

Before an experimenter in Lithic technology attempts replication of a technique, he must analyse the artifact and his analysis must include and examination of the flake scars and a mental reconstruction of the processes and techniques involved to produce a flake that would fit each particular scar. If he has only the flake for this reconstruction process, he must then make a mental picture of the negative flake scar left on the artifact and calculate at what stage of fabrication it was removed and further decide what part it played in the completion of the tool. When examining an artifact, the appraiser studies the edges for remnants of platforms which may reveal diagnostic traits pertinent to certain styles of platform preparation. He attempts to compute the angles at which force was applied and, whether by pressure or percussion, he tries to determine why ~~##~~ certain artifacts have flake scar conformation and regularity or were or were disorderd and irregular. He studies the edges, noting edge angles, straightness, spacing of flake scars, the order and direction of removal, character of bulbar scars, nature of compression rings, ^{and undulations} width of flake and flake scars in relation to their length, termination of the flake or scar, whether by hinge, step or feathering. Also to be considered is the size and form of the artifact relative to the ~~###~~ character of flakes and scars. The general eye appeal of the form may have little bearing on the amount of skill necessary to produce the certain tool. For instance a lenticular cross-section would, by necessity, have curved flakes whereas the diamond-shaped cross-section will result from the removal of flat flakes.

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