

Appendix IV

Popular Knife Makers' Steels, c. 1973

An early 21st century version of this 1973 excerpt from Latham's *Knives and Knifemakers* would probably contain significant alterations in the form of additional chromium-vanadium alloy combinations. An unresolved controversial question lingers: in contrast to the lack of significant improvement in steel for woodworking edge tools and plane blades, are late 20th century and early 21st century "chromium-vanadium" knife makers' steels superior to 18th and 19th century products?

Composition of the most popular knifemaker's steels

This list shows the percentage of each element in each steel. Iron, of course, accounts for at least 80 percent of these steels; only the elements added to the iron are listed here.

154-Cm	Carbon	1.05	W-2	Carbon	.06/1.4	
	Manganese	0.60		Manganese	.25	
	Phosphorus	0.030		Silicon	.25	
	Sulfur	0.030		Vanadium	.25	
	Silicon	0.25		M-2	Carbon	.85
	Chromium	14.00			Manganese	.25
	Molybdenum	4.00			Phosphorus	.00 .03 max.
440-C	Carbon	1.00	Sulfur		.00 .03 max.	
	Manganese	.50	Silicon		.30	
	Silicon	.40	Chromium		4.20	
	Chromium	17.05	Molybdenum		5.00	
	Molybdenum	.45	Tungsten	6.35		
	Nickel	.20	Vanadium	1.90		
	F-8	Carbon	1.30	A-2	Carbon	1.00
Tungsten		8.00	Manganese		.50/.70	
Chromium		4.00	Silicon		.25/.40	
Vanadium		.25	Chromium		5.00	
D-2	Carbon	1.50	O-1	Molybdenum	1.00	
	Manganese	.25/.40		Carbon	0.90	
	Silicon	.30/.50		Tungsten	.50	
	Chromium	11.50		Manganese	1.35	
	Molybdenum	1.00		Silicon	.35	
	Vanadium	.90	Chromium	.50		

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Figure 1 Latham, Sid. 1973. *Knives and knifemakers*. New York: MacMillan. pg. 33.

