

# RUANA<sup>®</sup>

Knife Works, Inc.



SINCE  
1938

AN AMERICAN MADE  
&  
MONTANA TRADITION



*Rudy Ruana circa 1958*

Having left the decimated family farm in North Dakota and looking for greener pastures, 1938 found Rudy Ruana in Bonner, Montana working as a mechanic and welder at a small garage. In order to help his family survive during the post-depression era, Ruana began to make a few knives on the side—a skill that originated in the 1920's when he was a farrier in the cavalry, making his first knives for a couple of Native Americans in need of a better tool for skinning horses. As time passed and the reputation of Ruana's knives grew, demand became so great that Rudy began making knives full time in 1952, calling his business Ruana Knife Works. In 1964 Ruana's son-in-law, Vic Hargas left a job with

the phone company and put his artistic talents to work, joining Ruana in the business. Hargas' son Mark began working at the company in 1976. At the end of 1983 Ruana retired at the age of 80 and sold the business to the Hargas family. In 1984 Mike Hargas joined his brother and Dad and the business was incorporated. Rudy Ruana passed away in April of 1986. He received the honor of being posthumously inducted into the American Bladesmith Society Hall of Fame in 1997 and BLADE Magazine's Cutlery Hall of Fame in 2002. As of 2014, Vic, Mark and Mike Hargas have combined Ruana Knife making experience in excess of 110 years.



# COMPANY HISTORY

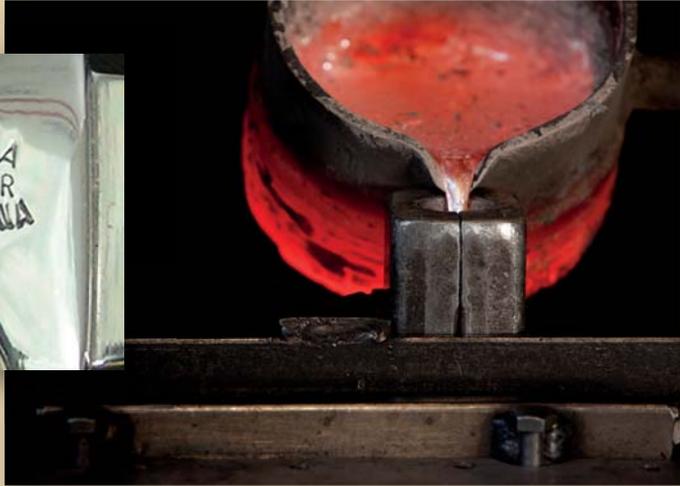
RUANA KNIVES ARE STILL HANDCRAFTED IN THE SMALL SHOP WHERE RUDY RUANA BEGAN FORGING OUT BLADES OVER 75 YEARS AGO AND ARE AMERICAN MADE AS MUCH AS A PRODUCT COULD BE.



In an era of outsourcing and diminishing American Made products, Ruana Knives are still handcrafted in the small shop where Rudy Ruana began forging out blades over 75 years ago. While a few things have changed over the years, we are still using the same methods and much of the same equipment Rudy used. Our goals are to never rest on our laurels, give our best

effort on a daily basis, maintain Rudy Ruana's work ethic, and emphasize uncompromising quality over quantity. We proudly craft knives that are American Made as much as a product possibly could be, with a continued commitment to knife creations that are first and foremost usable and durable, and as evidenced by customer demand, increasingly collectible.

# CAST HANDLE KNIVES & HATCHET



THE CAST HANDLE RUANA KNIVES AND HATCHET ARE TOUGH AS CAN BE. THEY ARE CRAFTED WITH SOLID ALUMINUM AND ELK ANTLER INSERTS AND COME WITH A HIGH QUALITY LEATHER SHEATH. STICKERS ARE VERY VERSATILE AND WILL WORK IN A VARIETY OF SITUATIONS. SKINNERS ARE MORE SPECIALIZED IN THEIR DESIGN, BUT WILL WORK FOR ALMOST ANY JOB.

## STICKERS

### S/H-Steelhead

Blade: 3 1/2", 1/8" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". Our unofficial trout and bird knife that works well on anything from small fish to big game

### 5 AD-Drop Point Sticker

Blade: 4", 1/8" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". Very versatile knife with long handle for larger hands. Great for all around outdoor use on game small and large.

### 95 AD-Drop Point Sticker

Blade: 4 1/4", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". A flat grind blade that is excellent for hunting and all purpose use. Handle is usually a little more streamlined than other models.

### 12 A-Sticker

Blade: 5", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 1/4". A basic knife

blade suitable for jobs that require more size.

### 21 A-Sticker

Blade: 5", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 3/4". Same blade as model 12 A, with a comfortable finger grip handle and thumb grooves on top of blade.

