

Staying sharp

Nirey electric knife sharpeners



Sharpening knives can take on a whole new meaning when modern electric sharpening tools are used for the task, as **Dick Eussen** explains.

The Nirey KE-198 is designed for the home kitchen but it is a fine sharpening tool for hunting knives like this SOG folder.

Electric knife sharpeners are frowned upon by some sharpeners, and not without reason as high-speed electric grinding wheels heat the blade too fast and destroy its temper as some Nimrods have found out in the past. Today, however, we have a new range of electric sharpeners designed to sharpen knives to a previously unheard of standard - and done without harming the tempering process.

Foremost among this group is the Nirey range of amateur and professional electric knife sharpeners. You might ask, 'what use are they in the field, unless a 240v generator is taken along?' A fair question, but the secret to proper knife sharpening is to do the job properly at home before taking it afield where all you should need to keep a blade sharp is a touch-up with a butcher's steel between cuts. After all, stones and honing oil are heavy and bulky and are the last things you need when scrub hunting bunnies or hunting deer in the highlands.

I have been testing two Nirey sharpeners for some months now and have sharpened more than 70-odd knives with them, including those from friends and neighbours. I have been very happy with the results and highly recommend one of the sharpeners tested to anyone wanting a good, keen, durable blade.

Nirey KE-198

This model is designed for casual use and the home kitchen. It is simple in design, and with a bit of practice, anyone can sharpen a blade to a professional standard in a few minutes. The first job to do, however, is to read the instruction manual.

The machine has four sharpening slots in which the blade is inserted. Two pressure-controlled super-hard aluminum oxide coarse and fine grinding wheels make contact with the blade. They are spring-loaded to protect the blade and are set at a non-adjustable angle of 15 degrees. The sort of edge angle this machine produces on a blade is impossible to copy using the time-honoured sharpening stone and elbow grease.

The powerful electric motor whines at a high pitch but I got used to it very quickly and concentrated on the job of producing hard wearing edges on a whole array of blades, such as kitchen, butcher, fishing and hunting knives.

The angle is pre-set and the blade goes through two different ports. The left holds the coarse stones and the right holds the fine stones. I had to spend some extra time on the blades, as my own hand honing edge angle had to be ground down to suit that of the machine - a job it

did very quickly when compared to doing it by hand.

Scott Thornton of Total Knife Care said they have been using one of these little machines to sharpen more than 1600 knives in their workshop - equivalent to about 30 years of domestic use. That is not bad and my own tests indicate that this machine is in it for the long haul.

RRP of the Nirey KE-198 is \$121. It is guaranteed for domestic purposes only for two years. It is a sealed unit and no spares are available.

Nirey KE-280

Marketed as a professional tool, the KE-280 is a multi-purpose sharpening tool that will sharpen almost any cutting instrument. Kitchen, fishing and hunting knives, scissors, and cleavers were honed to razor-sharpness in minutes in my hands - once I worked out the correct pressure levels for the blade onto the rotating belts.

The machine has easy-to-follow instructions under each port. I highly recommend reading the provided instruction booklet first, especially the directions on how to present, insert and draw the knife in the ports. As the book says, if in doubt, practise with the power turned off, otherwise you may destroy the belt if the blade is inserted incorrectly.

The KE-280 has a powerful electric motor, which turns the belts. These belts have a commercial use life of about four months. Total Knife Care has a 24-hour replacement service. You can keep the old ones for polishing blades. The belts can also be reversed on the grinding wheels to use the full width of the belts.

Scott recommends that spare rollers and abrasive belts are obtained when you order a KE-280, as he reckons it is much easier to change the belts onto replacement rollers, than changing belts on the original rollers.



The Nirey KE-280 knife sharpener will sharpen any blade with ease - even a big Cold Steel Bowie knife. A professional standard can be achieved by anyone after a bit of practice.

STAYING SHARP

There are two ports in the machine; the left port sharpens the left bevel of the blade and the right port sharpens the right bevel. The motor reaches peak revs quickly at a high pitch but the noise level is acceptable. The knife blade is inserted at the recommended angle and pulled back towards the operator under even pressure, before the same step is repeated on the other port. At least five steps are needed to get a sharp edge, with each step requiring an increase in pressure for the proper honing process to take place evenly on both sides of the blade.

This is a fine machine if you have the work for it, and many of us do, both at home and in the field.

The KE-280 costs \$440 and has a one-year warranty. Replacement belts are \$8.80 each for fine, medium and rough. Abrasive roller wheels are \$22.

