





**1697**

HULTS  BRUK

**2022**

325 year anniversary

## Tradition Since 1697

Hults Bruk was founded in 1697 in the Hult Valley of south-eastern Sweden. The site was carefully chosen with forests that could yield wood which would fuel the fires and water that could power the hammers. Coincidentally, the chosen site was once a center for stone age axe production. The ground is full of old stone age axe heads which archaeologists believe were produced here on an almost industrial scale 5000 years ago. But back when our hammers first started working, ship nails were the main product. The hand forged nails quickly became known for their premium quality and were exported far beyond Swedish borders, just like our axes continue to be, centuries later.

Today, Hults Bruk is a unique combination of the new and the old. Still, as in 1697, the craftsmanship of the blacksmiths is the heart of it all and the culture and character of exquisite Swedish ironworking endures.

For thousands of years the axe has been an extension of the arm for humankind. With the help of the axe, man has been able to find his way through unspoiled nature, construct dwellings and butcher wild game. The axe has been a survival tool while at the same time it has offered freedom and independence. Those who had a sharp axe could always defend themselves and prosper.

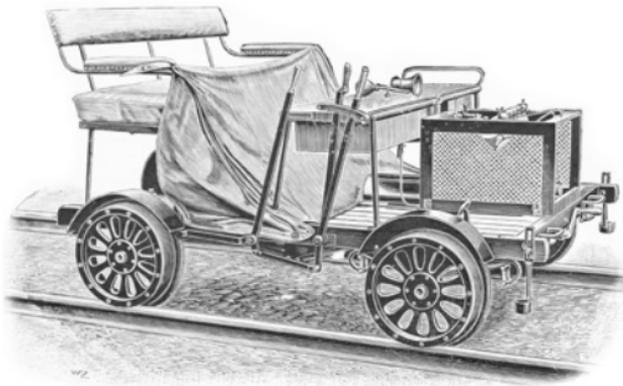
Today we no longer need the axe for survival but it still helps us solve a number of practical tasks in everyday life while assisting those who appreciate the outdoors to enrich their leisure time.

With the axe being a part of our cultural heritage, the blacksmith has an essential role 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 his axe.



## From Nails to Cars

Over the centuries Hults Bruk expanded into a wide range of items such as forged metal sheets and anchor chains, castings of furniture and stoves followed by axes and spades used by farmers in the region for work in the forests and in the fields.



In the late 1800s even railcars were manufactured at Hults Bruk.



## The Age of the Axe

By the 1870s axes had become a major part of Hults Bruk's production. This was a turbulent period when the Industrial Revolution brought changes across Europe. As a result of major developments in all facets of society the demand for forestry products grew and with that so did the demand for axes. The owner of Hults Bruk at the time, an ironmaster named Ekelund, bought two new axe forging machines in 1877 to meet the demand. With time the reputation of Hults Bruk axes grew and during the 20th century they were exported all around the world.

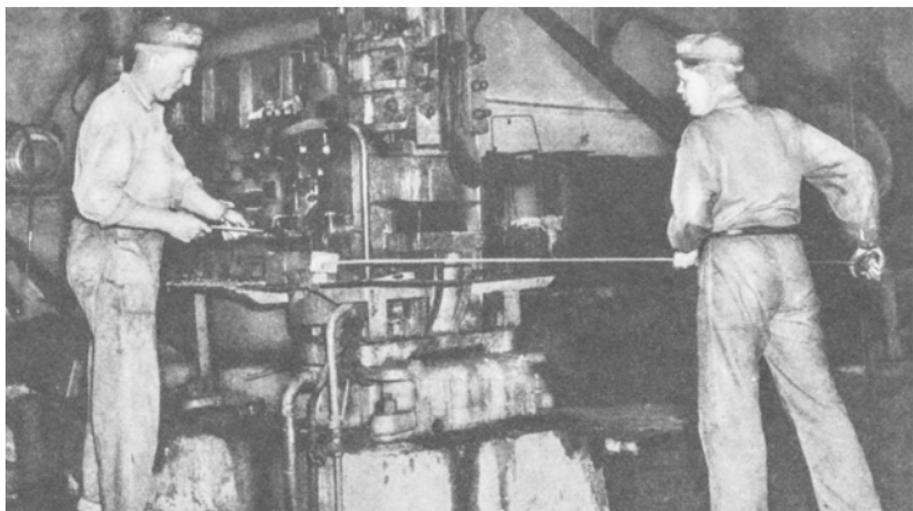


AT THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD EXHIBITION IN PARIS 1900,  
HULTS BRUK WON A MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING DESIGN,  
JUST ONE OF THE AWARDS EARNED OVER THE YEARS.

Nis 1—4.



Nis 38—40.



## Hults Bruk Axes Around the World

Hults Bruk axes have been 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 widely distributed, enduring brand and has been a mainstay of the Hults Bruk axe range for nearly 100 years. 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 up to a month’s wages or more for an Agdor axe that was made on the other side of the globe.



