

## HOW LONG WILL AN EDGE LAST

How long will an edge last? Depends on the user, what he is cutting, how the blade is ground and sharpened, the hardness and the steel grade. Pretty much in that order I think. It also very much depends on how fussy you are about sharp.

I have been hunting elk for the last 8 years with Weathered Horn outfitters in Utah. I missed last year but have been going to get a cow elk for meat in previous years and in 2004 splurged and went for a bull. I do most of the knife work on these trips so I can field test knives I make. Four of the guides have my knives one is 90v and 3 are 10V. I check with these guys on how the knives are doing from time to time. They all are pretty good at sharpening so what they report I think would be pretty typical of hard field use. In 2004 when I got to camp I asked one of them how his knife (10V) was doing. He said great and so far he had field dressed and skinned 4 bull elk with it. I asked to see the knife and it was dull by my standards. I tried it on cardboard and it sliced ok but not cleanly. He was ready to use it again on the next elk. I can see how if you are not too fussy about sharp, a knife could last on many animals. I used a 4 inch CPM 90V blade on the bull I got in 2004. There was snow on the ground and I got it down in a draw and he rolled down through the snow and mud. We had to quarter it so the pcs would fit on the ATV's. The guide and I both worked on this one since it was getting dark and cold and time to get out of there. The next day I finished skinning the quarters and carcass and boned out all the meat. I used the same knife for most of it but did use a fillet knife to do some trimming work. When I was done with all that the knife was dull. You could say that this knife was only good for one elk under these conditions (mud and dirt on the hide) but that's by my standards. It was sharp again with just a few strokes on the SC stone. A white tail in the woods that was down on leaves or grass would be much cleaner and I could see how a blade could stay sharp a long time with that kind of work. I think you can compare the knife strokes needed for skinning a deer to be comparable to slicing cardboard. If that is the case then with CPM 30V for example you can cut hundreds of feet of cardboard before you notice it getting dull. That would be a lot of deer. This is a little bit of a hunting story combined with some actual field use. Maybe helps to put some perspective on the whole question of how long a blade can stay sharp. "It depends"