

## IWA Knife Award 2024

The independent jury selected 10 finalists from all submissions, which were on display at the BLADE Demo Area during IWA.

### The winners in category "Classic"

#### **1. Place: PUMA White Hunter**

The PUMA White Hunter with its distinctive blade shape and complex grind has become an icon among hunting knives. The current new edition differs only in details from the successful model that came onto the market in 1956. The special shape of the blade allows it to be used for a wide range of hunting tasks, even splitting wood with its axe edge on the back of the blade. Original pieces from the 1960s are now highly priced, sought-after collector's items. And even today, the workmanship and the handle material still stand out from the crowd. It is difficult to compete against such a knife in an award for traditional knives.

#### **2. Place: Otter Messer „Bergmann“**

At first glance, the "Bergmann" with its black ebony handle scales and carbon steel blade looks like a very classic, compact EDC. But if we take a closer look, the knife has some surprises for us. The bolsters are made of FAT Carbon (= Future Advanced Technologies), a very modern material that provides interesting visual accents. The copper veins in the material, which are also reflected in the copper rivets used, are reminiscent of the ore formations in the coal mines in the Ruhr region and thus combine the nearby mining tradition with the knife tradition of the blade city of Solingen.

#### **3. Place: Windmühlenmesser „Hechtsäbels“**

The "Hechtsäbels" knife from Windmühlenmesser-Manufactur won over the jury without any modern materials or techniques. A knife in the best Solingen tradition, its blade shape combines several knife types from around 1910. It is thinly ground, extremely sharp and has a hand-crafted handle made from local wood. The intended use is versatile, but it should take into account the fact that it is a very thin and delicate blade: Levering and chopping should therefore be avoided with the knife, as should be cleaning it in the dishwasher.

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