



## THE WORLD SHARPENERS UNION

### 世界研ぎ連盟

## HOST

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HITOHIRA

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THE WORLD SHARPENERS MAP (Feel free to use)

<http://hitohira-japan.com/12-2/contents/maps/sharpener/>

# OUTLINE

“THE WORLD SHARPENERS UNION” is organized by HITOHIRA, an online presence. The goal of this Union is to create a forum for a community of knife sharpeners worldwide, as well as those who are interested in this artform of daily and long term knife maintenance.

**The goal is to enrich the daily lives of the users, and at same time, create an awareness of the knife industry with the focus on high quality care.**

We focus specifically on:

**The connection between the “Sharpeners” and the “Knife Shop”. We will serve as a directory to help people find the proper care they need for their knives.**

The directory will consist of:

- An updated list of knife and cutlery shops that provide quality sharpening services.
- A search option to find the nearest local sharpening service(s), map and contact information of members.
- A networking platform between fellow sharpeners, makers and experts worldwide, to share questions and knowledge related to knives and knife sharpening.
- A retail platform for group purchases of machines, where members can share repairing information for knives and machinery.
- Regular group seminars for members to connect in real time.

## MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

Members who join are asked to respect the following five points in addition to meeting the skill requirement of the One Star standard. The Three Stars are categorized by three ranges of knife repair skills.

(※The number of stars symbolizes the category of knife repair and is not an evaluation of a person's skill, as our intention is to build a community and not to create conflict.)

1. Membership is limited to one shop member per major city. (※ 1)
2. You must have a good reputation from other knife shops and customers. (※ 2)
3. You must be enthusiastic and loyal to be apart of the sharpening/knife culture.
4. You must have a brick and mortar storefront where you can interact with customers directly and in-person.
5. You must have a good understanding of the specific characteristics of different types of knives, thus having the ability to sharpen both single and double bevel knives.
6. You must have the ability to replace handles, repair chips and straighten blades

(※ 1 If you carry less than 20 different styles and brands of knives, you can still register as a sharpener.)

(※ 2 If you receive a bad review from a customer, we might dismiss you as a member without further notice.)

## **HOW TO JOIN**

Please send us your personal information: 1)Name of shop 2)Address 3) Phone number 4)Email address. Send your information to [info@hitohira-japan.com](mailto:info@hitohira-japan.com).

Feel free to share “THE WORLD SHARPENERS MAP” ( <http://hitohira-japan.com/12-2/contents/maps/sharpeners/> ) online, contact us if you need more details about the shops or sharpeners.