### 27 AC-Custom Finn

Blade: 5", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". A classic Ruana design with blade that has nice lines and is very functional. Thumb rest ground in top of blade.

### 25 AC-Custom Workman

Blade: 6", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". A modified Bowie blade that has been carried for years by members of the U. S. Armed Forces. Works well as a combat and survival knife.



## SKINNERS AND HATCHET

### 10 B-Skinner

Blade: 3 1/2", 1/8" stock. Handle: 2 3/4". Our most popular knife, recently used by Mike to fully field dress a 6 point bull elk. Referred to by many as the "smokejumper" because of its popularity among those firefighters bearing the same name.

### 6 BD-Drop Point Skinner

Blade: 4", 1/8" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". A nice size and shaped hunting blade with a longer handle for larger hands.

### 95 MP-Multi-Purpose

Blade: 4 1/4", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". A flat grind blade, originally developed for an avid hunter who deemed this blade to be the very best for all around hunting use.

### 14 B-Skinner

Blade: 5", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 1/4". The most basic of hunting knives and very popular.

### 20 B-Skinner

Blade: 5", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 3/4". Same blade as 14 B, with a comfortable finger grip handle. Thumb notches on top of blade. Used on our logo to make it the most recognizable Ruana knife made.

### 26 CD-Custom Semi-Skinner

Blade: 5", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". Good all-around knife for hunting and general use. Includes notched thumb rest on top of blade.

### 28 CD-Custom Skinner

Blade: 4 1/2", 3/16" stock. Handle: 4 1/2". A pure skinning knife with thumb rest on top of blade.

Blade was favorite of famous Alaskan hunting guide.

### 22 H-Hatchet

Bit: 4 3/4", 3/8" stock. Handle: 4 3/4". Overall length: 10 1/2". Very popular light duty hatchet. Great around the camp or out in the field quartering large game. The tool to use for chopping instead of a knife.



# BOWIE KNIVES



BOWIE KNIVES PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OF EARLY AMERICAN SETTLERS, BEING AS IMPORTANT AS THEIR RIFLES AND AXES.

Bowies were originally designed as a fighting knife, but were also used on the trail for survival and as a camp knife. Ruana Bowies are made for heavy use, but have become increasingly popular as collector items. Many customers consider the Bowies works of art and purchase them for display.

Each Ruana Bowie blade is forged from heavy chrome alloy spring steel, and ground with an edge angle that is excellent for chopping and other heavy duty use. Several Bowie models contain a braze welded brass parry strip on top of the blade that was originally intended as a fighting mechanism. All Bowies come with a Standard Bowie Sheath.

## 29 A-Junior Bowie

Blade: 6 1/2", 1/4" stock, with parry strip. Handle: 4 1/2"; cast aluminum with elk antler inserts. The smallest Bowie offered. Carried by several U. S. Troops in Vietnam. Also handy for camping.

## 30 A-Deluxe Bowie

Blade: 9 1/2", 5/16" stock, with parry strip. Handle: 4 7/8"; cast aluminum with elk antler inserts. Slim blade combined with easy to hold finger grip handle make this an excellent combat and survival knife. Our bestselling Bowie.

## 31 B-Early American Bowie

Blade: 11 1/2", 5/16" stock. Handle: 5 1/2"; brass guard, full tang, elk antler slabs with brass rivets. Style popular in England from 1830's on. An elegant Bowie useful for heavy duty chores.

## 33 B-Classic Bowie

Blade: 14", 3/8" stock, with parry strip. Handle: 5 3/4"; brass guard, elk antler with brass rivet and recessed brass butt cap. Replica of knife possibly carried by James Bowie (original was lost at the Alamo).

This brute of a Bowie is the largest knife in our brochure.



### **35 B-Standard Bowie**

Blade: 9 1/2", 3/8" stock, with parry strip. Handle: 5 1/2"; cast aluminum with elk antler inserts. Designed as a combat knife, but also popular with outdoor enthusiasts.

### **38 C-Civil War Bowie**

Blade: 12", 3/8" stock, with parry strip. Handle: 5 3/4"; brass guard, with elk antler and brass butt cap. Longtime Bowie pattern used before and during the Civil War.

### **41 D-Mexican Border Bowie**

Blade: 10", 3/8" stock, with parry strip. Handle: 5 1/2", brass guard, with elk antler and brass butt cap. Bowie popular on the Mexican border.

### **42 D-Toothpick Bowie**

Blade: 9 1/2", 5/16" stock. Handle: 5", brass guard, with elk antler and brass butt cap. Early southeastern Bowie with a unique blade shape.

### **43 D-Arkansas Toothpick Bowie**

Blade: 9 1/2", 5/16" stock, with parry strip. Handle: 5", brass guard, with elk antler and brass butt cap. Another toothpick type Bowie with streamlined blade.

