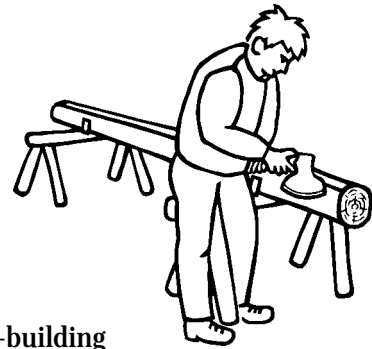


Swedish Broad Axes and log-building tools

from Gränsfors Bruks AB ©



Logbuilder's tools have developed over a period of many thousands of years. Tradition, climate and the type of timber have caused these tools to vary from country to country. In Sweden the tool catalogs of the 1900s depicted, for example, The Dala model axe, the Småland model, the Piteå Carving model, the Helsingland axe, the Norrland model, etc. Some axes exported were the Australian Broad Axe, the Pittsburgh Broad Axe and the Russian models (Siberian, Petrograde and Archangel). The axes, generally speaking, were available in four to five different edge-widths (which we now call edge-length) and were always sold without a handle.

The axes were the logbuilders most important tools but he also had many other tools, for example: the drawknife, log dog, auger, log scribe and measuring tools.

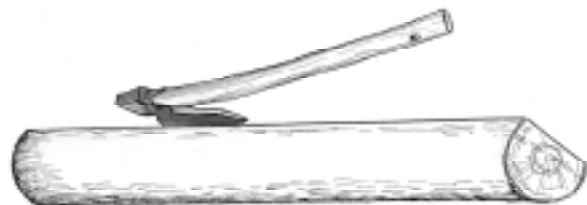
All Gränsfors Bruks Broad Axes and log-building tools are handforged at the companies axe factory in Sweden. The patterns of the Broad Axes and the handles are based on Swedish logging techniques for squaring logs and structural timbers of all kinds. The Broad Axes come with a high quality hickory handle slightly curved upwards and a grain leather cover. Gränsfors Bruks Broad Axes have a 20 year guarantee and are stamped with the smith's initials.

If you have questions or comments you are always welcome to call, write or visit us at Gränsfors Bruks.

Broad Axes

In logbuilding two different types of broad axes are often used: Chopping Broad Axes with straight (in relation to the blade) handles with the edge sharpened on both sides. Carving Broad Axes often with an angled (right or left) handle in relation to the edge and often with the edge sharpened on only one side.

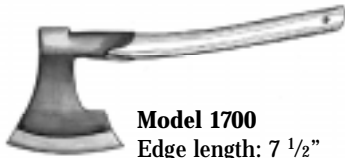
But a broad axe can also be a chopping and a carving axe at the same time! The handle is angled to prevent injury to your hands when working close to the material.



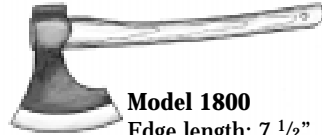
When describing a Broad Axe the model (design), angle of the handle and the sharpening of the edge are used. Furthermore, the edge-length, weight (indicates weight including handle), how the handle is attached

and the length of the handle are characteristics which set the broad axes apart. Today Gränsfors Bruks manufactures three models of broad axes: the 1700, 1800 and 1900.

Gränsfors Bruks Broad Axes Model 1700 and Model 1800



Model 1700
Edge length: 7 1/2"
Weight with handle:
3 3/4 lb.



Model 1800
Edge length: 7 1/2"
Weight with handle:
4 lb.



Model 1700 and 1800
Double-sided sharpened for many different types of scoring, hewing, carving, etc.

The edge on a broad axe can be sharpened in many different ways. Gränsfors 1700 and 1800 model logbuilding Broad Axes have a very thick edge that is always sharpened flat on both sides. One can say that the edge is "Double-Sided Sharpened". With the 1700 and 1800 models the handle is always attached straight in relation to the blade. The thick cutting-edge and wide bevel

enable the head and handle of the axe to stand away from the material you are working on. Your hands, grasping the handle, will therefore automatically be at a distance from the piece you are working on. (It is for this reason the 1700 and 1800 models are not available with angled-handles.)

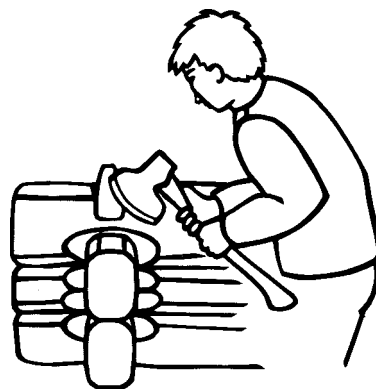
Gränsfors Bruks Broad Axe Model 1900



1900 Model
Edge length: 7"
Weight with handle:
3 1/2 lb.

Gränsfors 1900 model Broad Axe can be delivered sharpened either on both sides "Double-Sided Sharpened" or only on one side "Single-Sided Sharpened Edge", (scissors-sharpened).

