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## [Let's make a Mikov](#)

**Moderators:** [Vagrant](#), [The Motley Crew](#)

### Forum rules

There are a few **things you should know** before posting in these forums. If you are a new user, [please click here and read carefully](#). Thanks a lot!

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## [Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [eastcoastsniper](#) » Mon Mar 23, 2009 11:51 pm

I've been asked to do a tutorial on how I wrangle a working switchblade out of a mikov kit. Over the next week or so, I'll be posting a knife in the making with pic's and explanations. this will be a thread that will be saved and looked at in the future by new members, so, please ask any questions you may have, or offer your input as we progress. For simplicities sake, I'm making a cocobolo scaled knife. This is an older kit and only has one spring. the newer kits have two. (we'll discuss that later) Also, I don't like the pins that come with the Mikov kits, I prefer brass and have modified this kit to accept my pins. The process remains essentially the same as originally designed.

Let's start....

First, Find a set of scales that are at least 1 1/4" x 4 1/4" and 3/8" thick. Anything larger is fine, but the bigger they are, the more sanding you'll need to do. no big deal, because this is a fun project, and the more time spent, the better 😊

Member "Springmesser' suggested the cocoblo scales, so off we go.



You'll want to make sure the scale material is perfectly flat. Mark with pencil which side will face the liner so there is no confusion later.

Here are the ingredients. (I switched the nickle pins for my brass pins)



Let's make a mark on the liner side of the top scale. This is where we need to recess the scale to slip over the spring. I trace around a flat file about 2 1/2" down the scale.



I'm going to be using a dremel router bit and carbide cutting tool to make the channel. I use a drill press to do this. Go slowly and let the bits do the work. A drill press is designed for downward pressure, not sideways! If you don't have a drill press, use a dremel and take your time.



Here's what you want the underside of the top scale to look like. Go just deep enough to house the spring. About 1/8 inch should be fine.



set the scale on the liner and make sure it seats properly over the spring with no binding or gaps.



Next, turn the top scale over and measure down 3/4" from the top. We'll be taking this material out with the carbide cutting bit. This needs to come out so the spring can properly rise and activate the blade.



And here's what it should look like.





I'll stop here for today. Please ask any questions or offer your input.  
Last edited by [eastcoastsniper](#) on Tue Mar 24, 2009 12:55 am, edited 1 time in total.



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [justinRsmith](#) » Mon Mar 23, 2009 11:55 pm

i thank you very much for posting this sniper, this will be very helpful in the future.

thanks again,

-Justin

"I'll keep my money and guns & you keep the change"



[justinRsmith](#)

**Posts:** 479

**Joined:** Tue Dec 09, 2008 9:44 pm

**Location:** US

[Top](#)

 by [Jeff](#) » Tue Mar 24, 2009 12:03 am

I like the choice of cocobolo as well. My personal favorite. Nice job Roger! 😊 It looks like you calculated lever play area nicely!  
Leverlock switchblades



[Jeff](#)

**Posts:** 1864

**Joined:** Sun Mar 08, 2009 3:52 am

**Location:** Ca

[Top](#)

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### [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [eastcoastsniper](#) » Tue Mar 24, 2009 12:11 am

*Jeff\_75 wrote:* I like the choice of cocobolo as well. My personal favorite. Nice job Roger! 😊 It looks like you calculated lever play area nicely!

Thanks Jeff, If you look closely at the top of the spring, there is a dimple that goes across it. you want to get the material just below that line. and make sure there is enough clearance in the channel for the spring to rise unobstructed.



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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### [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [Springmesser](#) » Tue Mar 24, 2009 5:57 am

Excellent Mikov tutorial. 😊  
Where do I get the brass pins?



[Springmesser](#)

**Posts:** 747

**Joined:** Mon May 12, 2008 5:21 am

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### [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [eastcoastsniper](#) » Tue Mar 24, 2009 12:37 pm

*Springmesser wrote:*Excellent Mikov tutorial. 😊  
Where do I get the brass pins?

These pins came from a leverletto kit. I have leftover pins because I used torx screws on the leverletto.

These required modification to the scales.I think they are size .072" and almost impossible to find.

for the Mikov, you can also use #18 escutcheon pins available at any hardware store. They are about ar thick as the pins that come with the mikov kit. They are a little longer also.



These can be used with no modification to the liners.

the spring pins are just plain 3/32 brass rod and can be found at online retailers like here:

<http://www.texasknife.com/vcom/index.php?cPath=35>

<http://www.talkblade.info/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=12497>

