

Know Your Knives Edition

Welcome to this special know your knives edition. We will be focusing on raising your awareness of Knives and bladed articles within the Criminal Justice Act (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988. Specifically, the weapons that will no-longer be legal to possess in private for the purposes of section 141. This has a go live date of 14th July 2021.

The bladed articles include hollow Kubotan, Hollow-walking stick, hand claw, foot claw, belt buckle, push dagger, Zombie knife, disguised knife, stealth knife, balisong (AKA butterfly knife), Shuriken (AKA Throwing star), curved blade and cyclone Knife. Amendments have also been made to the Flick knife within the Act and there is a useful link to take you to that part of the legislation.

Special thank goes to John Harding (MBE) of the Metropolitan police. He expertise has been invaluable in researching the history of these knives. A short biography of his career highlights is included at the end of this edition.

If you haven't joined already the NPCC knife crime knowledge hub group looks to share and prompt good practice from police and partners. Go to the knowledge hub and search NPCC Knife.

Hollow Kubotan

The Kubotan was invented in 1978 by Takayuki Kubota and was originally developed for use by female officers of the LAPD as an aid in controlling suspects.

Today various devices that are on the market and claim to be Kubotans. They are not Kubotans but instead rather dangerous weapons misusing the Kubotan name examples being shown in the picture.

There are various other Kubotan style weapons which are used to house other weapons or for pressure point application. There is also one that houses CS.



1 – Original Kubotan 2 – Conceals a baton
3 – Conceals 4 x throwing darts 4 – Conceals a knife

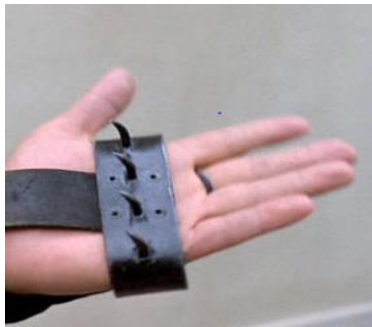
Hollow Walking Stick

This weapon is designed to resemble a walking stick. The top end is removed and inside is a hollow void whereby a sword can be removed from.

The Hollow walking stick is also referred to as the Sword stick. The sword remains hidden unless you pull it out. There is usually a push button or a similar device that is used for unlocking the blade.

Thought to be invented during the 18th century. It was a popular gentleman's accessory during that time. It was carried by wealthy people. The upper-class men routinely carried it to practice swordsmanship. It represented wealth and privilege. Also, it was a weapon for self-defense.

It is believed that sword cane was invented in Europe. However, it was also used in the Asian subcontinent and Japan for similar purposes during the 18th and 19th centuries.



Above (Hand Claw)

spikes do NOT have a cutting edge but are rounded so leave ragged torn cuts in flesh.

Below (Foot Claw)



Shuko (hand claw) and Ashiko (foot claw)

Traditional Ninja climbing tools designed to be worn on the hands and feet for climbing and were just two of the many kakushi buki (hidden weapons) deployed by the Ninja in Japan.

The Ninja were originally hired spies and assassins from central Honshu the largest of the Japanese Islands and plied their trade in feudal Japan flourishing between the 13th and 17th centuries and became legends in their own time.

With the small metal plate of the shuko slipped over the knuckles four sharp fearsome spikes extended from the palm and deployed offensively as a weapon in close combat they could rip and claw at an opponent's body causing lethal injuries to vulnerable areas such as the groin and face.

The ashiko on the other hand were spiked claws that were worn on the feet and in addition to being an immense aid in climbing, could also be used in combat to deliver deadly kicks.

Belt Buckle

This knife is designed to be used as a belt buckle with the bladed part of the weapon being secreted behind the leather of the belt. When worn this will not be seen at all.

This will then be used similarly to the push dagger.

Be aware when searching especially around the belt area as it is commonly an area that is overlooked.

Below - Belt Buckle Knife



Push Dagger



Here are examples of two different types of push dagger. The one on the left is worn on a chain around your neck. The one on the right attaches onto your clothing. Both of these have sheaths which assist to either attach to clothing, conceal the blade and to prevent injury to the carrier.

The push dagger is designed to be held with the bar inside a closed fist. The shaft through the knuckles, with the blade on the outside of your fist. This knife is used to stab into people with force in a punching motion.

It's not just knives

The Act also makes it illegal to possess in private Knuckleduster, Telescopic truncheon, Friction lock truncheon, Blow pipe/gun, Kursari gama (length of rope with sickle attached), Kyoketsu (Length of rope with hooked knife attached) Kusari (Length of rope with a hard weight attached).

