

"Big Pin" Queen folding knives

Fred Fisher and Dan Lago

Late in 1978 and on through 1991, a distributor could order on a few large frame folders, at <u>extra cost</u> to have the blade bolster pin protruding on either side, a "big pin" knife. This option was available on the #49 (Large stockman) and #52 (Moose) and perhaps other knives on special order. The concept was that the pins protruding on each side of the bolster made the knife stronger. The bolster is more firmly attached and has harder time loosening up, preventing (or at least delaying) the blade from developing looseness in heavy work. These knives lasted longer under heavy use.

These knives were not cheapened, as some have claimed, but allowed a customer get a knife for the job. The pin ends had to be polished before inserting, and the bolster also had to polished ahead of final assembly. In fact, they took more work to complete than the customary flat grind on the bolster. It is one more example of how the companys focus shifted from producing working knives to collector perspectives in the 1980s.

Recalling this history, in the years after 2014, Queen began offering a big pin version of several knives (#32, #51) in the **workhorse series**. These were intended as working knives, with satin finish carbon blades, no choice in available delrin handles, and big pins on the blade bolster. They were not heavily polished with reduced cost for customers. We have no idea of how many "Big pins" were made in either the earlier or later production. New knives may not return to the secondary market for a while, but finding an old "big pin" in reasonable condition is a treat — they were not common and were probably used hard. Good luck.

Queen's Work Horse Knives. Designed with the Working Man in Mind!



Constructed for the working man that is looking for a great work knife. These knives are constructed with the working man in mind. Queen designed the knives using Delrin Handles. This material is noted for long lasting, "man-handling' use! Exposed Bolster Pins for added leverage, 1095 Carbon Steel and Matte Finished Blades for fast, easy sharpening.



507 Chestnut Street, PO Box 408 Titusville, PA 16354 FAX: 814.827.9693 PHONE: 814.827.3673 or 740.418.0142 INTERNET: www.queencutlery.com