



Queen Cutlery Guide

#1L Swing guard knives, Queen Special Projects Knives (QSP)

There are a lot of Queen-produced swing guards. This file contains only Queen labeled knives that have never been issued in a catalog. This image collection does not contain Special factory order (SFO), See a separate image file on this site for those. We will move forward in chronological order.

Figure 1 (top knife) shows the two queen prototypes for this pattern. The black sawcut delrin was first, made in an edition of only six (6) knives. The second was an amber smooth delrin, made in an edition of 23 knives. It was practice for the 1992 amber 1L A knife- the first regular catalog version of the Queen swing guard, also introduced in 1992. The black sawcut delrin has to our knowledge never been repeated. A very rare beginning knife. These prototypes are unique in showing Schatt & Morgan blades with both etches and tang stamps but with round Queen shields.



Figure 1. Prototype marked Queen Cutlery swing guards

The lower two knives in Figure 1, also marked as "prototypes" on the blade, with brown and dark orange jigged bone are not truly prototypes, made in 2013 after Daniels family took over the Queen Cutlery company. They show a flat, satin finish grind and are not too highly polished. They were each made in an edition of three (3) knives and probably represent beginning efforts in making barefoot handles for this pattern.

The dark rosewood (called walnut or many different dark woods) made in 1993, with Schatt & Morgan keystone shield is thought to be a practice run for the 1993 ABCA knife (see SFO knives) only with no blade etch. (image needed - sorry) It also is a very rare knife and very well completed.

The first smooth buffalo horn also appeared at this time, perhaps as a similar preparation for an SFO knife ordered by Sooner State Knives (see SFO list), because of the long oval shield used in those knives.



Figure 2. First smooth buffalo horn, made 1993 – practice for SSK knives

The green bone swing guard made in 1994 (Figure 3) was made as only one (1) knife internally as a competitor for the 1996 green bone Keystone collection. It is beautifully finished and is among the rarest Queen swing guard knives.



Figure 3. Green bone swing guard, 1994, prepared for VI Keystone, but never produced



Figure 4. Two Queen Winterbottom swing guards. Dark at top with rarely seen Script Queen Steel etch. Below a "chestnut" Winterbottom. Both of these knives have been seen only once in the last 13 years. Probably made in middle 1990s?



Figure 5. An Abalone swing guard – very rarely seen. Again note the oval shield- probably made in 1993-1994. No sense of how many - this is the only one seen.



Figure 6. A Pearl swing guard with an identical blade shape and finish to those made for 1994-1995 Keystone series. Rarely seen.

Queen has used Ontario Knife Company (also owned by Servotronics through this period) to make many Robeson knives. No Robeson swing guard has ever appeared in a Queen Catalog, despite being very highly finished and limited to 200 in each edition. We do not know the dates of production to these knives, but it is probably late 1990 to 2001 for most of them. Blades are all spear shape, flat grind with small nail nick, identical etch, and high polish, suggesting they were all made approximately the same time.



Figure 7. Robeson brown bone swing guard



Figure 8. Robeson red stag bone (top) and green bone (bottom) Both in edition of 200.



Figure 9. Robeson "Snakeskin" bone. This knife has only become noticeable in the last year or so, but is also produced in edition of 200 – (Sorry to photograph does not show etch too well, but it is similar to knives above.)

There is another Robeson swing guard in torched stag with red shield under the "pocketEze" label, Made around 2008.



Figure 10. Queen 2002 80th anniversary swing guard, handled in smooth cherry delrin, No public knowledge of how many of this knife were produced, but they are starting to be much harder to find. Condition is a problem, since these knives were apparently used harder than Schatt & Morgan versions



Figure 11. "Factory knife" A swing guard with D2 steel, produced around 2002, with black delrin handles and very little polish and no etch. It was obtained from the Daniels family when they assumed operation in the Titusville, PA plant from off the factory floor. It might have been a work knife to see how the new steel performed, as it appears to have been sharpened quite a bit. None like this knife has been found with smooth black delrin.



Figure 12. Two highly finished swing guards. The top knife in was sold as "torched deer stag" with Queen stamp\s (no Schatt & Morgan labeling...) and a clip blade. It was never cataloged. The bottom knife with a very unusual bomb shield was made by the Daniels family in 2013 in Winterbottom bone in an edition of 100 – also never cataloged.



Figure 13. A swing guard series made late in 2016 by the Daniels family with a traditional spear blade with saber grind and long pull, and with Schatt & Morgan keystone shields and blade identifications. From the top the handle materials include a dark brown curly maple, a golden curly maple, Smooth Rosewood, Green smooth wood, and red jugged bone. Each of these knives was produced in very limited numbers that are not labeled on the blade. Some were claimed to be 1 of 1 (red jugged bone) others up to 10 (smooth rosewood). There may well be other similar knives that disappeared into collections before they could be documented.



Figure 14. A 2016 Elk Antler swing guard made in very similar fashion to the other 2016 knives, but produced in larger numbers – thought to be around 30.



Figure 15. One of the last series of swing guards produced under Daniels family ownership of Queen. This one is a barehead, brown worm groove bone, with spear blade, small nail nick (see figure 16 and 17 for more in this set.)



Figure 16. Final Swing guards from Queen Cutlery. These knives so a bit more variability in that the top two have spear blades with long pull, while the bottom two show clip blades. All have barehead style with identical signature bolsters labeled "S & M." From the top, the first is handled in whiskey Catalina bone, Green jugged bone, dark reverse worm grooved bone, and torched sambar stag-showing a larger handle at the bottom of the knife. Generally, these knives were produced in editio9n of 30.

Some of these knives are not as well finished as others in Queen's long production of this pattern – Some are hard to close, as you can see above, the Catalina blade seems to lock-up a bit prematurely. It would be great to handle and use one of this series before purchase in our opinion.



Figure 17. A dark mammoth swing guard in the barehead version with spear blade – the last knife in Queen's long history of making fine examples of this pattern.

This image summary of Queen-produced (but un-cataloged) swing guards is NOT COMPLETE. There are some not in my collection and still in the hands of private collectors – but this does begin a visual summary and we would appreciate your help in identifying any additional knives of this pattern – either for this set, or for Queen Special Factory Orders (SFO) which are contained in another file on this website. Thank you.