10/22/2011



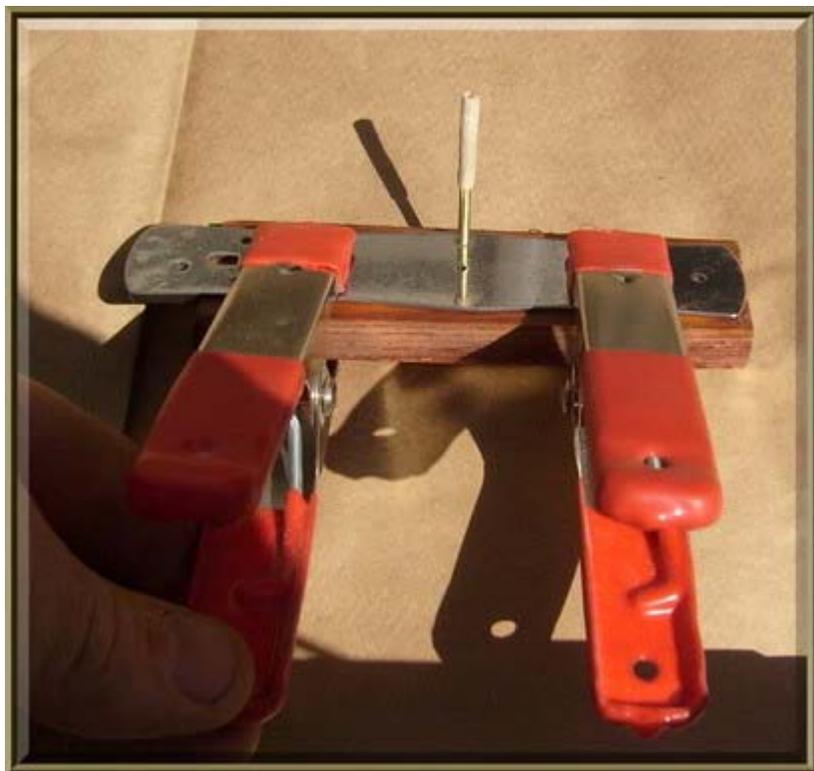
Check to make sure it's flush against the top bolster



We're going to be drilling the holes for the scale and spring pins. This shows what size bits to use. Pay no attention to the hole in the middle. The liners are universal and that hole is used for the lever pin on the top liner.

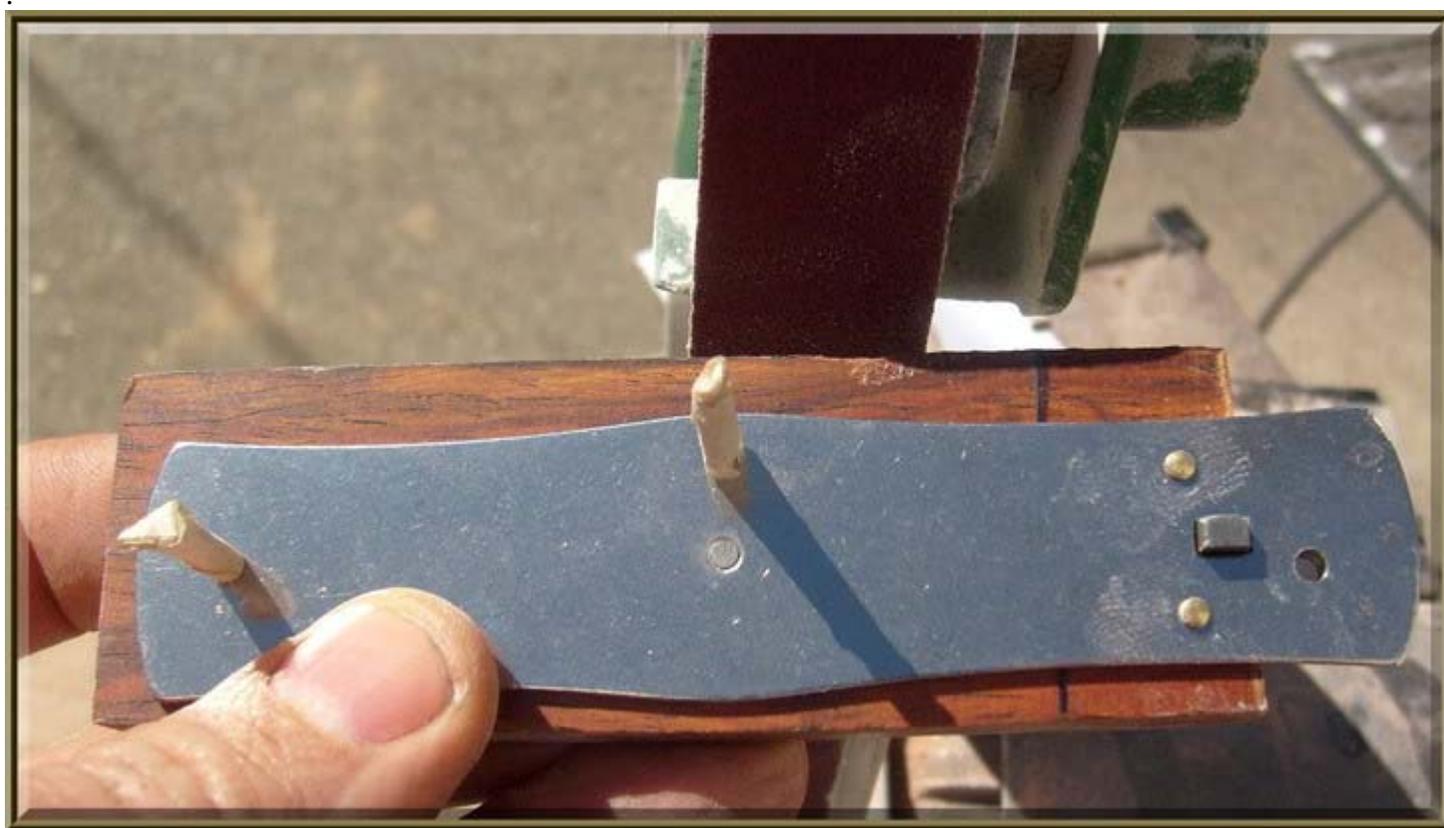


After drilling each hole, place a pin in it from the underside to help keep it in the right position. I put masking tape on the pins to keep them from sliding through the holes while I'm working on the scales.

