

How Do I Sharpen a Bowie Knife?

If you own a Bowie knife, you'll certainly want to know how to sharpen that blade. While Bowie knives are certainly larger than most other types of knife, sharpening them is really not very different. In fact, you will be able to use the same whetstone as you use for many other types of blades.

First, you'll need to determine what angle the blade is currently sharpened at. This is an important consideration, as changing the angle will have detrimental effects on your sharpening. Most sharpening systems (commercial gadgets) have variable angle adjustments (at least a couple of different angles).

Next, you will need to find an angle guide, if your knife sharpening kit does not include one. If you are unable to do this, you will need to know how to control the angle of the blade on your own. This will require a firm hand and a good eye. If the angle of the knife blade changes during sharpening, the edge will not be suitable for much. You should also have a high quality whetstone for the sharpening process, as well as the proper lubricant (some stones come with oil, or you can purchase the oil at your local sporting goods store). Never sharpen a knife if the whetstone has not been lubricated.

Using an all-in-one system, all you really have to do is position the angle guide, and then pull the knife through the device. Some of these systems rely on grinding your knife in circles, with an upright supporting the knife at the proper angle, though.

Once you have ground down one side of the blade and raised a burr, you will need to flip the knife over and grind the other side. This will raise a burr all the way down the blade (including the tip of the blade). Once the burr has been raised, you should use a fine whetstone or a strop to remove the burr and reveal the true edge of the blade. Further stropping or honing will polish the edges, as well.

About the Author

Dylan Sabot is the owner of an online [bowie knife](#) store featuring [sog bowie knives](#). Additionally, Dylan is also the President of a specialty [butane lighters](#) store.

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