Preparation

There are some things you need to do before sharpening a blade in the Nirey electric sharpeners. First, ensure that you have a clean blade. Wash it and get rid of any crud on the metal, particularly rust. Most rust on blades is caused by not cleaning the knife after use, or not storing it in its leather pouch.

Surface rust is easy to remove on a coarse and fine honing stone by laying the blade flat on a well-oiled stone surface and working it back and forward under pressure. With a bit of honing the blade comes up as good as new.

Follow the golden rule of good sharpening technique - one swipe on the left and one swipe on the right, always in the same order with the same even pressure on every pass. Even though it is not required, after sharpening the blade on a Nirey sharpener, I hone mine to perfection on a hard Arkansas stone, using a little honing oil and a gentle touch. Out in the field, it is then a simple task to hone the blade on a field butcher's steel to straighten the edge after it shows any wear.

Accessories

Total Knife Care has all spares needed for the machines, such as replacement belts, abrasive wheels, butcher's knives and more. One handy item is the HO-109 stainless steel, sharpener and knife storage shelf. It is the home base for the KE-280 and other professional sharpeners in the Nirey range. My wife and I have one set up in the kitchen after replacing the old timber knife stand. It contains the kitchen knives, cleaver and the KE-280. When a knife is blunt it is a simple task to sharpen it without having to find the unit and set it up. The same goes for my fishing and hunting knives. If time is important, the saving in it and the elbow



grease trying to keep knives sharp, makes having one of these machines a joy.

Total Knife Care also has magnetic wall bars to stick the blades and other metal tools on to - very handy in the kitchen, trophy room or workshop.

Total Knife Care sells direct. For more information, check out www.totalknifecare.com.au or contact them by phone on 07 3856 4516 or email on info@totalknifecare.com.au

The Nirey HO-109 Sharpening and Knife Station is an ideal set-up for the home kitchen and workshop.

LAPUA AUSTRALIA

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406 Bilsen Road, Geebung, Qld 4034

