



AGDOR

HANDFORGED AXES

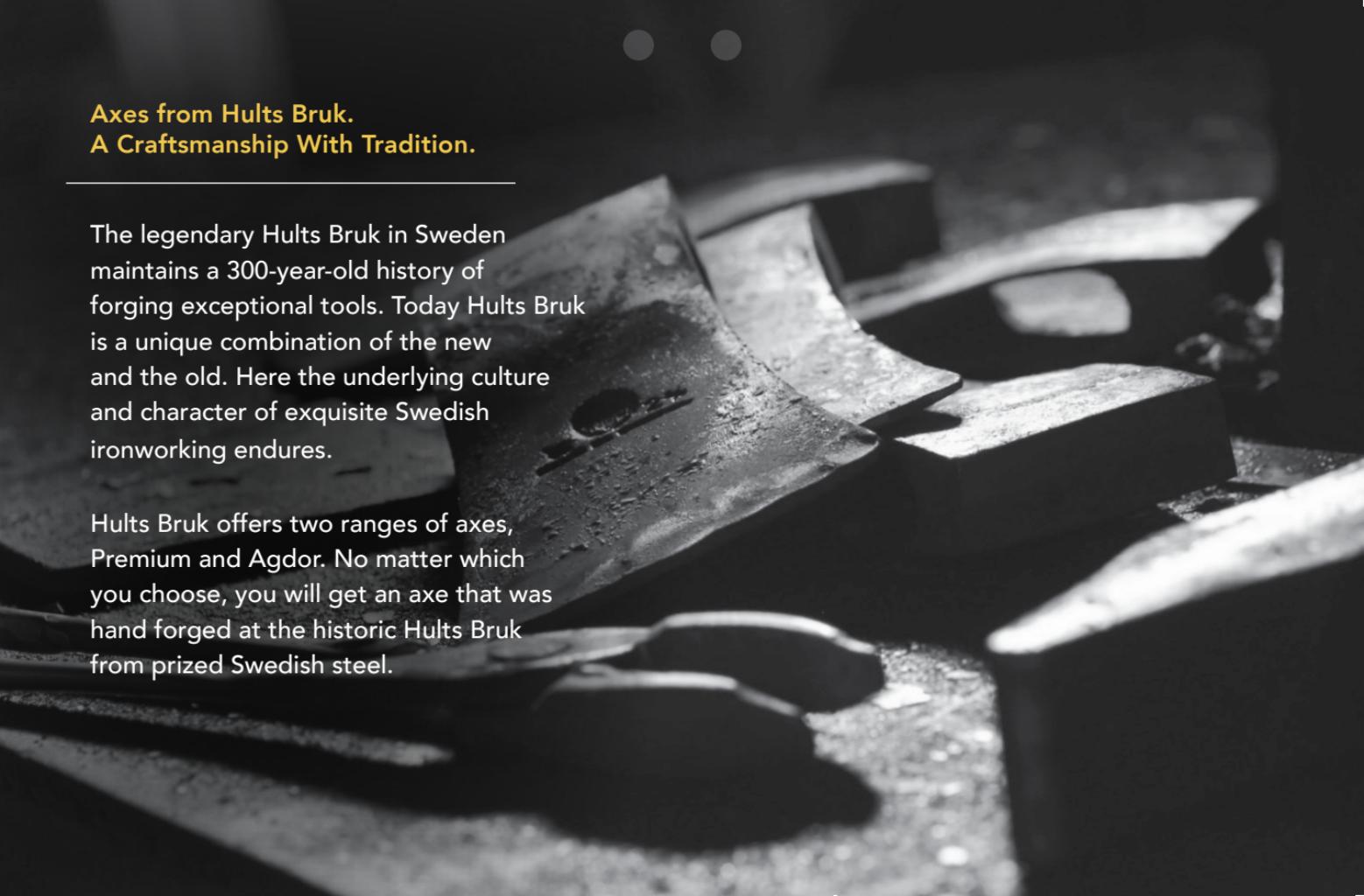
HULTS  BRUK

MADE IN SWEDEN SINCE 1697

Axes from Hults Bruk. A Craftsmanship With Tradition.

The legendary Hults Bruk in Sweden maintains a 300-year-old history of forging exceptional tools. Today Hults Bruk is a unique combination of the new and the old. Here the underlying culture and character of exquisite Swedish ironworking endures.

Hults Bruk offers two ranges of axes, Premium and Agdor. No matter which you choose, you will get an axe that was hand forged at the historic Hults Bruk from prized Swedish steel.





THE CLASSIC AGDOR RANGE was inspired by traditional North American axe patterns of the late 19th century. In a time when axes were the most important tools for the logging industry, Agdor axes became the preferred choice for lumberjacks around the world. Agdor axes were chosen for the outstanding quality of the steel and forging. The Agdor brand of axes became especially popular in regions with hard and difficult wood, and woodsmen would pay a month's wages or more for an Agdor axe that was made on the other side of the globe.