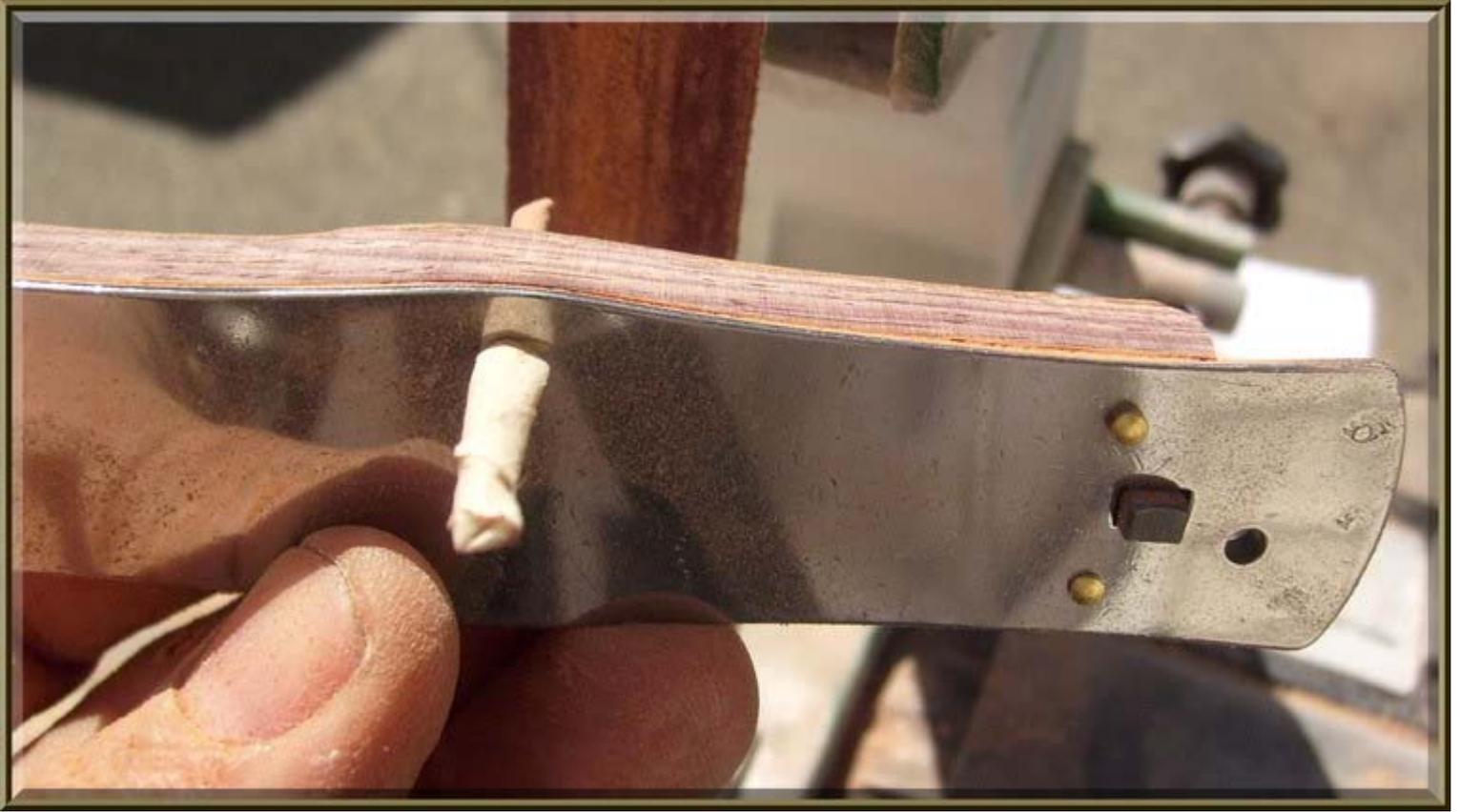




Next, it's a trip to the belt sander. Sand around the edges as close as you can to the liner.



It should look like this..



Here's where we are now...



Now, Back to the belt sander and sand the top part of the scales flat to a thickness of about 3/8"



Go over the scales with some medium steel wool to smooth them out a bit.



Now, look at the overlap on the top bolsters.



