



QueenCutleryGuide.com

#44, Large one-blade Folding Hunter,

A Queen Special Projects (QSP) and a Special Factory Order

Figure 1, shows two queen large folding hunters in the one-blade format. This knife has not been as often made as the two-bladed knives in this pattern (#39), and so these are especially collectable if in good condition.

The left hand-knife was made for less than one year in 1959, using the "Burnt Orange" Winterbottom delrin handle material. As stated elsewhere, experimenting with coloring of delrin plastic, in that year, the Burnt Orange produced some very nice colors, but also many that were various colors, purple or "hideous", and resulted in much wasting of knives. While it was cataloged, it has often been seen as more attractive than the black delrin which replaced it before the end of 1959.

The right-hand knife is also a very rare knife because it is made shorter than the standard size for the pattern – (Collectors call it "the short frame" #44). A special factory order came in, but the client wanted bone winterbottom. The story is that a small store of tan bone winterbottom handle scales was discovered in the factory, but they were just a bit short. So, to finish the contract, all the handle components for the knife were cut down a small amount to allow the nice bone to be used. This knife was never cataloged and because of the handwork required was made in a very small edition (edition size is unknown). The tang stamp shows this knife was made in the early 1980s, with initials for made in USA, but before the year of production was added. It shows a high degree of blade polish and is a very special knife.

The two sheaths also are interesting. Queen did not automatically include a sheath with these large folding knives. However, these two knives were purchased new by a famous collector, Mr. John Lussier, and he has assured me these two sheaths are correct for the time they were sold. Mr. Lussier was responsible for the Queen section in John Sargent's 4th and 5th editions of Guide to premium knives and razors.

One can see several differences in the 1959 sheath compared to the early 1980's sheath that provide good evidence of dating Queen sheaths. First, the early sheath has a flat bottom. It used a smaller steel snap (not the earliest brass snap), but noticeably much smaller than the 1980's sheath. It also used a slightly smaller leather stamp for the "Q crown" logo, and did not include the perimeter line on the flap. Finally, one can readily see that the sewing used more stitches per inch than the 1980s version. While these cannot be used for every sheath, these changes are common for the way Queen often modified their sheaths over time.



Figure 1. Two versions of the #44 single blade large folding Hunter by Queen Cutlery