

# DEBITAGE

Bits & Pieces ... Remnants Left Behind ... By & For Flint Knappers

Volume I

Number 8



**“Power Pressure Flaking” For Results.**

### ***“Power Pressure Flaking” For Results.***

Up to this point, we have spent quite a bit of time learning and practicing “*edge preparation*” which helps us set up and perform percussion work and it also is useful in preparing our materials for effective pressure flaking.

It’s now time to move forward in developing our pressure flaking skill.

I have spoken with and watched many new flint knappers struggle with trying to push pressure flakes out across the surface of their preforms. Attempting to pry the flakes off past the mid line of their point or blade, with varying degrees of success. And sometimes with greater degrees of frustration than of success.

The key to accomplishing this objective of better and longer pressure flakes will help you to make better arrow points, dart points, knife blades, spear points, etc., and it will also work to better protect the strength and condition of your shoulder, elbow and wrist joints. That sounds like a winning combination to me.

I learned this idea from such masters of flint knapping as Craig Ratzat and Greg Nunn. Learning about this idea is one thing. Putting it to productive use in your knapping is another.

Enough introduction and selling!

What is this secret which can give you a much greater result, multiply the power of your pressure flaking and give you the satisfaction of actually driving stone flakes to the mid line, beyond the



*Above: Manufactured Quartz Crystal. Below: Triple Flow Midnight Lace Obsidian.*







Above: Rainbow Obsidian blade, power pressure flaked. Below: Midnight Lace Obsidian.



mid line and even, with practice, approach the far side of the blade?

Learn to pressure flake with your legs.

Huh?

Don't I have to hold the pressure flaking tool in my hand? Don't I have to hold the stone I am flaking in my hand? How can I pressure flake with my legs?

**Learning To Use Your Legs Provides Extra Power & Drive Which Will Increase The Success Of Your Pressure Flaking Efforts**

Together, we will find the answers to your questions, and examine the specific actions which you can use to begin using the power and strength of your legs to magnify and multiply the results you have been getting with just your hands and arms.

Why use your legs in pressure flaking? Most people have a lot more available muscle power in their legs than in their arms and shoulders.

It takes practice with this "*Power Pressure Flaking*" method to get the feel of holding your hands in the proper position and using the strength of your legs to bring all the forces together in a powerful squeezing motion to create the excellent pressure flaking result you seek. It takes practice to master this powerful and enhanced method.

However, once you get the feel of a successfully driven long pressure flake, and how to repeat that result, you will be ready to move forward and dramatically improve the results of your pressure flaking.



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From the flint knapping workshop of

F. Scott Crawford  
Carrollton, TX 75010

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**Why Do I Make Arrowheads?  
Can This Obsession & Passion Be Explained?**

Why do I spend so much time and effort making and writing about making arrowheads and hunting to succeed?

It takes a lot of time and effort to get your arrowheads made in Carrollton, TX, Texas over 40 years ago.

Arrowheads like this one I just drove me. I want to be able to make more projects, points like this.

With the same methods and tools as those which were used by an ancient "flint knapper" no long ago.

And, you know what else? This is just one of two teaching series, which were filmed, made from free different parts of the same stone.

If you have the least bit of interest in learning how to make fine, arrow heads, this will inspire you. It will challenge you... it will drive you.

You know it's not easy. You know it takes patience. You know it takes effort and persistence. And you know it takes time.

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**FLINT KNAPPING 20.12**

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