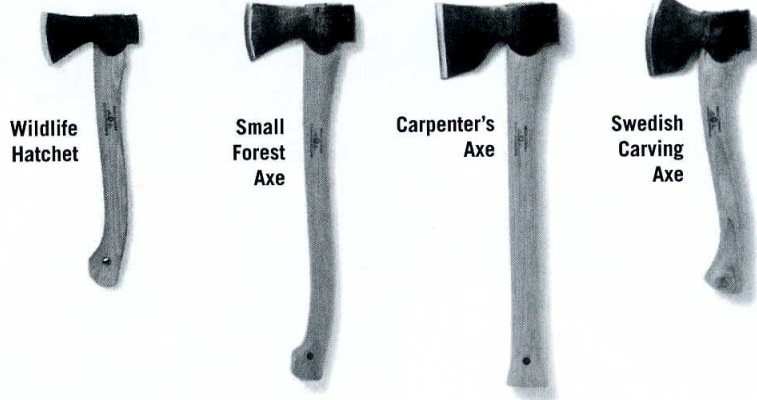


A few examples of the many axes manufactured in Sweden by Gränsfors Bruks, a company that believes in doing things the traditional way.

An Axe to Grind



Axe-smith Lennart Petterson

An axe is the woodsman's best friend—and a tool that is nearly as old as humankind. Gränsfors Bruks has manufactured axes since 1902 and wrecking bars since 1942.

THE MODERN AXES made today by Gränsfors Bruks are among the best money can buy. Their complete line includes carpenter's axes, broad axes, splitting axes, forest axes, and more.

At the Gränsfors Axe Forge in Hälsingland (about halfway between Hudiksvall and Sundsvall in northern Sweden), a team of dedicated professional blacksmiths uses traditional production techniques based on craftsmanship. Axes are forged in one piece using the very best Swedish steel and are ground only at the bevel for better quality. Handles are made from first-quality hickory wood, and are designed to complement the specific axe head to which they will be fitted.

Smiths scrutinize every axe head they make. They finish their work by stamping their initials on each head beside the company's crown insignia. The company credo insists

employees assume total responsibility for the axe—by creating it in an environmentally safe manner and by offering a 20-year guarantee to the consumer.

In 1990 the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation awarded Gränsfors a prize for "Ecological Design." In 1995 the Swedish Society of Crafts and Design gave Gränsfors a design award for its newly developed hunter's axe.

The family-owned company has 23 employees in Sweden. Besides axes, Gränsfors Bruks forges spring steel wrecking bars, branded "TOVE," and forestry tools.

Gränsfors axes and wrecking bars and a complete line of woodcutter's safety clothing, which is distributed under the brand name "SwedePro," can be purchased in the United States through its South Carolina distributor.

To receive a copy of *The Axe Book*, an interesting collection of facts and information about wood-cutting and the use of axes, contact Gränsfors Bruks at 821 W. 5th North Street, Summerville, SC 29483. Phone: (800) 433-2863, fax: (803) 821-2285, e-mail: info@gransfors-bruks.com. Or visit the company's Web site at: www.gransfors-bruks.com.