From the start Hults Bruk axes were sold under several different names such as "Flecha" in South America, "Jarrah Jack" in Australia and "Tiger" in South East Asia. But with time Agdor came to stand out as the most widespread, enduring brand and has been a mainstay of the Hults Bruk axe range for nearly 100 years.

THE NAME AGDOR is believed to stem from the Rodga mansion, part of the 16,000-acre Hults Bruk estate at the time. Agdor is simply Rodga spelled backwards. This line of axes launched during a time of renewal at Hults Bruk. Traditional Swedish axe patterns were being replaced with newer North American patterns, better steel alloys significantly improved the quality of the axes, and new forging machines were introduced to meet growing demand.

The Agdor axe family, distinguished by the dark blue axe head and yellow vintage label, offer a high-quality range of felling axes, splitting axes and hatches. Each axe is hand forged at Hults Bruk using the very best Swedish steel then it undergoes a three-stage grinding before being mounted on American hickory handles.

Finally, each axe features a US-made leather sheath constructed by expert leathermakers in North Carolina, a tribute to axes inspired by North American axe making traditions, featuring Yankee patterns and American hickory handles.



Take care of your axe and it will be
a companion for years to come.



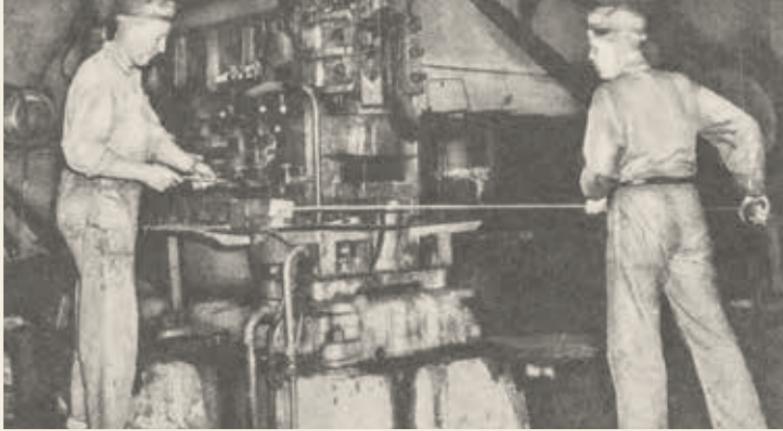
Earliest known image of an
Hults Bruk axe, 1884.



Early catalogue, 1890.



An early Agdor axe from the 1930s.
The first ones were black and usually
sold without handles.



Axe forging, around 1940s.



Fletcha was one of many
names that Hults Bruk
axes were sold under.



Add from around 1940s.

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS the axe has been an extension of the arm for human kind. With the help of the axe, man has been able to find his way through unspoiled nature, construct dwellings and butcher wild game.

While the axe has always been a survival tool at the same time it has offered freedom and independence. Those with a sharp axe could defend themselves at all times and also prosper.

Today we no longer need the axe for survival but it still helps us to solve a number of practical tasks in everyday life while assisting lovers of the outdoors to enrich their leisure time.

With the axe being a part of our cultural heritage, the blacksmith has an essential role in this story both in preserving the axe tradition for coming generations and more importantly, in giving the axe user ultimate satisfaction and utility in the use of the axe.

A blacksmith's workbench is shown in a dark, industrial setting. A long, rectangular piece of raw steel is heated until it glows bright red and orange with intense heat. It lies on a dark, textured anvil. A blacksmith's hammer rests on the hot metal, its head partially visible. In the background, large, heavy-duty blacksmithing tools like tongs and a bellows are visible, though out of focus. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the incandescent glow of the steel against the dark surroundings.

The axe head is shaped by the blacksmith from a single piece of raw steel.

From the Hulta Valley to Countries Around the World.

Hults Bruk was originally founded in 1697 in the Hulta Valley in southeastern Sweden. Forging by hand began with nails for shipbuilding and making iron bars.

Later came the forging of metal sheets, anchor chains and castings followed by hand tools such as axes and spades used by farmers in the region for work in the forests and in the fields. By 1870 axes had become a major part of Hults Bruk's production. The then owner, an ironmaster named Ekelund, bought two new axe forging machines in 1877 to meet the demand.

The end of the Nineteenth century was a turbulent period in Sweden. The Industrial Revolution brought changes across Europe. As a result of major developments in all facets of society, more energy was needed.

The increased importance of forestry and the cutting down of trees consequently created the need for many more axes.