Do you have a positive story in relation to Knife crime?

Contact Sgt Ian Weston Leicestershire - ian.weston@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk



Zombie Knife



Haitian folklore describes zombies as individuals drugged into a death-like state, without freewill and controlled by their voodoo masters. Modern zombies had their start with the 1968 cult classic, directed by George A. Romero *The Night of the Living Dead*. This is a crucial film in the history of zombies because it essentially laid the groundwork for the countless zombie films, television series, literature and products we see today.

KA-BAR who have been producing an award-winning range of knives since 1898. KA-BAR were the first to make the real Zombie knives although today this line seems to have been discontinued.

The Zombie Knife come in various forms from throwing knives to machetes from kukris to axes and from lock knives to swords. The ones we are finding most common tends to be the Zombie Slayer, or Zombie Slasher, the blades of which are capable of spearing a person or literally cutting off limbs. These knives can be used at distance to avoid the offender getting in too close but however, are very difficult to carry and conceal.

Most Zombie knives have unique traits and markings such as a green handle, splatters of imitation green blood zombie logos and a green rope wrist strap in order to prevent it being taken from the user.

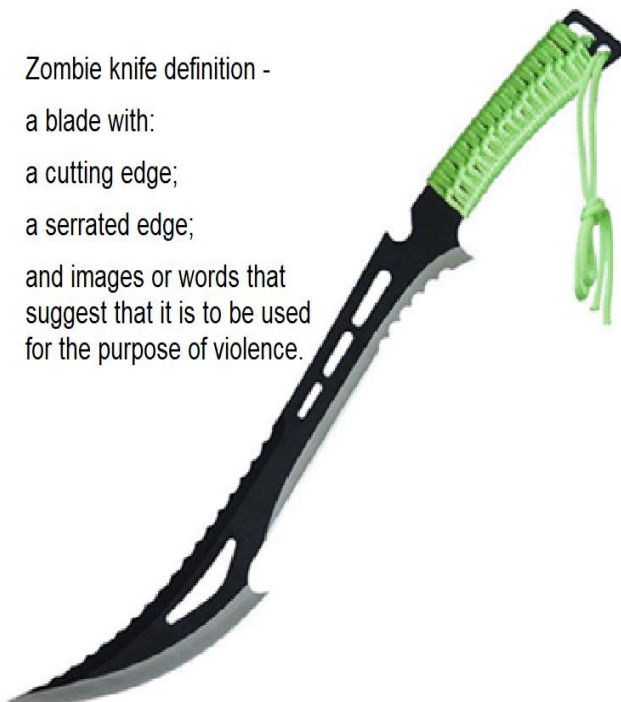
Zombie knife definition -

a blade with:

a cutting edge;

a serrated edge;

and images or words that suggest that it is to be used for the purpose of violence.





Disguised Knives and Stealth Knives

A disguised knife is any type of knife that by design appears to be an everyday object but hides a concealed blade or sharp point.

Examples of disguised knives include but not exclusive too Credit cards, Lip Stick, Combs, Marker Pens, Pens, (Left bar top to bottom) and even Keys and Mascara spikes. (below)



Stealth knives are designed so they are not detectable by modern metal detectors. They have a sharp edge or point and are not used for food consumption/preparation (traditional plastic cutlery) or as a toy. Home 3D printing capabilities are making these types of weapons more readily available.

Middle left, Black Plastic Comb would be a disguised and a stealth knife.

Right – Plastic thumb knife

Below – Plastic 3D printed knife



Balisong or Butterfly Knife

The balisong, also referred to as a butterfly knife. The reason for this being the way it opens resembles a butterfly's wings. The knife can be flipped open with one hand and is a popular martial arts weapon.

The origin of the knife is unclear some say it came from the Philippines whilst there have been some claims that it's a reworking of a French measuring tool called a pied du roi but irrespective of its origins the balisong was perfected and is used in the martial arts of the Philippines.

When opened the balisong is roughly 11" in length with a blade length of between 4 to 5 inches. The point of the balisong can be either a clip or drop point.

The quickness with which the knife can be opened makes it especially efficient as a close combat weapon when used in conjunction with empty hand martial arts techniques.



Note the manual locking point at the bottom to secure the two handles together.



Shuriken (Throwing Star)

The weapon sometimes known as a 'shuriken', 'shaken' or 'death star'.