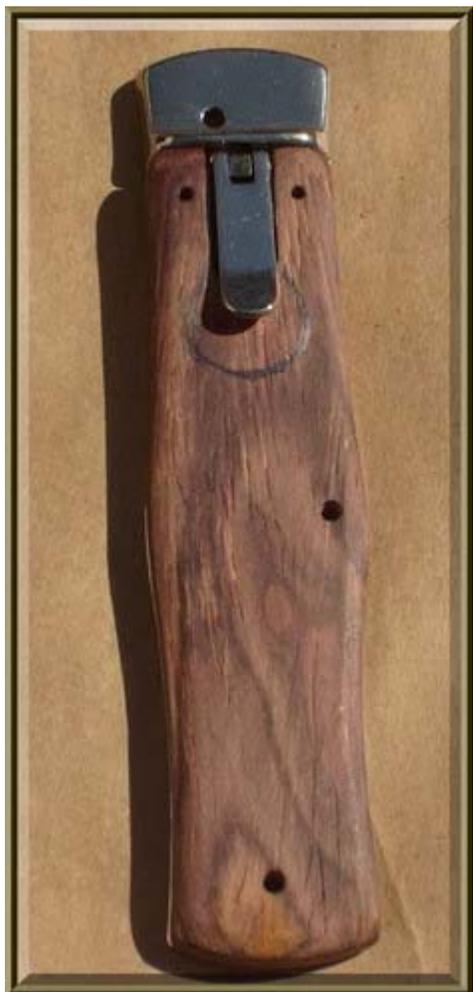
Mark the overlap with a pencil and sand smooth on the belt sander.



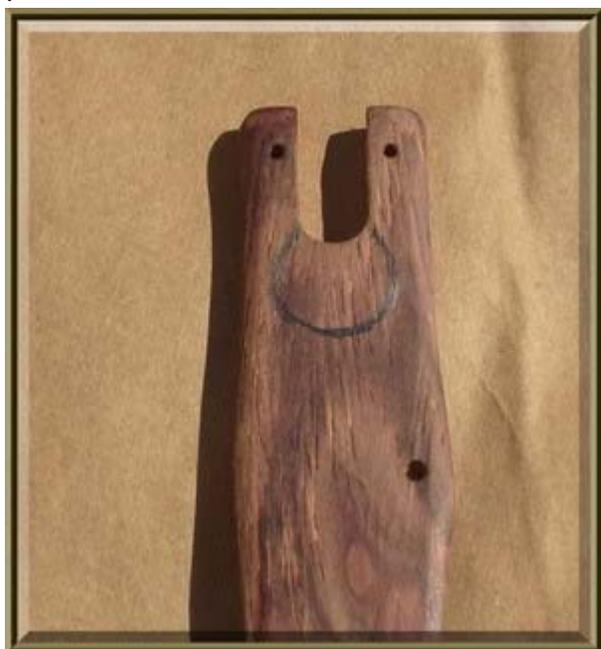
Sand the scales smooth with 500 grit sand paper. They're starting to look pretty good!



Now, mark a small circle a little off center of the firing lever.



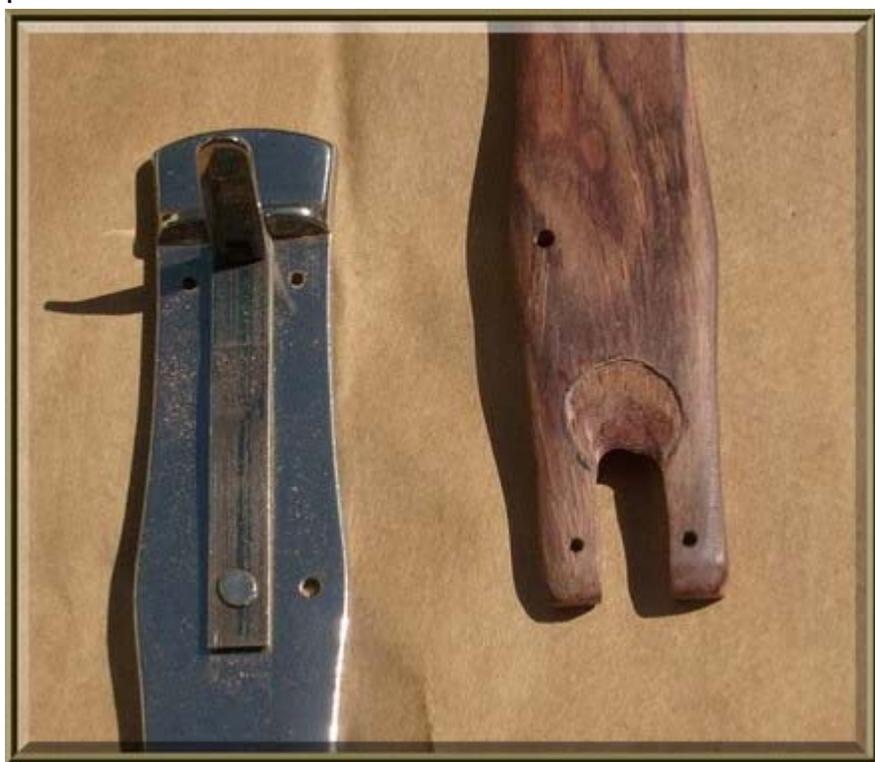
This area needs to be recessed so the lever sits a little into the scales and it makes it easier to get your thumb under the lever.



Back to the drill press. you can use the router attachment or the carbide cutter to slowly make a beveled recess.



This is what it should look like.



Now, sand the recessed area with medium steel wool, then 500 grit sandpaper. Here's what it should look like now..