Code	.22 RIMFIRE AMMO	DIAMETER	ACCURACY	WEIGHT	/100	/1000
431 7021	Midas 'M'	5.67 mm	12.7 mm	40gr	\$33.60	\$336
431 7022	Midas 'L'	5.69 mm	13 mm	40gr	\$33.60	\$336
431 7033	Master 'M'	5.67 mm	17 mm	40gr	\$17.90	\$179
431 7020	Master 'L'	5.69 mm	20 mm	40gr	\$16.10	\$161
431 7031	Pistol King	5.67 mm	25 mm	40gr	\$16.80	\$168
431 7040	Signum Moly	5.67 mm	15 mm	40gr	\$19.80	\$198
431 7023	Polar Biathlon	5.67 mm	20 mm	40gr	\$19.80	\$198
431 2243	Speed Ace	5.67 mm	25 mm	40gr	\$15.40	\$154
431 2246	Subsonic	5.67 mm	25 mm	36gr	\$16.20	\$162
431 2245	Hollow Point	5.67 mm	25mm	36gr	\$15.70	\$157
431 7066	Super Club	5.67 mm	25 mm	40gr	\$10.50	\$105
431 2248	Rapid Pistol 250 OSP	5.67 mm	25 mm	40gr	\$14.60	\$146
431 2242	Standard Club case 5000	5.67 mm	25 mm	40gr	/5000	\$402
LOADED AMMO						
431 6046	6mm BR Norma	GB 478	HPBT	105gr	\$194	
431 7538	.308 Win lockbase	B 466	FMJBT	150gr	\$165	
431 7073	.308 Win Scenar	GB 491	HPBT	155gr	\$196	
431 7510	.308 Win Scenar Aficionado	GB 422	HPBT	167gr	\$264	
431 7523	.308 Win Scenar	GB 432	HPBT	185gr	\$213	
431 7340	.308 Win Subsonic	B416	FMJBT	200gr	\$254	
431 8033	.338 Lapua Mag Lockbase	B 408	FMJBT	250gr	\$569	
431 8017	.338 Lapua Mag Scenar	GB 488	HPBT	250gr	\$603	
431 9700	Lapua Reloading Book				\$55	
431 9706	Vihtavuori Reloading Book		waiting new edition		\$55	
HANDGUN LOADED ROUNDS						
431 8023	.32 S&W wadcutter	LWC	83 gr		\$87	
431 8026	.32 S&W wadcutter	LWC	98 gr		\$90	
HANDGUN BRASS						
4PH 8021	.32 S&W Long				/100	\$30
4HH 9009	.357 Magnum					\$287
4HH 9013	.38 Special					\$531
4HH 9030	9mm Luger					\$208
4HH 9032	.38 Super Comp					\$290
4HH 9033	9mm Far					\$385
RIFLE UNPRIMED BRASS						
4PH 5013	.220 Russian				/106	\$106
4PH 5011	.222 Rem 5.7x43					\$81
4PH 5003	.223 Rem Match 5.56x45					\$73
4PH 6009	.243 Win 6.16x51mm					\$73
4PH 6046	6mm BR Norma					\$72
4PH6010	6.5x47					
4PH6012	6.5x55 Swedish					\$68
4PH 6030	6.5x284					\$97
4PH 7068	.30-06 7.62x63					\$87
4PH 7215	7.62x53/54 Russian					\$86
4PH 7217	.308 Win 7.62x51					\$66
4PH 7105	7x64					\$73
4PH 7093	.300 Win Mag					\$145
4PH 7074	7.62x39					\$43
4PH 8068	.338 Lapua Mag					\$275
4PH 9050	9.3x62mm					\$99
PROJECTILES						
4PL 5002	.222 Rem E369	SP	55gr		\$25	
4PL 5003	.223 Rem 5.56mm E369	SP	55gr		\$26	
4PL 5010	.224/5.69mm GB501 Scenar	HPBT	70gr		\$40	
4PL 6000	6.5mm (6.72/.264) GB458	FMJBT	144gr		\$39	
4PL 6008	.243 Win/6.16mm E497	SP	100gr		\$51	
4PL 6046	6mm Hollow Point G490	HP	77gr		\$39	
4PL 6047	6mm Scenar GB493	HPBT	90gr		\$41	
4PL 6045	6mm Scenar GB478	HPBT	105gr		\$44	
4PL 6033	6.5mm Scenar GB504	HPBT	100gr		\$36	
4PL 6020	6.5mm Scenar GB464	HPBT	108gr		\$35	
4PL 6032	6.5mm Scenar GB489	HPBT	123gr		\$37	
4PL 6018	6.5mm Scenar GB458	HPBT	139gr		\$37	
4PL 7073	.308 = 7.83mm Scenar GB491	HPBT	155gr		\$41	
4PL 7069	.308 = 7.83mm Scenar GB422	HPBT	167gr		\$41	
4PL 7071	.308 = 7.83mm Scenar GB432	HPBT	185gr		\$41	
4PL 7091	.308 = 7.83mm Lockbase B466	FMJBT	150gr		\$35	
4PL 7086	.308 = 7.83mm Lockbase B476	FMJBT	170gr		\$41	
4PL 7023	.308 = 7.83mm D46	FMJBT	170gr		\$40	
4PL 7019	.308 = 7.83mm D46	FMJBT	185gr		\$42	
4PL 7005	.308 = 7.83mm D166	FMJBT	200gr		\$40	
4PL 7060	.308 = 7.83mm Subsonic B416	FMJBT	200gr		\$40	
4PL 7213	.308 = 7.83mm Mega E415	SP	185gr		\$39	
4PL 7047	.308 = 7.83mm Mega E401	SP	200gr		\$37	
4PL 8017	.338 = 8.6mm Scenar	HPBT	250gr		\$69	
4PL 9017	9.3mm E433 Mega	SP	285gr		\$73	
HANDGUN PROJECTILES						
4PL 8021	.32 S&W (7.65mm)	LWC	98gr		\$15	
4PL 9000	.38 Special (9.10mm/.38)	LWC	148gr		\$20	
4PL 9007	9mm Luger 355	CEPP Super	120gr		\$21	
4PL 9016	9mm Luger (9mm/.355)	FMJ	123gr		\$25	
MOLY-COATED PROJECTILES						
CPL 6046	6mm (6.16mm/.243) G490	HP	77gr		\$43	
CPL 6047	6mm (6.16mm/.243) Scenar GB493	HPBT	90gr		\$45	
CPL 6045	6mm (6.16mm/.243) Scenar GB478	HPBT	105gr		\$47	
CPL 6020	6.5mm Scenar GB464	HPBT	108gr		\$39	
CPL 6018	6.5mm(6.72mm/.264) Scenar GB458	HPBT	139gr		\$43	
CPL 6032	6.5mm Scenar GB489	HPBT	123gr		\$40	
CPL 7073	.308 = 7.83mm Scenar GB491	HPBT	155gr		\$43	
CPL 7069	.308 = 7.83mm Scenar GB422	HPBT	167gr		\$44	
CPL 7071	.308 = 7.83mm Scenar GB432	HPBT	185gr		\$47	

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