This has a varying amount of sides and is made of a hard, non-flexible plate. It has three or more sharp radiating points.

This weapon is designed to be thrown at the recipient and has the potential to kill.

Left – various Shuriken or throwing stars

The Cyclone Knife

Very few knives are designed as distinctively as the Cyclone knife. The Cyclone knife is also known as the Tri dagger or Spiral knife. Regardless of its name one thing is for certain, it will inflict serious injury. The Cyclone knife is easily recognisable by its three sharp twisted edges,

The tri daggers twisted design delivers maximum internal damage that couldn't be produced by any other bladed weapon.

The twisted blade which has three spiraling cutting edges, cumulates to an incredibly sharp piercing point. This is intended for killing only, for as with a straight blade the user must stab then twist. The cyclone knife combines the two moves into one more efficient movement enabling an easier kill.

The overall length of this knife is around 13.5" and may have an addition feature of a skull crusher pommel.

The US Company Microtech of Vero Beach, Florida produces a Cyclone knife called a Jagdkommando and is the creation of Microtechs founder Anthony Marfione.

Named after the Austrian Special Operations Group of the same name it has a few added assets to the Cyclone knife including a hollow handle, glass breaker and a hard tubular sheath.



Prohibition on the possession of offensive weapons: supplementary

the weapon sometimes known as a “cyclone knife” or “spiral knife” being a weapon with (i) a handle, (ii) a blade with two or more cutting edges, each of which forms a helix, and (iii) a sharp point at the end of the blade.”

Flick Knife



The flick knife sometimes referred to as a switchblade is a type of knife with a blade that folds or slides into the handle. Its mechanically automatic design is intended for quick deployment with a blade that springs open at the press of a button.

The flick knife, was brought to the US from Italy, by the US Forces at the end of WW2. The glamour of the American lifestyle had heavily influenced the UK at this time. This influence led to the flick knife appearing on our streets.

In the early 1950's 'Teddy Boys' began to emerge on the streets of UK, their outlandish style of dress, combined at the time with acts of violence, shocked British Society. One of their weapons of choice when fighting, besides the cut throat razor, was the flick knife. Its connection to violence and youth gangs becoming a common denominator.

With its stiletto designed blade the flick knife is primarily a weapon for stabbing the blade being between 3 to 7 inches long.

Another less familiar design of flick knife is the "out to front" model sometimes referred to as a sliding or telescoping knife. Here rather than the blade flicking open from the side it thrusts forward, out of the front of the handle.

Flick knives have been illegal in the UK since 1959. Amendments to the definition of a flick knife are included in the Offensive Weapons Act 2019. Click on the link below to find out more.

For guidance and regulation visit

www.gov.uk/crime-justice-and-law/knife-gun-and-gang-crime

Also contains News, research, statistic and policy information.

Curved blade sword

The exact origin of the curved blade is something that has been deliberated on for many years but it is almost certain they came from the Middle East, possibly Egypt which had the khopesh a sickle shaped sword.

As more curved swords appeared in the East we in the West began referring to them as scimitars but technically there is no such thing as a scimitar sword also later some smaller curved weapons began to emerge from the East including the Kukri and Falcata

Soon curved swords weren't just confined to the East as in the West the Cavalry found the curved shape of the Sabre served two purposes, it concentrated the force of a strike at the point of impact and it ensured that the blade would slice along the targets flesh thus making it ideal for charging horsemen who otherwise would lose their straight blade in the body of their opponent. Then you had the Naval Cutlass that had the generic features of a very slightly curved blade between 27" and 29" long the short blade making it an ideal weapon for use in confined spaces often encountered when fighting below decks.

As with other historical knives and swords there are many replicas available on the market today especially on the internet where they can be purchased from abroad the quality varying from manufacturer to manufacturer.



Above – Egyptian Khopesh



Above- Victorian Naval Sword

John Harding (MBE) 2nd Dan Black Belt Judo (AJA)

Instructed the Royal Navy Regulating Branch in Officer Safety.

Trained the Close Protection Cell of 22 SAS in close quarter combat.

World War 2 close combat trained by Capt. Leslie Fernandez SOE Instructor and Col. Rex Applegate OSS Instructor.

Joined the Metropolitan Police in November 1981. 35 years' experience in Officer Safety Training.

Provides expert witness evidence in criminal, civil and discipline proceedings involving the use of force, martial arts, martial arts weapons and knives.

MBE (awarded for services to policing Officer Safety Training) in the 2012 Queens Birthday Honors.



John Harding (MBE)