

## Appendix IV

### Popular Knife Makers' Steels, c. 1973

An early 21<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century "chromium-vanadium" knife makers' steels superior to 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