As a rule of thumb, if nothing else is specified, the 1900 model Gränsfors Broad Axe you purchase will have a double-sided sharpened edge. The double-sided sharpened broad axe (Chopping Broad Axe) is used for corner chopping and also for all types of hewing of logs. The handle is by default "straight".



The 1900 model Broad Axe with a single-sided sharpened edge often has "Reverse Scissors Sharpening". This is one type of carving broad axe which works well for the planing of flat surfaces.

This type of broad axe is also easy to use in corners (often sharpened on the left side with right angled handle.) The 1900 model broad axe with single-sided sharpened edge can also have so called "Standard Scissors Sharpening" on the right or left side. With this type of sharpening the side of the broad axe which is not sharpened is usually completely flat. Broad axes with standard scissors sharpening are used for length-wise squaring of logs. (Often right-side sharpened with a right-angled handle.)

Gränsfors Bruks Broad Axes Model 1900 are available with different sharpenings.

The illustrations below show the broad axe's head from the user's side (handle end.)



1900 Model
(Most Common)
Double-sided
Sharpening
for all types of hewing
of timber and corner
chopping
"Chopping Broad Axe"



1900 Model
Reverse Scissors Sharpening.
For the planing of log walls.
"Carving Broad Axe"



1900 Model
Standard Scissors
Sharpening.
For squaring of logs.
"Carving Broad
Axe"

On the 1900 Model Broad Axe the handle can be straight, "right-angled" (angled to the right) or "left-angled" (angled to the left.) With angled handles the handle and your hands remain at a distance from the timber, thereby minimizing the risk of personal injury. Before it used to be the user himself who made a

curved handle in either direction. Now instead we bend the poll and the eye 10° to the left or right. When the 1900 model broad ax is used as a carving axe it often has an angled handle. When the 1900 Model is used as a chopping broad ax the handle is usually attached straight.



Left-Angled



Straight



Right-Angled

"What works for Mr. Anderson may not work for Mr. Petterson."

Other tools for logbuilding

Before in time it was the village smith who manufactured tools on the spot based on the order from the logbuilder. Regional variations of tools can be large.

Take care of antique logbuilding tools, they are pieces of our cultural inheritance!



Traditional Scandinavian Forest Axe
Edge length: 3 1/2"
Handle length: 25"
Weight with handle: 2 1/2 lb.



Large Carpenter's Axe
Edge length: 4"
Handle length: 20"
Weight with handle: 2 1/2 lb.



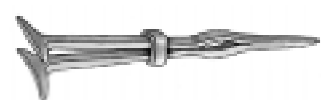
Log House Corner Axe
Edge length: 2 1/4"
Handle length: 20"
Weight with handle: 2 1/2 lb.



Log House Drawknife
Total length: 22 1/2"
Blade length: 11 1/2"
Blade width: 1 1/2"
Weight: 1 1/3 lb.



Log Dog
With hardened points
Total length: 19 1/2"
Weight: 1 1/2 lb.



Traditional Log Scribe (Compass model)
Opens 8 inches.
Weight: 1 3/4 lb.

In Sweden, we normally use hewn logs in log home. A book about log-building with round logs we can recommend is *Building With Logs* by Allan Mackie, published by Firefly Books.

On Gränsfors Bruks website www.gransfors.com, we will have an "Axe Bibliography". If you have books about axes and log-building you can recommend, please let us know, and we will add them to the "Axe Bibliography".

The American Log Builders Association and Canadian Log Builders Association are craft associations for log builders. They publish "Log Building News", arrange conferences, etc. For more information call them at: +1-360-752-1303.

In Scandinavia we have Scandinavian Log Builders Association. The address is: Yxmuseet, 820 70 Bergsjö, Sweden.

If you are looking for basic information about logbuilding, see Gränsfors Bruks'

"The Axe Book", pages 28-29.



GRÄNSFORS BRUKS AB

S-820 70 Bergsjö, Sweden - Phone: +46-652-71090 Fax: +46-652-14002
www.gransfors.com e-mail: axes@gransfors-bruks.se

GRÄNSFORS BRUKS INC

821 W. 5th North St., Summerville, SC 29483, USA
Phone 843-875 0240 Fax: 843-821 2285
www.gransfors.com e-mail: info@gransfors.com