



Queen Cutlery Guide

Queen #62 Easy Opener, Citrus/Melon knife:

Queen Special Projects and Special Factory Orders

The Queen large citrus or melon knife was a pure working knife for many years, but thoughtful members in the Queen Cutlery Collectors Club thought it could be something more and in 2007 made a special factory order for a revisions that included a spear blade for the main spey blade, a second large pen blade, with high polish and a very nice amber stag bone handle with shield, rather than the frequently seen winterbottom delrin plastic "easy open notch. They also asked for a very early tang stamp from the mid-1950s – "Queen stainless." They produced only a small edition of 50 knives (the left-hand knife in Figure 1. See figure 2 for the blade etch and stamp. This knife is 5.7/16 long, with a main blade of 4.36".

Mark Zalesky, in his column in *Knife World*, April 2008, gave this knife a beautiful review "As if someone kissed a knife -frog and POOF one knife prince instantly appeared." He added additional praise in describing the transformation of a working fruit knife to a "knife of the 1920s or 30s – a slim swell-centered hunter."

As is often the case, Queen Cutlery staff made a few extra components and produced a very few additional knives in the same pattern, with the same amber stag bone (slightly darker), but with no etch on the main blade, but the same tang stamp from earlier years. This knife is the middle knife in figure 1. We are told there are only five or six knives like this – a rare Special project knife emerging from a Special factory order.

Finally, the right-hand knife in Figure 1, is a single spear blade of the # 62 with a black, matte curly maple, barehead handle. It has fine decorative lines across the bolster. It is not a highly polished and maybe not the highest quality curly maple, but is still a very attractive and tightly made item. It was made and bought before the factory closed in 2017, but was never cataloged. There is no etch, nor shield, but a Schatt & Morgan tang stamp. There is no indication of how many were made, but almost certainly,

Not very many. It bears the hallmarks of a knife produced in the last years of the company. Like its partners, it bears little resemblance to the early working knife it derived from.



Figure 1. A #62 SFO, 2007, and two special projects knives



Figure 2. Blade Etch for #62, Special Factory Order