

How JATCO's Eco Knife was Born (Kizuna Edition)

The Eco Knife, which was first conceived in 2022, will finally go on sale from September 28th. Why did Jatco, a manufacturer specializing in transmissions, get into the knife business? Following on from last week, this time we will introduce the story that One JATCO created. (Interview location provided by Arcade Hotel)

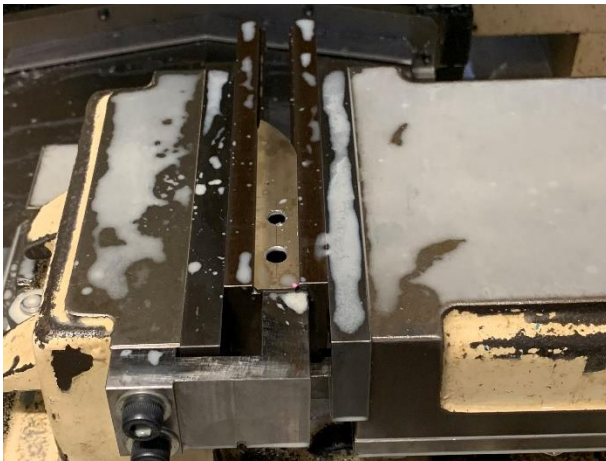
Mr. Hasegawa, SCM Department:

As I mentioned in the first part, this project was not undertaken by JATCO alone, but by the entire JATCO Group. It was only thanks to everyone's cooperation that we were able to get to the point of selling the product. In this issue, we bring you messages from those involved.



Takada-san (left) and Hashimoto-san(right)





JATCO Plant Tech: Blade processing

Mr. Takada from the Machining Machinery Division at JATCO Plant Tech:

Up until now, JATCO had only made automotive parts, so I was worried about whether they could make knives. However, while considering the process and processing methods, I enjoyed the process of trial and error, thinking, "Maybe this should work." Since this product is made by the JATCO Group, I would be happy if the JATCO Group name becomes known nationwide.

Mr. Hashimoto, Machining Machinery Division, JATCO Plant Tech:

Since it was completely different from my usual work, I had to learn everything from scratch about the equipment and how to select the tools to use. It was very difficult because the precision of the holes was so precisely specified, but I was able to overcome it by consulting with my seniors. Although it is aimed at children, I would like it to be usable by people of all ages. This is the start of the camp.



Nakayama-san (left) and Masuda-san(right)



Second Processing Technology Division, Second Manufacturing Division: Heat Treatment

Mr. Nakayama, JATCO Second Processing Technology Division:

I'm glad that we were able to start the heat treatment even though we didn't know anything at all.

Each step was difficult, including various plans and getting approval from higher-ups. This is my second year with the company, so when there was something I didn't understand I asked a lot of questions and was able to understand it all. If we sell a lot, we'd like to handle a lot of them, and I hope that the JATCO Group's name recognition will spread.

If I were to buy one, I would choose a Jatco color knife.

JATCO Manufacturing Division No. 2, Mr. Masuda:

In terms of making a product, the only thing that changed was from a post-processing to a finishing process, so I thought that what I was doing would basically remain the same. I had no experience with processing something as thin as a knife blade, so I tested it repeatedly to be sure. It was a good experience to be involved with other companies such as JATCO Tools in heat treatment.

I think it would be interesting if it becomes a general product in the future, not just for camping.



Watanabe-san

JATCO Manufacturing Division No. 2, Mr. Watanabe:

Although there was a short delivery time from planning to the start of sales, we all worked hard together.

This was the company's first-time selling knives, so it was impressive to see how everyone came together in a united effort.

This time they are selling camping knives, which makes me happy as I am also an outdoorsy person. We will do our best to make this a flagship product for JATCO in the future.



Nagura-san



JATCO Tool: Blade sharpening

JATCO Tool's Nagura:

I have been involved in regrinding cutting tools until now, but I have always been interested in what has changed. When I heard about this project, I really wanted to make it a success.

Once we start selling, we will put in place a system to pass on our techniques to younger people.

I don't go camping, but I do do DIY things like cutting down wood (laughs). It would be great if it were added to the product lineup, just like the transmission.

How would you like to see it develop in the future?

Mr. Hasegawa SCM Dept.:

This year, the product will be sold online as a test sale and will also be offered as a gift in return for hometown tax donations. We will look at sales and public reaction to determine whether to commercialize the product in the future.

Only 200 are available at first, so be sure to purchase yours soon.

Ms. Matwichuk Aftersales Department:

This year, we plan to focus sales on the domestic market. If sales go smoothly, we would like to expand beyond inbound tourism and turn our attention to overseas markets, so that we can sell our products worldwide.