Now it's time to spend a little quality time with your scales. Sand them with graduating grits of 3m polishing cloth's. Start with 600, then 1200, 2000, 4000. Make sure to wipe clean in between grits. Add a couple coats of minwax sealer and we'll see what it looks like tomorrow.

You can get the 3m sheets here...

[http://www.texasknife.com/vcom/index.php?cPath=225\\_520](http://www.texasknife.com/vcom/index.php?cPath=225_520)

Please ask any questions you have ...See you tomorrow 😊😊

Last edited by [eastcoastsniper](#) on Tue Nov 24, 2009 12:42 am, edited 2 times in total.



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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**[Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)**

by [butch](#) » Tue Mar 24, 2009 6:27 pm

a few pic's back, I just mentioned to make sure the scale is flush with the bolster. I've assembled some kits that need a slight bevel, and others that don't.



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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### [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [eastcoastsniper](#) » Wed Mar 25, 2009 7:04 pm

Let's continue with part 3....

I think the scales turned out pretty nice. Cocoblo is easy to work with, requires no stain and polish's up nicely.



Now that the scales are done, let's do a nice thorn and vine filework on the backspring. We'll need a small round, half round and three sided to get started. these can be found at most hardware stores, or you can buy them on line.

<http://www.harborfreight.com/cpi/ctaf/d...number=468>



First, mark off every 1/4 inch on the spring. Make sure you have it right side up!



Set the spring in your vise. Start with the small round file and nick between every other line. If you have small diamond files for your dremel, that is quicker.



Then take the half round and file over your nick marks, going about half way to the other side at a 25\* angle.



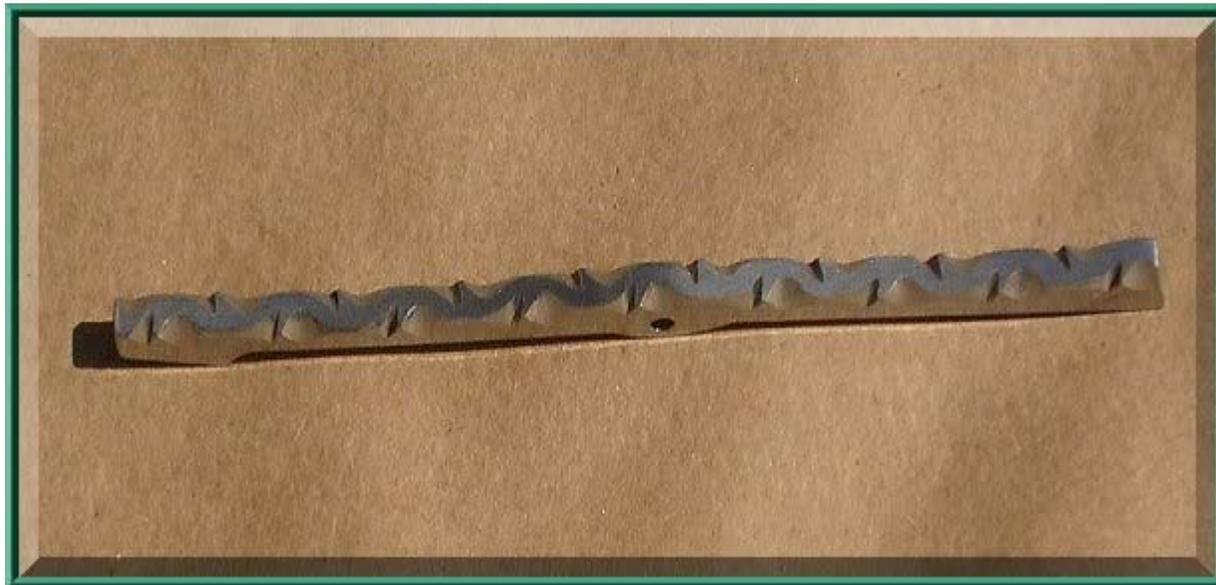
Take a little steel wool to the top and sides to clean it up. Next, we're going to make the thorns. I used a sharpie to shade in the areas where we are going to file out with the 3 sided file. Go slowly and you'll be amazed how fast and easy this part is.



And here it is.....



Next, take the half round file and round off the edges. This is what your spring should look like. Sand the top and sides with 500 grit sandpaper. Polish the top (filed) with either metal polish or 1200 grit polishing cloth.



Here's what we have so far... Tomorrow, we'll do the assembly.



