

Oct. 3, 1970
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C. M. Kirpatrick
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Dear Professor Kirpatrick:

Sorry to be so tardy in answering your letter of July 19, my wife has been very ill with cancer for the past four months so I hope you will forgive the delay. Thanks for the kind words about the article.

I would be delighted to try the Beefwood for the pressure flaking experiments. I am sure that it would work for pressure but may be too light for a percussion billet. When using the billet the artifact is struck on the lateral margins or the sharp edge at about 70 degrees, the billet is rounded rather than having a 90 degree edge on the working end. The platform is the part contacted by either the pressure tool or the percussion implement (billet). The platform can be strengthened by beveling or grinding, depending on the technique used/. The bulb of force is the cone remnant left on the proximal end of the flake on the ventral side, the bulbar scar being on the artifact.

In Fig. 2 the illustration on the right is much esier to use than the Austrailian method on the left, in both methods the edge of the pressure flaker is seated on the edge and then first inward and then outward pressure is applied untill the flake is dislodged.

The Austrailian technique is done by placeing one edge of the artifact on a support with the first finger of the left hand lifting the working edge up from the support to provide clearance for the pressure tool. One then first presses towards the artifact and then away from the work~~er~~ removeing a flake from the underside of the artifact. This method of holding makes it difficult to flake the base and the tip depending on which face that is being worded.

When Dr. Haury, Univ. of Arizona Publishes his Hokhokam paper there will be a part on the pressure flaking techniques used by these people, it will be covered in some detail and a number of techniques. Hope this has been of some use to explain some of the inadequacys.

Sincerely yours,

Don Crabtree