## Straight razor geometry



This is the basic straight razor geometry ( $6 / 8$ size), and it is the pattern by most of the standard modern razors (DOVO, Henckels, TI ) are made. By varying this shape, custom shapes are created, not minimizing the function, which is THE most important quality of the razor.


## Identification

The actual size, measured from back to edge will be a bit more than declared size of razor. If the razor is sold as " $6 / 8$ " measured size will be something between $6 / 8$ and $7 / 8$ inch.

The back of the razor has mostly semicircular crossection. In some cases it is decorated with custom filework. In both cases, it must be mirror polished, because it comes in contact with the hone and the strop. Also the sharp points of filework must be smoothed. The back in well grounded razors and almost every older razor is slightly arched downwards, to promote arched edge, which shaves better than straight one. This deviation is ranged from very subtle $(0.25 \mathrm{~mm})$ to $1-2 \mathrm{~mm}$. The back thickness can be calculated by dividing the basic razor size ( $6 / 8$ ) with 3.5 . Back bevel is created with initial sharpening of the razor and lies in the same plane as the edge bevel.

The edge is formed by honing on a stone with X pattern, which by nature of movement creates arched edge, to follow the back of the razor, again, for better shaving properties.

The "stabilizing piece" can be single, double, or single ellipsoid, depending on blade style, type, and esthetics. Single piece indicates hollow grind, double indicates full hollow grind. Ellipsoid stabilizing piece may also indicate full hollow grind.

The shank has purpose of holding the razor, and for that reason it is very useful to have file work (jimps) on the top and bottom. The shank also has taper, which forces the handle to grip with more force when open and hold that position.

Tang serves as a rest for fingers that are not holding the razor, and it is mostly arched in shape. There are some older style tangs, called "monkey tail" which are more lengthened and pronounced, and can hold both fingers.

The point of the razor may be square, round, oblique, half round or combination. It is mainly chosen for esthetics, although square point is easier to detail with, but also easier to cut skin if not careful. Here are given several variations on tip and heel types. The heel and tip are not connected in the esthetics, and can be combined.

Handles are made of two pieces, from material of choice, which should be flexible and strong. They are connected with tapered piece at the end not holding the razor.

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# example of modified basic shape to create custom design, using oblique and modified round/oblique tip 


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