Do not strike the blade end to begin your cut.



Strike the back of the knife positioned directly above the wood.

5) Strike the blade end once you have the knife started.



If the wood is too big, the blade end of the knife won't be struck, and the knife will get stuck in the wood. It's important to choose the right size of the wood.

6) Continue striking the blade end until the wood splits.
Our knife splits wood when it sinks about 1/3, however, general knives may be different and they need to keep striking until the bottom of the wood.



No need to strike the firewood to the end.

If it splits to some extent, and if the bark is connected, tear it off by hand.

The blade will last longer if the knife does not touch the bottom.

Reference:

The suitable size for feathering is 1 to 2 cm square. We recommend using fat wood containing pine resin.



Bush Craft Tinder Wood
1,000g JPY2,266 (Amazon)

5. Cautionary Notes

Using a knife can be dangerous.

Please pay attention to the following key points and enjoy your outdoor life.

- (1) Wear safety equipment (gloves) while batoning. The thorns of the chopped firewood may stick to your body.
- (2) Baton in a situation where no one is around you in the extension of the blade.
- (3) While batoning, firewood may fly sideways. Please make sure that no one is on your right and left.
- (4) The knife may fall and cause injury. Please be careful and try to prevent from falling it.
- (5) If the knife gets stuck in the wood while batoning, do not twist it to get it out. Move it straight up or down. Please do not to point the blade end at yourself.

We have a regrinding service (fee) at a knife specialist company exclusively for our Muthos Homura members. Please feel free to contact us if your blade is chipped.



Enjoy your outdoor life