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

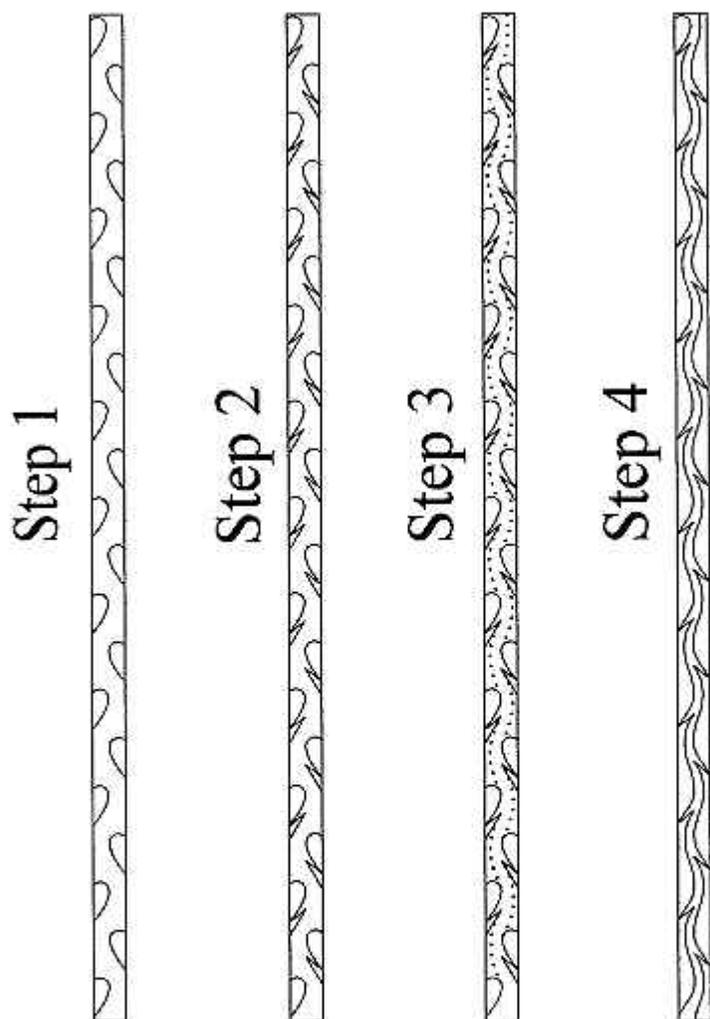
**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

by [eastcoastsniper](#) » Thu Mar 26, 2009 10:29 am

Here is a step by step drawing of filework similar to the what I made for the mikov. This shows a slight angle for the first cut, where I went in straight.



## Vine Type Filework

Copyright 2004 by Dwayne Dushane

Dushane Handmade Knives

Andrews, TX 432-523-6689

Justin....Do you still have that filework link I sent you a while back?



file off the pins and leave about 1/16" showing on the underside. Give them a few taps with a small jewelers hammer. Make sure the round part of the pin is resting on your anvil when you tap it, otherwise you may damage the scales you've worked so hard on. If there is still excess showing, file off a little more and tap again until flush with the liner. The pin holes are tapered on the bottom side. When you tap the pins, they will spread out, filing in the tapered area and securing the scales to the liner. When you finish securing the pins, sand or file flush to the liner. Even a small piece protruding could prevent the blade from functioning properly.



Here's a pic of the jewelers hammer.



You can find them on ebay, or here.

<http://www.contenti.com/products/hammers/260-490.html>

Next, locate the pivot pin and taper it slightly on the belt sander. This pin is very tight and difficult to install without a slight taper.



Line up the pivot pin and give it a few taps until it's about 3/4 of the way in.



Locate the blade. Put a drop of lubricating oil on your finger and rub it on both sides of the blade at the pivot hole. Set the

blade on the scale.



Slide the two 3/32 pins through the scales.



Slide the other scale on! It's starting to look pretty nice now. Note the spring has not been installed yet.



Slide the spring in from the rear. Some kits have two thin springs. The assembly is the same. Here is a video showing how to remove and install the spring.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTY\\_tTLrm1k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTY_tTLrm1k)



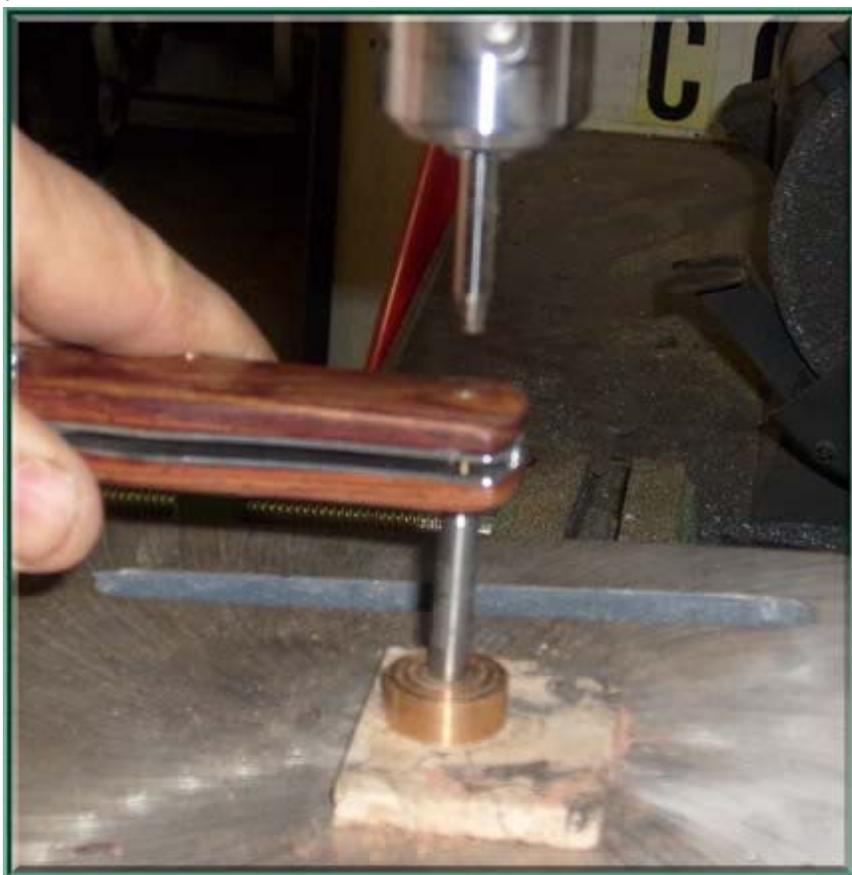
The spring is now properly installed.



