

HULTS  BRUK



MADE IN SWEDEN SINCE 1697

Axes
from Hults Bruk.
A Craftsmanship
with Tradition.





085
HÄRRENSHÄMMEN

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. The axe has always been a survival tool while at the same time it has offered freedom and independence. He who had a sharp axe could defend himself 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 his axe.

Hults Bruk has been forging axes for over 300 years. In this booklet we will give you some information about our forging process and why our axes are used by so many people around the globe.





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 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.**



AXES FROM HULTS BRUK ARE FORGED FOR CUTTING OR CARVING. NEVER SHOULD THE POLL OF THE AXE HEAD TO BE USED AS A SLEDGE TO HIT HARD OBJECTS, AND NEVER SHOULD THE HEAD TO BE USED AS A WEDGE. USING THE POLL TO POUND METAL WILL RESULT IN DEFORMATION OF THE EYE, WHICH WILL PERMANENTLY DAMAGE THE AXE HEAD.





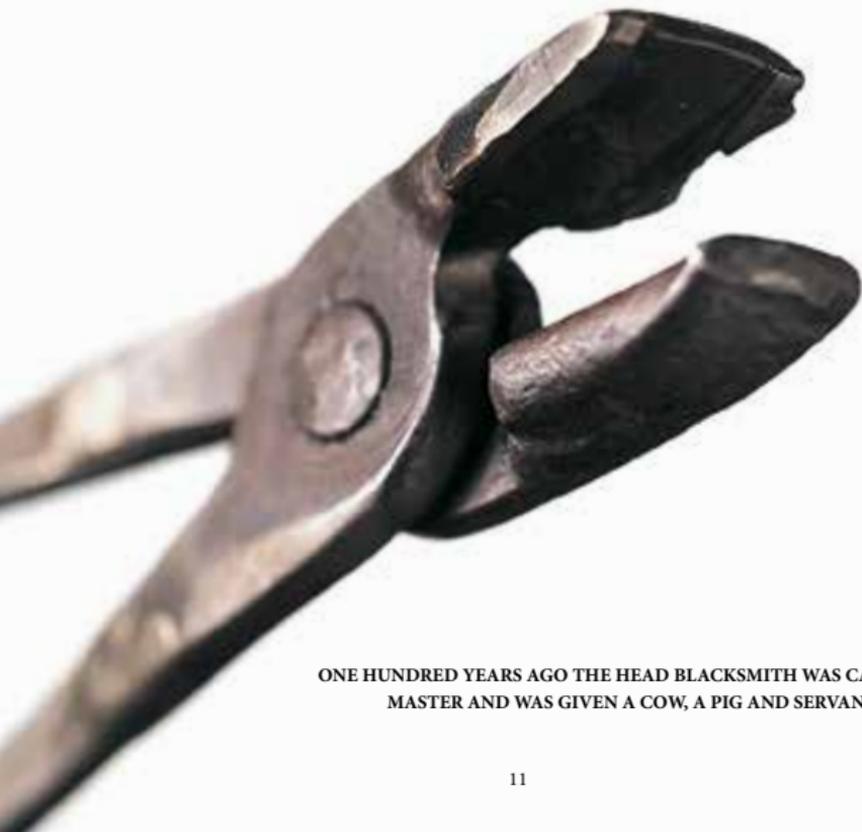
Life in the Blacksmith's Workshop

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.



**ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO THE HEAD BLACKSMITH WAS CALLED THE
MASTER AND WAS GIVEN A COW, A PIG AND SERVANTS!**



HULTS BRUK, SWEDEN

Latitude: 58.673659 | Longitude: 16.128747



SWEDEN IS LOCATED IN NORTHERN EUROPE, IN THE EASTERN PART OF OF THE SCANDINAVIAN PENINSULA. IT IS BORDERED BY NORWAY IN THE WEST, FINLAND IN THE NOTHEAST, AND DENMARK IN THE SOUTHWEST



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 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 Hults Bruk uses only top quality American hickory. The fixing of the handle is done by hand with both a wooden and steel wedge. Finally, the leather sheath is fitted to give important protection against the sharp cutting edge of the head.



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MADE IN SWEDEN



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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.

SHARPEN THE EDGE



FOR TRIMMING
FELLING AND
SPLITTING.



KNIFE SHARPENED
EDGE FOR CARVING.



WRONGLY SHARPENED
EDGES, THE EDGE IS
SHARPENED TOO
THINLY.



A BEVELED EDGE
CAN SLIP AND
HURT THE USER.

Different axes have different uses. It is important to keep the original shape of the edge when sharpening the axe.

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 maintain optimum performance from your axe you should sharpen the edge on a regular basis. For best results use a wet sandstone.

To ensure that your axe maintains its original functionality, it is important to keep the original shape of the edge by sharpening the whole length of the edge on both sides. To remove the rough edge and burrs after sharpening, the edge might need to be honed.

Put the hone in water or oil and move the hone over the edge with a rotating movement. To prevent loose steel pieces from destroying your edge, the hone needs to be cleaned occasionally. The edge will be extra strong if you use a leather belt to strop the edge afterwards.

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.

Re-handle of Your Axe

Re-handle. If an axe breaks, it is almost always the shaft/handle that is the culprit. A damaged shaft can be a safety risk. However, if the head is still in good condition, you can re-use your tool by fitting a new shaft. When fitting a new shaft to your tool, it is important to ensure that the shaft is dry. If it is not and dries after the head has been fitted, there is a danger that the head may come loose. This also applies to the wedge if you fit a new shaft using a wooden wedge.



To fit a new shaft, do the following:

1. Cut off the existing shaft just below the head.
2. Drill a number of holes in the eye.
3. Tap out what is left and clean the eye.
4. Press and tap the head onto the new shaft, firmly but carefully. Cut off the protruding part of the shaft.
5. Fit the steel wedge so that the end of the shaft fills the eye.
If the steel wedge is not sufficient, you should fit a wooden wedge before the steel wedge. You can make this by cutting a wedge from a dry piece of hard timber. Then split the end of the shaft using a chisel. Apply some wood glue, tap in the wooden wedge and then cut off the excess.
6. Tap the steel wedge out so that it locks the wooden wedge in position. Then apply oil to the end of the shaft to protect it against moisture.



Storage and use

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

Use. Never strike the neck of the axe with another tool. Never use the axe as a sledge. Only sledge axes can withstand being used 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. 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.



www.hultsbruk1697.se