### **CBCK-Custom Brass Camp Knife**

Blade: 9", 5/16" stock, with file work on top. Handle: 5", brass guard, micarta and brass spacers, with elk antler and brass butt cap. Introduced in 2001, this handsome Bowie/Camp Knife works well on the den wall or in camp.



# HOW THEY'RE MADE



Anyone who has tried to make a knife is aware that it is not the easiest of work. For over 75 years a little blood, a lot of sweat and an occasional tear have gone into making Ruana Knives. Hot, loud, dirty, physically demanding, monotonous, and dangerous are just a few ways to describe the work that takes place at the Ruana Knife works shop.

Each knife is manufactured using power and hand tools and machinery that literally require hands on work throughout the entire production process. All knives are crafted one at a time with attention to detail given at every step (of which there are more than 40 for a cast handle knife) along the way, enabling us to keep quality our number one priority while making the knives.

**The Blades.** Our main goal has been and will always remain to produce a reliable cutting tool. Each Ruana blade is

made from high carbon steel that is hammer forged, ground by hand, oil quenched, and heat treated using a zone tempering method that makes the spine of the blade softer than the cutting edge. Our high carbon blades are not stainless, but they contain the best steel for a knife that provides a great cutting edge, will stay sharp, and is relatively easy to sharpen. With minimal care, they will last you a lifetime and then some.

**The Handles.** Ruana Knife handles come in several different forms. The most common knife handle is aluminum cast directly on the tang with elk antler inserts that are beveled and riveted. Our brass-handled knives are the prettiest, but are made with usage in mind. They are braze welded for strength with a tang running through the entire length of the handle and a butt cap threaded onto the end of the tang.



# SHEATHS



## A HAND SEWN LEATHER SHEATH ACCOMPANIES RUANA KNIVES AND THE HATCHET

Ruana sheaths are made from full grain English bridle leather that is drum-dyed and lightly hot stuffed with an extra tallow top dressing. They are sewn with durable, bonded high strength nylon thread and brass nailed for safety. All knives, hatchets and Bowie knives come with the sheaths shown on this page. Sheaths can be purchased separately with the prices depending on size and style. Please contact us for prices.

### **FS-Full Length Sheath**

All cast handle knives come with a full sheath that is designed for protecting your knife. The knife is fully covered with a flap that comes over the butt of the handle and snaps to the main part of the sheath.

### **22 S-Hatchet Sheath**

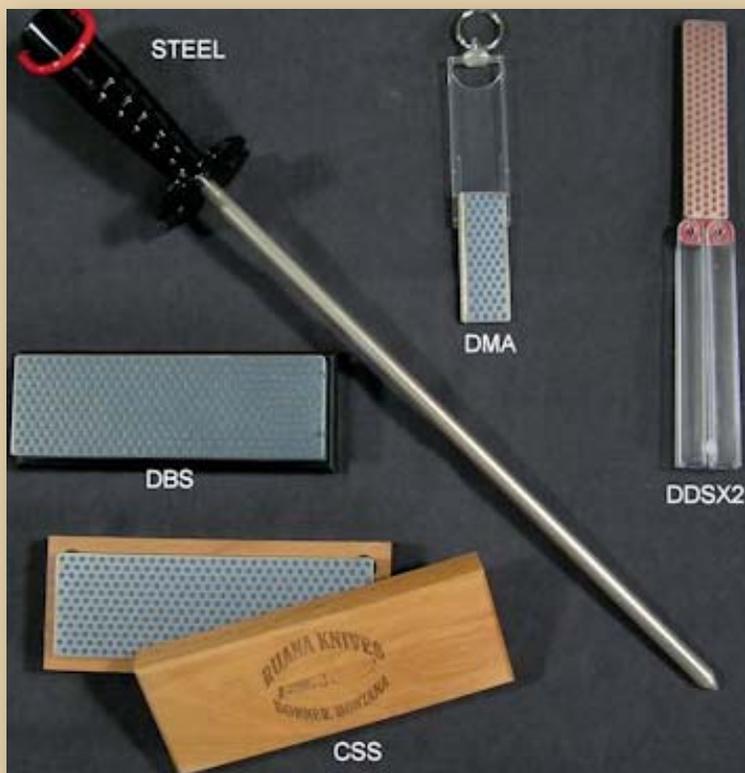
Heavy leather sheath for the hatchet that allows you to carry it on a belt.

### **SBS-Standard Bowie Sheath**

Heavy leather Bowie sheath with decorative frog lace and saddle tie. Strap that crosses guard diagonally keeps knife in place.



# SHARPENING STONES



WE OFFER A VARIETY OF AMERICAN MADE DMT SHARPENING STONES WHICH ARE THE BEST ON THE MARKET.

## **DBS-Diamond Bench Stone**

Coarse grit diamond stone in plastic storage box with non-skid feet and easily mountable base. Favorite in our shop that is used on each blade we make.

