The World of Razor Sharpeners
by
Tom Willard

STROPPERS

- There are approximately 2000 known razor sharpeners/stroppers, not including leather strops, leather strops with handles and straight razor hones.
- These range from using leather, glass, steel, bakelite and etc. to magnetic fields.
- Types range from simple blade holders to complicated mechanical devices to magnets and may be manual or electric.
- www.stropper.com or www.shaveworld.org
- The first patents found are as follows:
  - 1839 – Strop with a handle
  - 1877 – Cylindrical rollers
  - 1902 – Magnetism

Stropping

- Microscopically, razor blades have minute teeth like a saw blade.
- Dull blades have projections to these teeth that cause pulling, when hair enters the spaces between the teeth.
- Stropping a blade realigns these teeth by drawing the projections back into line.

Honing

- Honing a blade with a 4,000 or 8,000 grit hone removes the teeth completely.
- New teeth must be developed using a 12,000 grit hone or a leather strop.

Other Straight Razor Strops and Hones



Diamond Edge
USA
1864

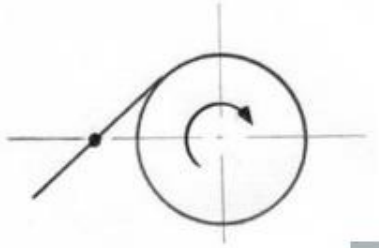


King Bee
USA
1896



Torrey
Blasdell Roller
USA
1904

Single Roller Type





Wizard
USA



Eversharp, England, 1927

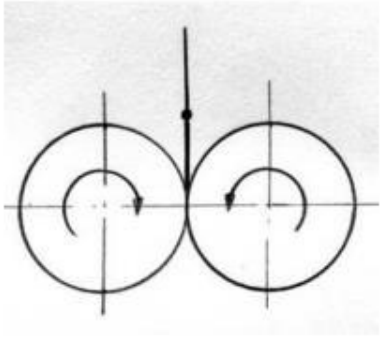


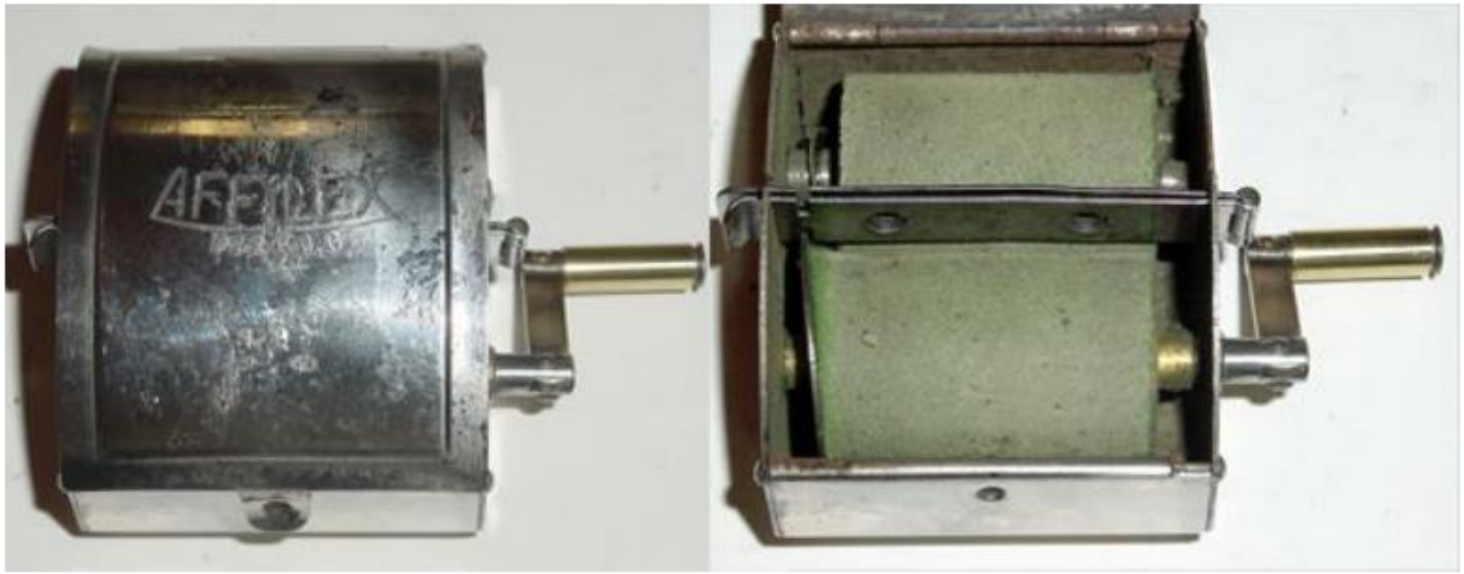
Leslie
USA
1909



Tarantella
Germany
1934

Two Roller Type
(Note different roller actions)



