

RETOUCH

A term often used to describe flake removal on the margins of flakes and blades. Too less often it is used describing the secondary flaking of a unifacial or bifacial artifact.

(Retouching, the Process, common in the Mousterian period, in which small bits of flint are removed from the area near the edge of the tool, so that its cutting edge is improved by making it like a miniature saw. Dictionary of Anthropology, Charles Winick)

Retouch is often used to describe any marginal flake removal, whether by function, intentional pressure flaking, removing sharp edges to protect the worker, through accident, mishandling, being walked on, backing to protect the user, platform preparation, ect.

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