## **CSS-Collector's Sharpening Stone**

Same stone as the DBS, but with a handsome hardwood box and Ruana Knives logo.

## **DDSX2-Double Sided Diafold**

Great for the field with two

stones in one. Coarse grit on one side and fine grit on the other.

## **DMA-Diamond Mini-Sharp Angler**

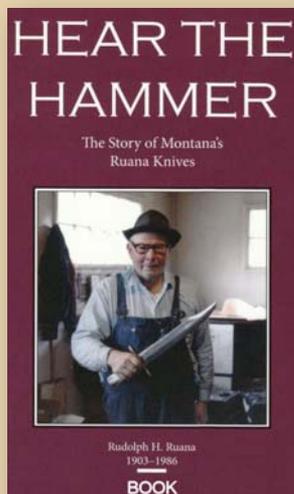
Compact great field option with coarse grit stone that will fit in a shirt pocket and includes a groove for sharpening fish hooks.

## **STEEL-Diamond Steel**

Classic steel for touching up any knife. Fine diamond grit creates a long lasting sharp edge.



# RUANA KNIFE BOOK & KNIFE CARE ACCESSORIES



## BOOK-Hear The Hammer

A must for anyone interested in the history of Ruana Knives. Originally published in 1995 and reprinted in 2012 with a new look, it tells the story from Rudy Ruana's start in knife making, to his son in law, Vic Hangas joining him in the trade, to present day operations at Ruana Knife Works, Inc. Sections include insight into Rudy Ruana's life, previously published articles, customer comments, technical information on older knives and their markings, past brochures and price lists. It's what we use as a resource for dating old Ruana Knives. Published by Mandell and Towsley. Written by Stephen Smith contains 140 pages with 100 black and white photos. Books can be signed upon request with no extra charge. Discounted when shipped with a knife.

**STROP-Ruana Strop** Handmade, 20" leather strop with old Ruana sheath stamp for collectability. Just like the barber shops use to take the wire edge off of blades and create a scary sharp edge.

**FLITZ-Flitz Metal Polish** Cleans, polishes, and protects virtually all metals. A fine complement to our knives and the maintenance of knife blades, and brass handles. One 1.76 oz. (50 gram) tube will provide numerous applications.

**FPC-Flitz Microfiber Polishing Cloth** 12" x 12" microfiber polishing cloth removes dust, dirt and fingerprints from your Ruana Knives and other valuables. Washable and reusable up to 500 times.

**MPB-Montana Pitch Blend Leather Dressing** A superior all natural water repellent leather dressing that uniquely combines pine pitch, mink oil, and beeswax. Great for protecting a variety of leather products against wet elements and also prevents leather from drying out. Highly recommended if you'll have your sheath outdoors. Available in 4 oz. container.

**RZC-Ruana Zipper Case** American Made zipper cases embroidered with our Ruana logo. Great for storing knives and sheaths when not in use. Three sizes will fit almost all of our knives. Discounted when shipped with a knife.



# HATS, TEE SHIRTS & LOGO COLLECTIBLES

RUANA LOGO ITEMS MAKE GREAT GIFTS FOR COLLECTORS AND ARE DISCOUNTED WHEN SHIPPED WITH A KNIFE

## HATS

One size fits most with adjustable straps on all models. When ordering, please specify style and color. Catalog numbers are in parentheses.



**Top Row:** Brushed cotton twill caps with structured crown and contrasting color on tip of the bill. Style ~ Sport. From left to right: Maroon/Gray **(S-M)**, Blue/Gray **(S-B)** & Gold/Navy **(S-G)**.

**Middle Row:** Camo hats for any type of hunt. Style ~ Camo. From left to right: Shadow Grass **(C-S)**, Orange Break-Up **(C-O)** & Mossy Oak Break-Up **(C-M)**.

**Bottom Row:** Stylish mesh back with unstructured, pre-curved visor. Style ~ Mesh Back. From left to right: Gray/White **(M-G)**, Olive/Tan **(M-O)** & Black/Black **(M-B)**.

## TEE-T Shirts

Heavy duty and completely American Made t-shirts that are a Ruana and Montana souvenir in one. Made from 100 % pre-shrunk cotton with silk screened Ruana and American Made logo on the front left side exclusive to these t-shirts. Available in Black & White in adult sizes: M – 3XL. Please specify color and size when ordering.



**FOB (RK)-Ruana logo FOB** Show your Ruana Knives and Montana pride with this sturdy leather key FOB. Comes with grommet and key ring.

**FOB (MT)-Montana FOB** Montana sturdy leather key FOB. Can be personalized with names or logos. Comes with grommet and key ring.

**DECAL-Decal** Ruana Knives 4" x 6" decal with adhesive back for bumpers, windows, etc.

