

Rules For The 2009 Blade Magazine Knife Of The Year® Awards*

**BLADE® Magazine reserves the right to amend these rules at any time.*

IMPORTANT NOTE! The knives and/or knife accessories entered by each eligible BLADE Show booth exhibitor should be on display in the center show floor display area and/or the exhibitor's booth by 4 p.m. Friday. Voting begins Saturday morning at 9 a.m., and any entries not in the center display at that time are not eligible to win.

A viewing/judging area for the knives is available in the center show floor display area. Participation in the center display area is mandatory for all knife and knife accessory entries. If the eligible booth exhibitor has only one example of an item for display at the show, photographic and written descriptions are perfectly acceptable for the display cabinet. Each eligible booth exhibitor is allotted a display area of 8 1/2" x 11" per entry. Displays must not be greater than 4" high. Positioning or placement within the cabinetry is at the discretion of BLADE Magazine staff. Displays that include a base or marketing material that will obstruct other entries may be put on the bottom shelf. It is mandatory that booth number and company name be included with all Knife Of The Year entries.

Eligibility for The Blade Magazine 2009 Knife Of The Year® Awards

1. Open ONLY to production knife and production knife accessory manufacturers, importers and companies who are booth exhibitors at the 2009 BLADE Show.
2. Each eligible booth exhibitor may enter a maximum of five knives, but **may enter only one knife per category**. Each eligible booth exhibitor may enter the same knife in as many categories as possible IF the knife fits the category.
3. Exhibitors with two or more brands that have two or more booths can enter five knives under each brand (see item No. 3 under "**Rules For Judging The Blade Magazine 2009 Knife Of The Year® Awards**" for how many ballots/judges such exhibitors may have).
4. Knives and knife accessories available for sale to the public on or before June 1, 2008 or that have been entered in a previous Blade Magazine Knife Of The Year competition are ineligible for this year's voting.
5. Knives and knife accessories entered for this year's competition must be available for sale to the public before the 2010 BLADE Show.

Any failure to adhere to the above rules may result in the forfeiture of the award.

CATEGORIES

Category I - The Blade Magazine 2009 Overall Knife of the Year®

The highest number of votes between Category II and Category III (see immediately following) will determine the winner.

Category II - The Blade Magazine 2009 American Made Knife of the Year®

Top number of votes in this category (other than Overall Knife of the Year winner, if applicable) will determine the winner. U.S. Customs' definition of the country of origin marked on the knife determines whether the knife is domestic or imported.

Category III - The Blade Magazine 2009 Imported Knife of the Year®

Top number of votes in this category (other than Overall Knife of the Year winner, if applicable) will determine the winner. U.S. Customs' definition of the country of origin marked on the knife determines whether the knife is domestic or imported.

Category IV - The Blade Magazine 2009 Most Innovative American Design

Top number of votes in this category will determine the winner. U.S. Customs' definition of the country of origin marked on the knife determines whether the knife is domestic or imported.

Category V - The Blade Magazine 2009 Most Innovative Imported Design

Top number of votes in this category will determine the winner. U.S. Customs' definition of the country of origin marked on the knife determines whether the knife is domestic or imported.

Category VI - The Blade Magazine 2009 Best Buy of the Year

Top number of votes in this category will determine the winner. This category is open to all eligible booth exhibitors' knife entries. MSRP should be noted by the entry.

Category VII - The Blade Magazine 2009 Investor/Collector Knife of the Year®

Top number of votes in this category will determine the winner.

Category VIII - The Blade Magazine 2009 Manufacturing Quality Award

Top number of votes in this category will determine the winner. Judging will include the entrant's entire knife line; however, the center area display should be of a single example of the entrant's knife product.

Category IX - The Blade Magazine 2009 Accessory of the Year

Top number of votes in this category will determine the winner (entrants should be products that sharpen, help maintain or store knives, such as sharpeners, sheaths, display cases, knife maintenance products such as blade polishes, rust preventatives, pivot lubricants, etc.). BLADE® Magazine reserves the right to disallow entries. This category does NOT include other knives, multi-tools or products that do not sharpen, help maintain or store knives, etc.

Category X - The Blade Magazine 2009 Knife Collaboration of the Year

This award goes to the best factory/handmade collaboration of the year. Top number of votes in this category will determine the winner.

Category XI - The Blade Magazine 2009 Kitchen Knife Of the Year®

Top number of votes in this category will determine the winner. This category is for a single knife/design.

Publisher's Award

An optional award presented by the staff of BLADE Magazine for special achievement over the past year.

Industry Achievement Award

An optional award presented by the staff of BLADE Magazine for special achievement over many years.

How To Enter The Blade Magazine 2009 Knife Of The Year® Award Competition

As a knife/knife accessory manufacturer, importer or company that is a BLADE Show booth exhibitor, you are eligible to enter. In questions of whether a knife is production or not, the BLADE Magazine staff will make the final determination.

