

Making a Sgian Dubh

There is no right or wrong way to make a Sgian Dubh however below is a basic outline of the method I have developed over the years.

Carving the Handle

Rough to shape with a course rasp

Mark out pattern with pencil

Use small sharp chisels or a Dremmel type tool with a V-shape burr to carve pattern

Oiling and Finishing

Oil with a good quality wood working oil

Use finer grades of sandpaper to achieve required finish

Several light applications are usually required

A coat of woodworker's wax can be useful to seal and finish

Attaching the Blade

I drill the handle with a long 3.5 ~ 4mm drill, gently rocking it to develop the hole into an oval.

Then, with a ground down jigsaw blade (or use a file) I make the hole bigger to fit the tang.

I also make a groove/slot for the end of the blade in the base of the handle.

Coat the blade with wax where you don't want the glue to stick.

Embed the blade into the handle with a good two-part epoxy resin, you can dye this or mix with wood dust if you like.

Carefully cut and peel the excess epoxy away before it's fully cured.

That should give you a good, strong Sgian Dubh.

Care and Maintenance

It is always best for long term storage to remove the sheath to allow air to circulate around the blade.

Keep clean and dry and apply a very thin film of oil occasionally to the blade.

I use Ballistol oil which is a good general purpose light oil and is also food safe, however you may use a good quality olive or walnut oil.

Likewise on the handle, but use very sparingly.

I hope you find making your own Sgian Dubh an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Rab Gordon

Sgian Dubh Kits and Components available from Rainnea Ltd

<http://www.rainnea.com/Sgian-Dubh-Kits.htm>