


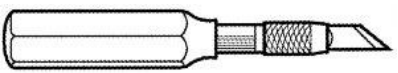








## An X-Acto Knife Primer

There are four basic X-Acto knife handles, all of which come with a variety of grips, depending on the “package” you get them in. In Scrap-booking stores, for example, you can find blades that rotate, padded handles, etc. The only different between #'s 2, 5, and 6 is the shape of the handle and the grip. For heavy work, choose the one that feels best to your hand.





	X-Acto # 1 is for light delicate work and takes the small blades.
	X-Acto # 2 is for medium duty and takes a larger blade.
	X-Acto # 5 is for heavier work and takes large blades.
	X-Acto # 6 is also for heavier work and takes large blades.








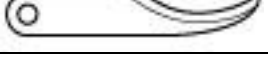


There are a wide variety of blades which fit the various handles. To change the blade, regardless of the handle design, turn the metal chuck at the end of the handle from right to left, about ½ turn. Pull the knurled collar down until a click is heard. Remove the old blade and insert the new metal shank. Turn the chuck from left to right to secure the blade.

### **Blades for the Number 1 and 2 handles:**

	Blade #10 is for general cutting, carving and slicing.
	Blade #11 is the general purpose blade most used by miniaturists. The thin point is good for confined spaces and narrow cuts.
	Blade #12 is for delicate paper work and acts as a correction blade for stencils.
	Blade #13 is a micro saw blade for precision saw cutting.
	Blade #16 is for scoring, stencils, etching, small holes and notches.
	Blade #17 is a ¼ inch chisel for narrow cuts.

### **Blades for the Number 2, 5 and 6 Handles:**

	Blade #15 is a keyhole saw blade for interior cuts.
	Blade #18 is a ½ inch chisel for deep cross cuts.
	Blade #19 is a broad blade for light chiselling and rough shaping/deburring.
	Blade #22 is for long cuts, general shaping, whittling, trimming, slicing.

	Blade #23 is double-edged for corners. It is an all-purpose cutting tool with a good wedge point for confined spaces.
	Blade #24 has a fine point for close corner cuts.
	Blade #26 is general purpose trimming and whittling.
	Blade #27 is a 3 inch saw blade.
	Blade #28 is hooked for curved shaping, whittling leather and linoleum.
	Blades #34 (Fine), #35 (Medium), #36 (Coarse), and #39 (Extra Fine) are saw blades that will fit the No. 5 and No. 6 handles and work with an X-Acto Mitre Box.
	Blade #103 is a 3/4 inch convex carving blade.
	Blade #104 is a 3/4 inch concave carving blade.
	Blade #105 is a 1 3/8 inch concave carving blade.
	Blade #106 is a small 1 3/8 inch concave carving blade.

All blades and knives can be found on-line. Michaels, craft shops, some hardware stores and art supply stores carry the basic sets.

X-Acto blades are very sharp, and care must be taken in using and storing them. When in use (read rolling around on your work surface) embed the tip in a cork or small block of Styrofoam. When the blade has dulled, dispose of the used blade carefully. It might not be sharp enough to cut your miniatures, but it is certainly still sharp enough to cut you! A good method is to keep a small pill bottle with a screw-on lid nearby, and add used blades to the container. When full, seal the lid and discard.