Today Hults Bruk is a combination of the new and the old but our basic culture has not changed over the years. The striving of each individual blacksmith to always do his very best while relying on a time-honored tradition has resulted in Hults Bruk axes being famous throughout the world.



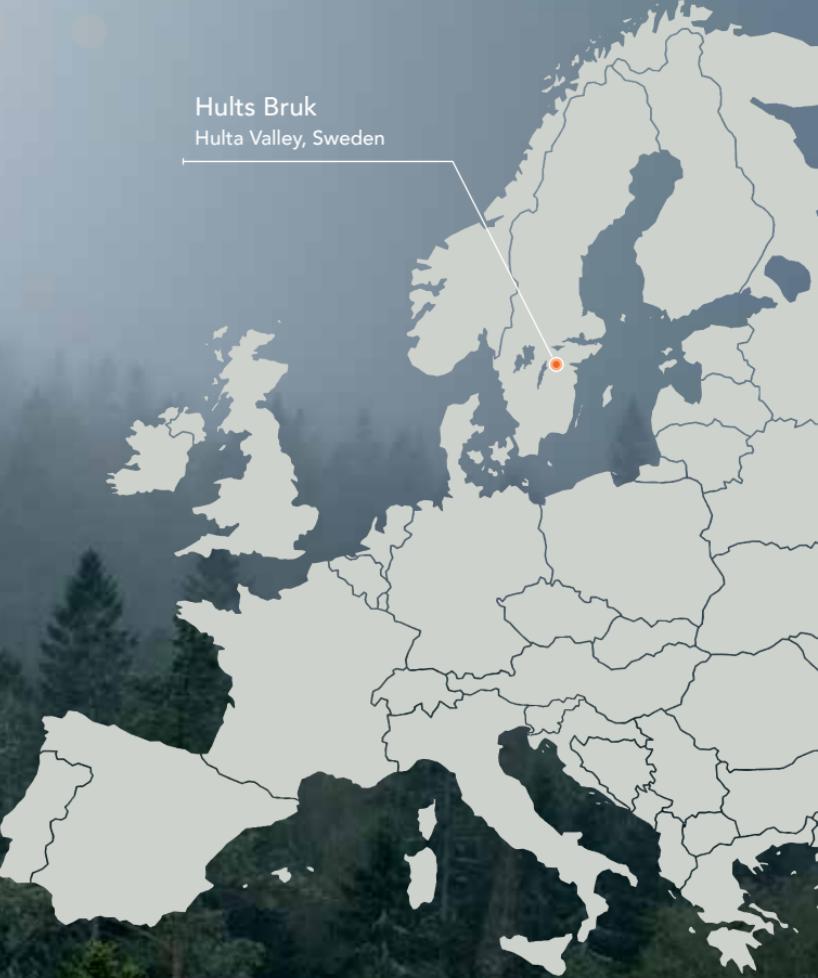
At the International World Exhibition in Paris 1900, Hults Bruk won a medal for outstanding design, just one of the awards earned over the years.

