

DEBITAGE

Bits & Pieces ... Remnants Left Behind ... By & For Flint Knappers

Volume I

Number 6



“Edge Preparation” For Percussion.

“Edge Preparation” For Percussion.

Up to this point, most of the percussion work we have been talking about is considered preliminary or early stage work in the overall flint knapping process.

This preliminary work covers reducing a relatively large chunk, a spall or a nodule, down into a more manageable size by removing a number of smaller pieces. These removals often include the outer surface or cortex of a nodule.

Some of these cortex pieces can be useful as cutting tools and sometimes they can be further worked by pressure flaking to make smaller tools such as knives or projectile points, etc.

After this initial trimming of the rough outer surfaces of a chunk of stone we can proceed with working toward creating a core of good, uniform quality. This core can be used as the source of more small pieces for pressure flaking or made into a large tool itself, like an axe or chopper. This next stage is often called a *“pre-form”* ... since it is a preliminary shape which can be made into many different types of tools.

All of this work can be accomplished by percussion, using a *“hammer stone”* or a *“soft hammer”*.

To move forward into the later stages of making finished tools by percussion with a *“soft hammer”* will require an understanding of *“edge preparation”* and *“isolated platforms”*.

Using these advanced techniques makes it possible to produce wide, thin, straight



Above: The black obsidian spall, showing the edge prepared for more percussion thinning.



You can see where the obsidian has been ground with the carborundum, on the platform.



This is where the soft hammer strikes the “prepared edge”, at the “isolated platform”.



Above: Immediately after the prepared platform has been struck with the soft hammer.



Above: Tilting up shows the new chip. Below: Tilting more shows the fine new flake scar.



and sharp stone tools by percussion alone.

It also requires a lot of practice and patience.

Sometimes you will end up (unintentionally) with two pieces of stone ... which can be made into two different tools ... all from a single *"pre-form"*.

That goes with the territory. Breaking a piece in two happens. It is frustrating, but it does help you learn. And it goes give you more tools to count!

Preparing For Percussion

In reducing this percussion core of this black Oregon obsidian spall, I have *"prepared the edge"* and prepared an *"isolated platform"* to use a soft hammer to remove more large chips.

The edge has been ground from side to side with carborundum to roughen the edge and help the copper percussion tool get a grip at the edge. This grinding also creates tiny scratches which make it a little easier for a solid strike to initiate the fracture which will remove the chip which I want.

Now, holding the core firmly and solidly in place against the protective thick leather pad on my thigh, I strike the *"prepared edge"* at the *"isolated platform"*. Strike firmly, at the correct angle, and the resulting chip removal happens instantly, with a satisfying *"crack!"*

When I tilt the obsidian core up I can see the fine new chip laying on the lap pad, and, as I tilt the core even more, I can see the full extent of the effective percussion blow ... a great flake scar leaving a broad, flat surface on my percussion preform.

DEBITAGE

Volume I, Number 6

From the flint knapping workshop of

F. Scott Crawford
Carrollton, TX 75010

DEBITAGE.Arrowhead-Maker.com
www.Arrowhead-Maker.com/debitage

www.StoneBreaker-FSC.net
Check out the Arrowhead Maker's
24-Lesson Correspondence Course:
FLINT KNAPPING 20.12
The first two lessons are FREE.
For more information, visit:
www.StoneBreaker-FSC.net/
FLINT_KNAPPING_20-12.html
or click this link to subscribe:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-clic&hosted_button_id=B6Q6HEHJHMAJS

© 2014. All rights reserved.
F. Scott Crawford LLC

Click This PayPal Link to Order 4 Volume
Set of "FLINT KNAPPING 20.12" Books:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-clic&hosted_button_id=EA2THLJB9TTEC

Why Do I Make Arrowheads?
Can This Obsession & Passion Be Explained?

FLINT KNAPPING 20.12

The Arrowhead Maker's Correspondence Course.
Volume I - Lessons #1 Through #8.
By F. Scott Crawford

The Arrowhead Maker's Correspondence Course.
Volume II - Lessons #9 Through #16.
By F. Scott Crawford

The Arrowhead Maker's Correspondence Course.
Volume III - Lessons #17 Through #24.
By F. Scott Crawford

The Arrowhead Maker's Correspondence Course.
Volume IV - Bonus Lessons #1 Through #4.
By F. Scott Crawford

Now You Can Get All 24 Lessons
Plus The 4 Bonus Lessons Of The
"FLINT KNAPPING 20.12" Course
In 4 Soft Cover Books!

Volume I: Lessons #1~#8 (106 p., \$49.95
+s&h) www.Createspace.com/4584807

Volume II: Lessons #9~#16 (126 p., \$59.95
+s&h) www.Createspace.com/4584826

Volume III: Lessons #17~#24 (170 p., \$69.95
+s&h) www.Createspace.com/4584836

Volume IV: Bonus Lessons #1~#4 (74 p., \$39.35
+s&h) www.Createspace.com/4584849

Or Get The Full Set Of All 4 Volumes From
PayPal At 30% Off List: (\$153.20 +s&h)

Now you can enjoy this on-going series of newsletters with key sequences of specific steps & processes in flint knapping.

- Soft Hammer Percussion;
- Cores & Blade Making;
- Chunks & Spalls;
- Chips To Points;
- A Wheel Of Points;
- Edge Preparation;
- Isolated Platforms;
- Power Pressure Flaking;
- Serrating An Edge;
- Notching For Attaching;
- Percussion "Fluting";

And more ... with additional and useful flint knapping information every month ... delivered directly to your inbox and available on your tablet or smart phone.

DEBITAGE

GETaPACKo'CHIPS

36-count Arrowhead Maker's Package of Flint & Obsidian Chips for pressure flaking arrowheads (\$24.95 plus \$7.20 S&H by Priority Mail) ... Click this link to order through PayPal:
https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-clic&hosted_button_id=M8W6UEY3EJKZA