Next, snip or file off the excess on the two  $\frac{3}{32}$  pins. Leave a little more than  $\frac{1}{16}$  on each side.



Using your jewelers hammer, start tapping the 3/32 pins making sure the other side is resting on the anvil. Tap downward and outward beveling and tightening. This takes a little practice, but, you'll get the hang of it. Or, you can just tap both sides until tight and sand flush with the belt sander and re-finish the scales. Or, you can finish them off with a pin spinner. This is a neat homemade device I bought on the SD auction site that spreads out, and rounds off the pin heads at the same time.



Here is an excellent video of the peening process. I would recommend using a smaller hammer though!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vihhWXSbPOY>

Next, we do the same as described above with the pivot pin. If you decide to peen the pivot pin, sometimes a flat end counter sink tool works well to get into that tight space. If you decide to try that, It's best to have a friend steady the knife while you work on it. I used my pin spinner. I like the results!



Now I'm going to give it a quick polish (metal and wood) with 4000 grit cloth and put another coat of minwax on it and she'll be ready for presentation.

I'll post the finished knife this afternoon. Please ask any questions or add your comments 😊



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [Springmesser](#) » Thu Mar 26, 2009 1:14 pm

*eastcoastsniper wrote:* Here are step by step close ups of the thorn and vine filework .

<http://beknivessite2.homestead.com/vinefilework.html>

This is really quite easy to do. The whole process takes less than an hour..



This should be an ongoing thread. If you have tips or tricks you come up with, make sure to contribute to this post. If you add a picture, just make sure it's someplace that won't get deleted...EVER!!



[butch](#)

**Posts:** 3986

**Joined:** Thu Sep 25, 2003 5:00 pm

**Location:** Pennsylvania

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [javacupper](#) » Sat Mar 28, 2009 8:38 pm

I'm not ready to try a kit yet but after watching all that I decided that I had to add a Mikov to my collection. I just ordered one in Turkish Walnut with the rear bolster and filework from David. One of these days I'll try a Mikov or leverletto kit.

Attachments



241nd1teb700.jpg (67.99 KiB) Viewed 5406 times

I paid a lot of attention to the most recent Mikov I assembled and think I have found the problem. Just as I mentioned in another thread, the parts don't fit together quite as well as they were meant to. After the knife was pinned together, I noticed that it wasn't seating well into the locking mechanism. Either the rectangle hole in the blade was too small, or the rectangle blade locking protrusion was too large. If either are not perfectly square and mated properly, the blade will be forced against the liner causing the scratching.

Before you assemble a Mikov kit, take a small square needle file and "clean" the hole in the blade and the locking pin (both circled in red) make sure both are perfectly square.



mikov file.jpg (48.01 KiB) Viewed 5403 times

David.....i hope you're reading this 😞 😊



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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[Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [Jeff](#) » Sun Jun 14, 2009 11:09 pm

It's kind of intresting about the stamps.

I have 5 stamped "X"

2 stamped "KIT"

1 made from Mikov (without kit stamp marking)

2 kit knives without any kit marking ( these 2 have the single type firing spring [that looks similar to aluminum but isn't])

Even though they were kits.

They all feel and fire differently. I have done my own set of tweeking on some of them and have been happy with the results. Some just seem to naturally build better than the others I am guessing after ispecting all of mine. I am sure it takes the touch to make some of these Mikov kits work. They can be very good well made knives. I like mine alot.

I wish the blades could either be a little more "scuff" resistant, or the liners could be a softer type that wont scratch the blade easily if it rubs the inside liner occasionally.

I only have dagger blades on mine so I'm not sure if it's an issue with the clip point blades.

I won't go into the springs 😊

Leverlock switchblades



[Jeff](#)

**Posts:** 1864

**Joined:** Sun Mar 08, 2009 3:52 am

**Location:** Ca

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [Bill DeShivs](#) » Mon Jun 15, 2009 12:32 am

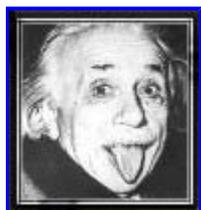
10 years ago, Mikov quality control was terrible.

Progressively, QC has gotten better- I believe this has been largely due to Tanto's input. Today, the Mikov knives are very

good quality.

Bill DeShivs

<http://www.billdeshivs.com>



[Bill DeShivs](#)

Yes.

**Posts:** 3551

**Joined:** Sat May 25, 2002 2:50 pm

**Location:** South

- [Website](#)

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [Jeff](#) » Mon Jun 15, 2009 1:00 am

The factory Mikov I have is a gem. Great quality. David basically is Mikov lately 😊 He's a great help to everyone. It is difficult for me to pick favorites out of the Mikovs I have. I'm kind of attached to the snakewood one. (front and back filing) It fires great.