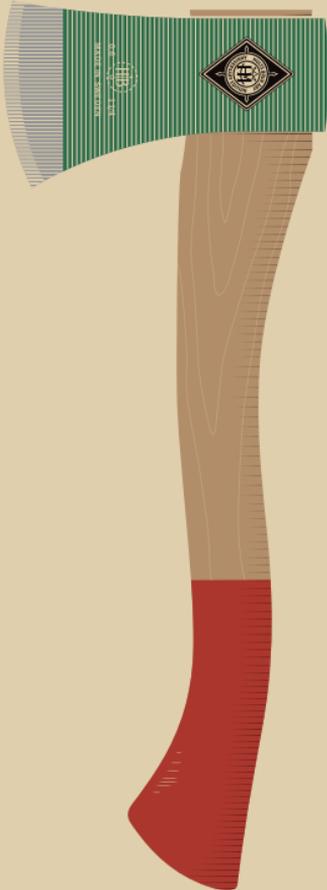

## HULTS BRUK, ANNIVERSARY AXE

This axe celebrates 325 years of forging tradition at Hults Bruk. The design is inspired by some of our favorite Hults Bruk axe models from the past.

In the 1870 the ironmaster Ekelund ventured to America. He brought back not only new production techniques, but also hickory handles and axe designs such as Montreal and Yankee patterns. With time these became some of our most popular and enduring axe models. The head of our Anniversary axe, with a gross weight of 0.6 kg (21 ounces), is that of a classic Yankee pattern and the bit is finished with a premium grind.

It is hand forged from Swedish quality steel, a hallmark of Hults Bruk axes. We have fitted it with a hickory handle and a sustainably sourced leather sheath which was manufactured in Sweden from a vegetable tanned, full-grain leather. Included with the axe you will also find a key ring with a decorative and commemorative ship's nail as a reminder of how our forging tradition began.

HULTS BRUK, ANNIVERSARY AXE



BARCELONA 1889.

KALMAR 1899.

ADÉLAÏDE 1897.

MELBOURNE 1890.



# ILLUSTRERAD KATALOG

ÖFVER

# HULTS BRUKS



# YXTILLVERKNINGAR.

ERKENNEDIPLOM WIEN 1890.



KÖPENHAMN  
1890.

ALLM. SVENSKA LANDTBRUKSMÖTET  
1890.

ÖSTERGÖTLANDS LÄN  
1890.

WESTERÅS  
1890.

Lithografiska Aktie-Bolaget, Norrköping.

## HULTS BRUK, ANNIVERSARY AXE



The label and the shape of the handle are inspired by some of the oldest documented axes from Hults Bruk, found in a catalogue from the 1890s. The label contains an old logotype with the initials HM which stands for “Hults Manufaktur”.



Over the years our axes have been available in a wide range of colors. The red and green of the anniversary axe model have been borrowed from our Agdor range that was introduced in the 1930, and made Hults Bruk famous around the world. This particular green was inspired by axes sold in Sweden in the middle of the 20th century and the red handle was a common feature on many Agdor models during the later half of the 20th century.

## HULTS BRUK, ANNIVERSARY AXE



## 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 so simple. To forge a hot piece of steel into an axe head and to mill out a handle from a raw piece of wood is a complex task. It takes years to become skilled and coordinated in the craft.

The work starts by super heating each piece of steel in an oven to make it soft enough to reshape. When the heated steel reaches the correct red color the two blacksmiths start to forge. 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 every axe is evident when examining it closely. The rough forging surface gives each axe head its own special character, making each axe unique.

For the handles we use only top quality American hickory. The mounting of the handle is done by hand using both a wooden and a steel wedge. Finally, the leather sheath is fitted to give essential protection against the sharp cutting edge of the head.



## Life in the Blacksmith's Workshop

The blacksmith's workshop is the beating heart of Hults Bruk. It looks almost the same today as it has for centuries. Here the heat from the ovens and the thumping noise from the axe forging machines shaping raw pieces of steel into axe heads creates a special atmosphere dense with tradition.

At every axe-forging machine there is a team of two people working in tandem, one on either side. They form the head by hand, working until the axe head is finished.

Studying how the axe head is formed is like watching a dance where every step is coordinated perfectly so that the team doesn't lose its rhythm. All this makes the blacksmith's workshop a very unique environment – both talent and rhythm are essential. Only certain individuals who possess these unique skills can do the job.



## Safety, Caution and Care

The axe is a robust hand tool that can withstand hard use, however that also means that improper use can result in injuries and product damage. So please be careful; the blade is very sharp and needs to be handled with care. Contact with blade can result in injury. Keep the axe away from children at all times. Do not use the axe if the blade is dull, chipped, or otherwise damaged or if the handle is broken or loose.

The cutting edge should only be used for cutting wood. Do not use any part of the axe head as a hammer or a sledge or in any way use it to strike against another tool, hardened nail, stone or other hard object. Also never strike any part of the axe head with another tool or hard object.

Contact with hard object can result in chipping of the head or the blade. This does not only risk damage to the axe but also your safety as small particles may be expelled which may subject both you and bystanders to injury. Both users and bystanders should use approved eye protection to protect from debris. Flying debris, both wood and metal can result in injuries to your eyes and other body parts.

After using your axe, you should always remove dirt and moisture before putting on the sheath. When not in use, store it in a safe place and keep it out of reach of children. Never store your axe in excessively dry places, for example in boiler rooms or leaning against a heater. You could then risk the shaft drying out and the axe head coming loose during use. At the same time make sure to also protect it against excessive moisture. If you intend to store the axe for a longer period of time, you should put some oil or grease on the axe head to avoid rust.

Keep it sharp & keep it safe!

