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Must-Know Parts of a Balisong

1. Bite Handle

The bite handle is the handle piece that closes onto the sharp edge of a balisong's blade. If you are holding this side of the handle when you close your blade, it is easy to cut yourself. The knife's latch is usually on the bite handle side.



2. Choil

The choil is the blade's unsharpened part. This part of the tang, found just above the kicker, makes sharpening easier.



3. Kicker

Also known as the kick, the kicker is a blade section between the sharpened edge and the pivot pins. It prevents the sharpened edge from scraping the groove inside the handle, which could cause damage.



4. Latch

The latch is your knife's locking system. When closed, the latch keeps your balisong closed. The latch is usually on the bite-handle side of the knife.

5. Latch Gate

A latch gate is a block inside the channel of the handles that stops the latch from impacting the blade.



6. Pivot Joint

A pivot joint is the point around which the knife's moving pieces rotate.

7. Safe Handle

The safe handle is the one that closes over the blade's unsharpened side. One side is the bite handle, and the other is the safe handle.



8. Tang

The tang is the blade's base. It is where pivot pins attach the handles.

9. Tang Pin

When balisongs are closed, tang pins hold the blade away from the handle. Some balisongs have a second pin on the tang. This pin keeps the handles from impacting against each other when the knife is flipped open and closed.



10. Trainer

A trainer isn't technically part of a balisong's anatomy, but it's worth mentioning. A trainer balisong features an unsharpened blade, mimicking the motion of a live blade. It lets you safely practice the knife's flipping tricks without risk.