Mikov springs can be changed by anybody too ( a broken one is tricky). Thats always a plus as well.

It is nice to hear that they keep progressing. Mikov knives have been around for a good while it seems.

Leverlock switchblades



[Jeff](#)

**Posts:** 1864

**Joined:** Sun Mar 08, 2009 3:52 am

**Location:** Ca

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [eastcoastsniper](#) » Wed Jun 24, 2009 10:01 pm

Allrighty....I made another mikov and filed the rectangle hole in the blade as well as the blade catch protrusion shown in the above pictures. Not only does the blade catch better, It's quite snappy, and doesn't rub the liners. Check out the vid..it sits dead center!. When you watch this video, check out how HARD the latch hits the handle when I close the blade! I've

never seen another Mikov close like that. It even chipped part of the scale and I had to file it back a little.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VF3B86QQGY>

Does anyone else have a mikov that hits that hard when closing?



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [tanto](#) » Thu Jun 25, 2009 8:09 am

*eastcoastsniper wrote:*When you watch this video, check out how HARD the latch hits the handle when I close the blade! I've never seen another Mikov close like that.  
Does anyone else have a mikov that hits that hard when closing?

Nice knife and nice video. As for the lever closing that nice - you did not check my youtube video, did you? 😊



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGJnx\\_ulxRg&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGJnx_ulxRg&feature=related)

David

Last edited by [tanto](#) on Thu Jun 25, 2009 12:28 pm, edited 1 time in total.



[Mikovs on BladeBid](#) [Mikovs on GunBroker](#) [My knives + watches](#)



[tanto](#)

**Posts:** 1163

**Joined:** Mon May 27, 2002 1:41 pm

**Location:** The Czech Republic

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [Jeff](#) » Thu Jun 25, 2009 10:07 am

*eastcoastsniper wrote:*

Does anyone else have a mikov that hits that hard when closing?

I'm pretty sure 2 of the Mikovs you made for me do. The snakewood lever slaps back into place about that hard everytime.

 I'm glad the scales are thick where it hits. It's always cool to have the lever reseal when you close the knife.

I also have a stag Italy shellpuller (leverlock) that reseats the lever when it closes with a little smack also. It is the only leverlock knife I have that even puts the lever back in place when it closes. 

Leverlock switchblades



[Jeff](#)

**Posts:** 1864

**Joined:** Sun Mar 08, 2009 3:52 am

**Location:** Ca

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [xlr8](#) » Thu Jun 25, 2009 6:29 pm

It's always cool to have the lever reseal when you close the knife.

I have 1 of 2 Boker 712's that does that, 1 out of 5 hubies and 2 leverlettos that do it. I feel the same way about the lever snapping back when closing.  I've noticed on some of mine that it depends on where your fingers are on the back side of the blade that determines whether the lever pops over or not when you close the knife. On some of mine, if you apply pressure close to the top of the back of the blade, the lever will flip shut. Too low and it only flips out partially. The one Hubie lever flips back just like your mikov no matter how you close it.

I don't own any Mikovs, so I should prolly just shut up, but it seems you made that Mikov work just like I'd want one to!

 Oh God, that knife has a spring in it!! Everybody RUN!!!!

[xlr8](#)

**Posts:** 202

**Joined:** Fri Dec 14, 2007 1:47 pm

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [eastcoastsniper](#) » Thu Jun 25, 2009 7:01 pm

*xlr8 wrote:*

It's always cool to have the lever reseal when you close the knife.

I don't own any Mikovs, so I should prolly just shut up, but it seems you made that Mikov work just like I'd want one to! 😊

I'd have to agree with you on that one xlr8.... About the way the knife works that is 😊 😊

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VF3B86QQGY>

If anyone ever makes an instruction manual for the kit....be sure and include the filing on the rectangle slot in the blade and the catch.



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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## Let's make a Mikov

**Moderators:** [Vagrant](#), [The Motley Crew](#)

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### [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [panner](#) » Thu Jun 25, 2009 7:14 pm

I have 3 mikov's and none has a lever that snaps back as shown in the two videos provided 🤔, Is this function preferred 🤔

! EVERY MAN DIES : NOT EVERY MAN REALLY LIVES.



[panner](#)

**Posts:** 514

**Joined:** Thu Mar 26, 2009 12:43 am

**Location:** Someplace North Of Dixie

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## [Re: Let's make a Mikov](#)

 by [eastcoastsniper](#) » Thu Jun 25, 2009 8:54 pm

*panner wrote:* I have 3 mikov's and none has a lever that snaps back as shown in the two videos provided  ,Is this function preferred  

I don't know if it's preferred or not. By filing the mechanism, It allows for a smoother, deeper catch and release. like I said about that "wild thang" I just made..."It snaps back so hard, it chipped the scale". But, The blade sits properly and doesn't scrape the liners.

I think that's the way it was intended to function...Hey...I'm learning as much as you are! there are no other tutorials or instructions about this aspect of the knife, and each post we make here is one less problem for someone else down the road 



[eastcoastsniper](#)

**Posts:** 931

**Joined:** Mon Aug 25, 2008 7:34 pm

**Location:** You can run, but, you'll just die tired

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