

Czeck Edge Marking Tools

Yes, you can mark out your joints with a pocket knife, a craft knife or a sharpened piece of Chevy bumper. But once you've tried a well-made marking knife, you're unlikely to go back to your old ways.

Czeck Edge Hand Tools is one of the newest makers of marking tools in the market, so I purchased two of the company's knives and a bird cage awl this summer to give them a workout.

All in all, I was impressed. All three tools were finely turned and finished. The steel and brass components were melded seamlessly into the wooden handles. And the steel was very good.

The Kerf Kadet knife (\$37.95 to \$41.95, depending on the wood) is well suited for woodworkers who cut dovetails by sawing the tails first. The spear-point knife is thin at .028" with an 1⁵/₁₆"-long blade. I particularly liked the three ridges on the tool's ferrule, which make the tool easy to grip when you are holding it like a pencil.

The Pattern Pilot knife (\$43.95 to \$47.95) is a beefier knife for bigger hands and general joinery tasks. The blade is .058" thick and 1⁷/₈" long. The handle is also thicker and a shade longer.

The bird cage awl (\$49.95 to \$53.95) isn't really a marking tool as much as it is a boring tool. (You can, however, use the tip like a scratch awl.) By twisting the tool back and forth, you can easily make screw holes for hinges or bore holes for installing lock sets. They are easier to use than a gimlet or even a cordless drill when you have just a few holes. The ornate shape of the awl makes it comfortable to grip, and the tool really beavers through the wood.

If you're ready to put your Boy Scout knife away, the Czeck Edge tools will make



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Czeck Edge ■ bobzajicek1@gmail.com
or czedgedge.com

Street price ■ \$37.95 to \$53.95

For more information, go to pwfreeinfo.com.

it easier to scribe fine lines, and let you do it with class.

— Christopher Schwarz