1. Pick your knives (a maximum of five) and the categories in which you will enter them.
2. Bring your entries to the center display area on Friday before 4 p.m. or on Saturday morning from 8 to 9 a.m. Preferably place an identical entry in a prominent place at your booth with a sign indicating the category in which the knife is entered. The signs for each category will be provided. If one knife is entered in more than one category, the knife must be accompanied with the appropriate category signs. Booth numbers are required on the signs in the center display area.

3. The knives should be on display by 4 p.m. Friday. If not on display in the center display area by 9 a.m. Saturday, they are ineligible to win an award.
4. The Blade Magazine 2009 Knife Of The Year® Awards will be announced at the Blade Magazine 2009 Knife Of The Year® Awards banquet the Saturday night of the BLADE Show.

Rules For Judging The Blade Magazine 2009 Knife Of The Year® Awards

1. Judges will consist of eligible booth exhibitors at the BLADE Show, a special panel of judges and a tiebreaker committee. Each eligible booth will be represented by one judge ONLY.
2. Each judge gets one vote for each category (see the section titled "CATEGORIES" for a list of the categories). There will be a ballot in each eligible booth exhibitor's BLADE Show packet given at the show printed with the names of all the knife and knife accessory manufacturers, importers and companies with booths at the BLADE Show. To ensure that each booth exhibitor cannot vote for its own knife/knife accessory, each booth exhibitor will be given a ballot with its company name crossed out.
3. Knife and knife accessory manufacturers, importers or companies with two or more brands and who have two or more booths get one ballot/judge per booth. However, the judges in those booths may not vote for their parent or subsidiary brand (their ballots are modified to guarantee this), and each booth must be represented by a different judge. Exhibitors with one brand and more than one booth get one ballot/judge no matter how many booths they have.
4. All knives should be properly displayed and marked for judging by 4 p.m. Friday. If they are not on display in the center display area by 9 a.m. Saturday, they are ineligible to win an award. Judges will have until 1 p.m. Saturday to visit the center display area and/or neighboring booths, judge the knives, mark their ballots accordingly, and turn their ballots into the BLADE Show office.

SPECIAL VOTING RULES

- 1) You may vote for only one knife per category.
- 2) U.S. Customs' definition of the country of origin marked on the knife determines whether the knife is domestic or imported.
- 3) In the event of a tie in any Blade Magazine Knife Of The Year® category, the tiebreaker committee will break the deadlock.
- 4) During the judging, booth holders may explain the attributes of their entered knives and knife accessories to the judges. However, any exchange of votes through trading or any other means is prohibited.

Criteria For Judging The Blade Magazine 2009 Knife Of The Year® Awards

Following are the criteria by which all knives except the knives or knife accessories in Categories VII and IX (see below) are judged for the Blade Magazine Knife Of The Year® Awards. Judges are allowed one vote per category (there is no direct voting for Category I):

- Does the knife achieve its design purpose?
- Is the knife functional?
- Does the knife fit the hand?
- Rate the handle: material, fit, quality, etc.
- Best buy — is the knife worth the money?
- Does the knife display excellence in manufacturing quality?
- Rate the knife by its beauty and aesthetics.

Category VII: Investor/Collector Knife

An investor/collector knife is a knife designed for or readily accepted by the collector market.

Rating will be based on:

- a) Quantity (at the minimum, the knife must be produced in a quantity of at least 10; though there is no maximum production limit, generally speaking, the lower the number of knives produced, the more collectible the knife is/will be); quality; price; and value.
- b) If it is a commemorative, judge the relevance of the pattern to the theme of the knife and the importance of the commemorative topic.
- c) Most important for all knives in this category is the knife's long-term investment potential.

Category IX: Accessory Of The Year

A knife accessory is any product that sharpens, helps maintain or store knives, such as sharpeners, sheaths, display cases, knife maintenance products such as blade polishes, rust preventatives, pivot lubricants, etc., used in conjunction with a knife. This category does NOT include other knives, multi-tools or products that do not sharpen, help maintain or store knives, etc. Rating will be based on utility, beauty and design (where applicable), originality, creativity, quality, price and value.

TIEBREAKER COMMITTEE

AS A RESULT OF INPUT FROM FACTORY KNIFE COMPANIES ON THE MATTER BLADE MAGAZINE HAS AN OVERSIGHT TIEBREAKER COMMITTEE OF KNIFE INDUSTRY AUTHORITIES, OF WHOM NONE HAVE AN AFFILIATION WITH ANY CUTLERY COMPANY. THEY WILL VIEW THE BALLOT COUNTING FOR THE BLADE MAGAZINE KNIVES OF THE YEAR. MOREOVER, THE TIEBREAKER COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO CAST ANY TIEBREAKING VOTES THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO DECIDE ONE OR MORE OF THE BLADE MAGAZINE KNIVES OF THE YEAR.