



## Welcome

We are pleased to offer you this new edition of our VSAKCS newsletter. Within these pages we will provide information about new products, product changes and special editions for 2018-19, including the exciting limited edition Karl Elsener commemorative, recent Damascus models, as well as our latest yearly club knives. We will also begin to provide some information about changes in packaging over the years.

## New Products & Product Changes

One of the most significant product changes during 2018 was the conversion of most lock blade knives produced in Ibach, Switzerland, to a liner lock mechanism. The old locking system of a lever mechanism has now been retired. Collectors may now wish to hold on to their old style models as they may begin to appreciate in value.

The new liner lock series (11 models) are now operated by moving a liner out of its locked position with either one or two hands. Delemont produced lock-blade knives will continue to use the Swiss cross button to push the liner lock over for blade closing. The yearly issued alox series for 2018 featured a berry red alox handle scale and was offered in the usual models: Classic, Cadet and Pioneer. The new color for 2019 is champagne gold.

Ten new limited edition classics were introduced in 2018 from a design contest, featuring places of the world. The Great Pyramids are one example. The 2019 group features food-themed designs including, for example, bananas.

The previous hardwood series knives are being replaced by new walnut handle models, and in some cases bubinga wood. Going forward, the Spartan, Huntsman and SwissChamp will have the new walnut handles.

## Inside This Issue:

Welcome	1
New Products & Product Changes	1
2018 Damascus Knife	2
2019 Damascus Knife	2
Limited Editions	2
Victorinox Swiss Army Packaging	3
Collectors Society Knives	4

A new series with navy camouflage handle scales was introduced in November 2018. The series includes the Skipper, Huntsman and Classic models.

Special edition models for 2018 included the Huntsman Year of the Dog knife, Sportsman white Christmas model and the Karl Elsener 100th anniversary commemorative knife and coin set. The later consists of a special white Huntsman model with special markings celebrating the life of the founder of Victorinox who passed away in 1918. Included with this set is a special edition 20 franc government-issued Swiss coin in silver. One side of this coin features the image of a Huntsman model Swiss Army Knife. This set was produced in a quantity of 8,000 pieces for worldwide distribution. Each knife is individually numbered. Additional special editions are the Apollo 11 moon lander Tinker and Swiss Spirit Evolution 10 (see page 2).



## 2018 Damascus Knife

The 9<sup>th</sup> knife in the Victorinox Damascus series was released in the early spring of 2018. It is a Deluxe Tinker model with the main blade made from Damascus 333 layer steel in a ladder pattern. The handle is made of plum wood. The factory produced 6,000 pieces of this model.



## 2019 Damascus Knife

Spring of 2019 saw the release of the new 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Victorinox Damascus series. It is the Wine Master knife with special smoke-treated dark brown oak handle scales. It was produced in the Victorinox Delemont factory in the quantity of 6,000 pieces. The main blade is made from (DS93X) 333 layer Damast steel. The serial number is laser etched on the wood handle scale.



## Limited Editions

The factory produced 1,969 numbered pieces of a Tinker with an image commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The implements on this knife have the black Polyspectral coating. The knife has been sold out and was only available online from Victorinox.



Victorinox produced a special edition Evolution Wood 10 Swiss Spirit, featuring a walnut handle with laser engraved Swiss alpine designs. 5,000 numbered pieces were produced in the Delemont factory and only sold on the Victorinox website.



## Victorinox Swiss Army Packaging

This article begins to cover our exploration of the changes in packaging over the past 60 or so years. Shown are several photos of boxes from our personal collection. Packaging can provide valuable information for collectors regarding the age of a particular knife model. As a general rule, older knives with original boxes will have higher value. Our information about packaging prior to the 1960s is limited, so we invite members to please send us photos of older boxes that are not shown here.

The red and white boxes shown (photo A) we believe were produced in Switzerland and used throughout the world in the late 1950s through the early 1970s. We have seen them with information written in English only, or both German and English. The inserts holding the knife are made from flocked plastic in white or green. The boxes are marked "printed in Switzerland."

Beginning in the later 1970s and into the 1980s, factory packaging transitioned to a new series of burgundy colored boxes in both a slide style and minimalist folding style (see photo B). The folding minimalist type was used more widely in Europe.

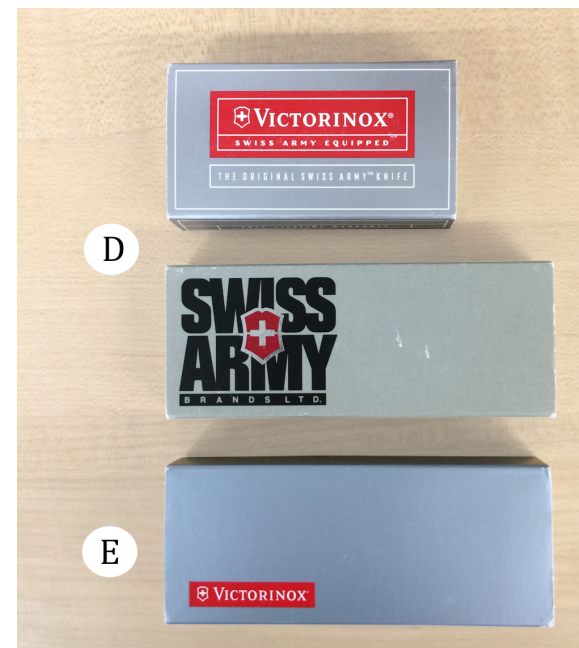


We have seen two types: an English language version and a three-language version (German, English, French). Also during this period there is a black and white box that we believe was only used in the USA for a few years, perhaps in the early 80s (see photo C).

At the end of the 1980s and early 1990s, we begin to see an evolution to silver colored boxes; some for the European market, as well as boxes specifically for the US market. The last group often had the words Swiss Army Equipped (late 90s) or Swiss Army Brands (late 80s) printed on the box and they would indicate printed in USA (see photo D). These typically would be slide or folding boxes.

By the mid 90s we see silver/gray boxes with a red and white Victorinox logo. They are either sleeve type boxes or lidded boxes. All had white smooth plastic inserts to hold the knives in place (see photo E).

Contemporary boxes are the folding minimalist packaging in a gray/silver color, white printing and red Swiss cross Victorinox logo. To our knowledge, these are currently being used worldwide. We hope to offer more information on the subject of packaging in the future and include items packed in carded clamshell type packages.





## Collectors Society Knives

For 2018, our 19<sup>th</sup> annual knife was a 91mm Tinker with pliers, which has in the past been called the Mechanic. This model is no longer in general production. The handle scales are in the newly introduced navy camouflage pattern. The front handle scale has our club logo and the traditional date is etched on the main blade. A total of 125 were produced.

Our 2019 model celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Collectors Society. For this year, the factory has produced a very special

model Cybertool 29 with walnut handles and gold-plated key ring and corkscrew. The wood handle scales feature laser etching of our club logo on one side and “20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” on the reverse. The year is etched on the main blade.

This model was produced in a quantity of 140 pieces. If you wish to place an order, please contact our treasurer, Jason Dillman, at: [jasonsfreeportkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:jasonsfreeportkitchen@gmail.com). The cost is \$85 plus postage. Sales are strictly limited to one per member.



**Above:** The 2018 VSAKCS club knife, a 91mm Tinker, no longer available.



**Below:** The 2019 VSAKCS club knife, a Cybertool 29, celebrating 20 years. Limited availability.

**Special Dedication:** This issue is dedicated in memory of our Northeast Victorinox sales representative and dear friend, Joe Buscemi, who passed away on August 17. *A hui hou.*

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