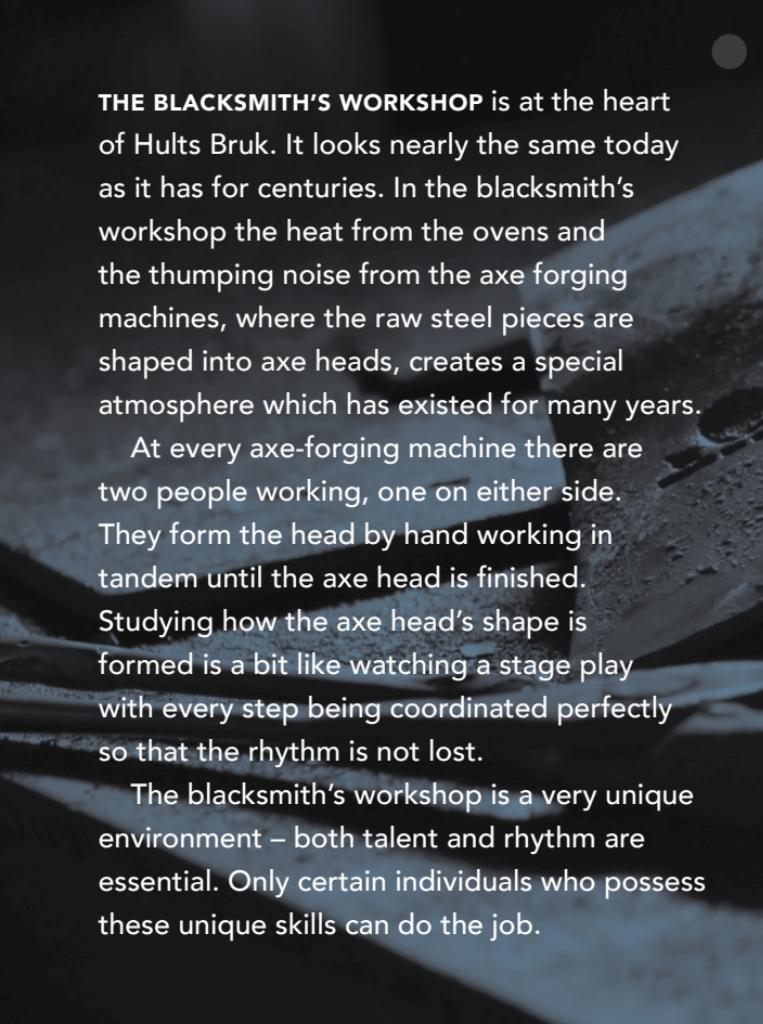
58°40'22.3"N
16°07'48.2"E

Sweden is located in northern Europe in the eastern part of the Scandinavian peninsula. It is bordered by Norway in the west, Finland in the northeast and Denmark in the southwest.

Hults Bruk was originally founded in 1697 in the Hult Valley in southeastern Sweden.

Hults Bruk
Hulta Valley, Sweden





THE BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP is at the heart of Hults Bruk. It looks nearly the same today as it has for centuries. In the blacksmith's workshop the heat from the ovens and the thumping noise from the axe forging machines, where the raw steel pieces are shaped into axe heads, creates a special atmosphere which has existed for many years.

At every axe-forging machine there are two people working, one on either side. They form the head by hand working in tandem until the axe head is finished. Studying how the axe head's shape is formed is a bit like watching a stage play with every step being coordinated perfectly so that the rhythm is not lost.

The blacksmith's workshop is a very unique environment – both talent and rhythm are essential. Only certain individuals who possess these unique skills can do the job.



Hults Bruk
around 1890



The staff
around 1900



Hults Bruk mansion

From Raw Material to a Ready-Made Axe.

In its most basic form the axe is a simple hand tool made from a piece of steel attached to a wooden handle. However, the production of an axe is not as simple as it seems. To forge a hot piece of steel into an axe head and mill out a handle from a raw piece of wood is not easy. It takes years to become skilled and coordinated in the production art.

The work starts by placing a piece of steel in an oven to make it soft enough to reshape. When the heated steel reaches the correct color the two blacksmiths start to forge and when they are satisfied with the shape of the head they finish it by stamping the well-known "HB" mark into the axe head.

It is important that the edge of the axe is strong and solid. The hardening master is responsible for giving the edge the correct hardness and ensuring that it will not be brittle. This is done by heating up the axe head and cooling it rapidly.

The unique craftsmanship of a Hults Bruk piece is evident when examining the axe.

The rough forging surface gives each axe head its own special character which makes each axe unique. For the handles we only use top quality American hickory and the axe is hung with care and precision using both a wooden and a steel wedge. Finally, the leather sheath is fitted to give important protection against the sharp cutting edge of the head.



One hundred years ago the head blacksmith was called the master and was given a cow, a pig and servants.

Taking Care of Your Axe

The axe is a robust hand tool that can withstand hard use. But the owner must be prepared to invest in some care to keep it in optimal condition. After using your axe, you should always remove dirt and moisture before putting on the sheath.

If you intend to store the axe for a longer period, you should put some oil or grease on the axe head to avoid rust. The edge is the part of the axe that will bear the most wear during use. To achieve optimum performance from your axe you should keep your axe in well maintained condition.



For a wealth of information about how to properly take care of your Hults Bruk axe, please visit our website at hultsbruks1697.se/blog

Popular topics include:

- Easy Axe Handle Finishes
 - Hults Bruk Axe Maintenance and Modifications.
 - Axe Maintenance and Care.
 - How to Sharpen an Axe.
 - How to replace an Axe Handle.
- ... among other useful information.

Axes from Hults Bruk embody genuine craftsmanship and when used correctly, they can last a lifetime. Each axe is checked carefully before delivery but if a production fault should occur, we will be happy to honor the warranty.

Storage and Use

Never store your axe in excessively dry places, for example, in boiler rooms or leaning against a heater. You then risk the shaft drying out and the axe head coming loose during use.

Never strike the neck of the axe with another tool or use the axe as a sledge.



Safety Information

CAUTION: For User and Bystanders. Use with approved eye protection to protect from debris. Flying debris can result in eye or other injury. Use cutting edge for cutting wood only. Contact with hard object can result in blade or head chipping. Do not use to strike with or against another tool, hardened nail, or other object. Do not use if blade is dull, chipped, or otherwise damaged or if handle is broken or loose.

The blade is sharp, handle with care. Contact with blade can result in injury. When not in use, store in a safe place. Keep out of reach of children. Protect it against moisture.



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