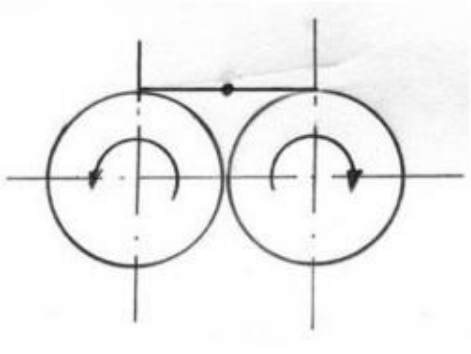


Affilex
France



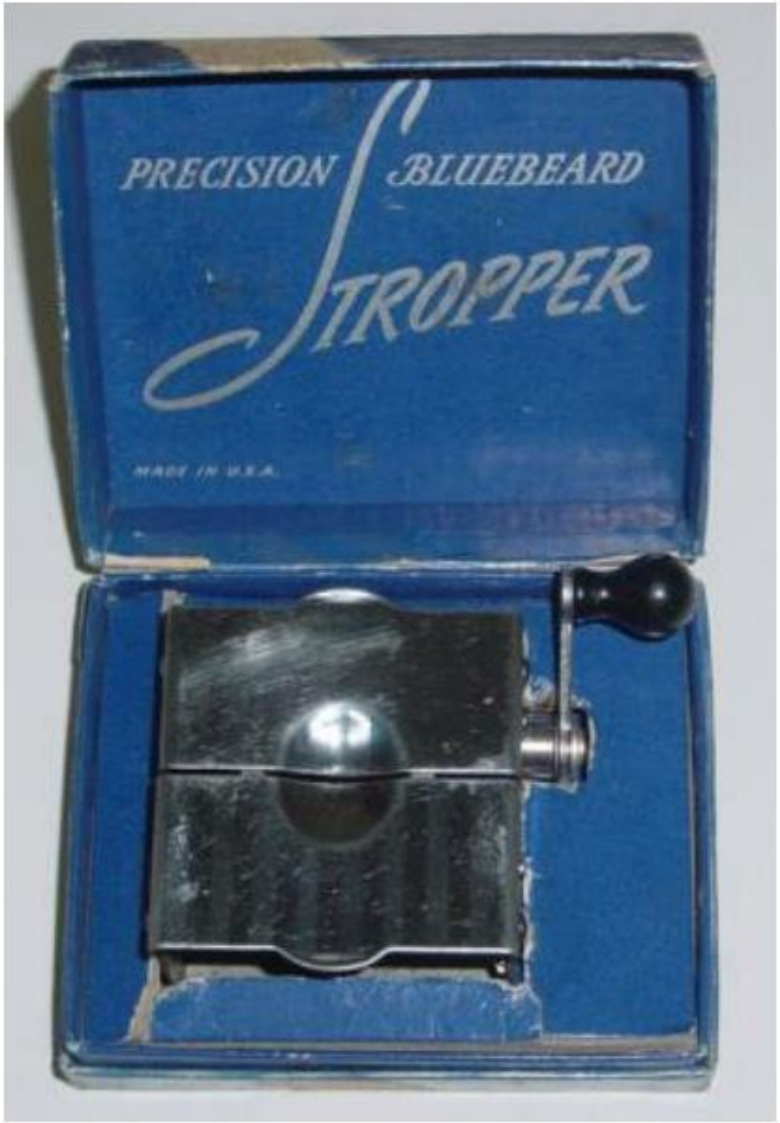


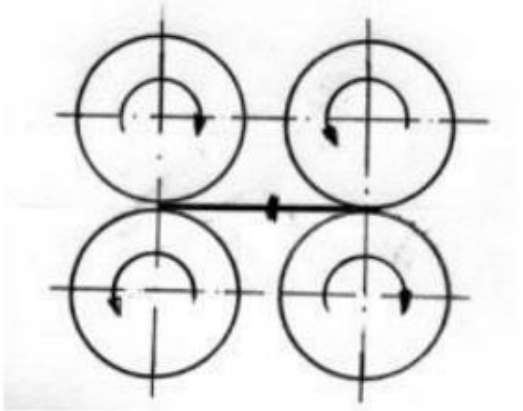
Compax
England
1921





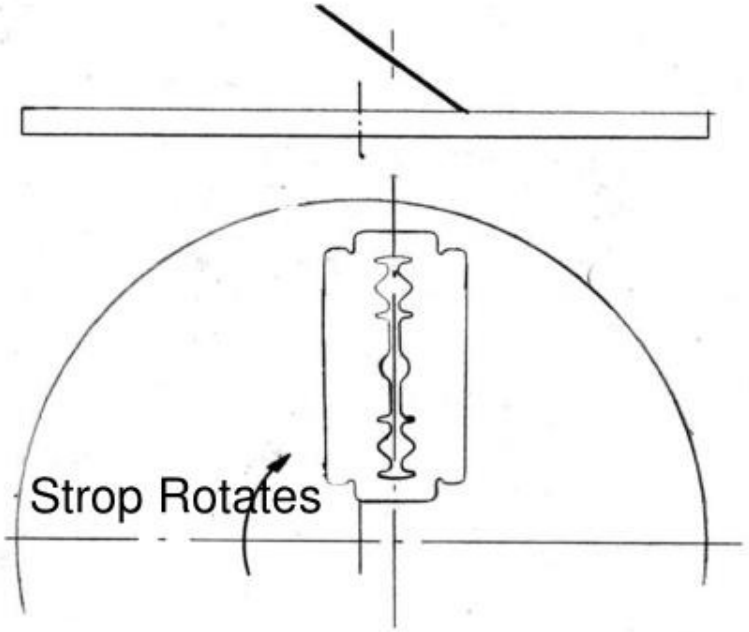
Mosshtamp
Russia





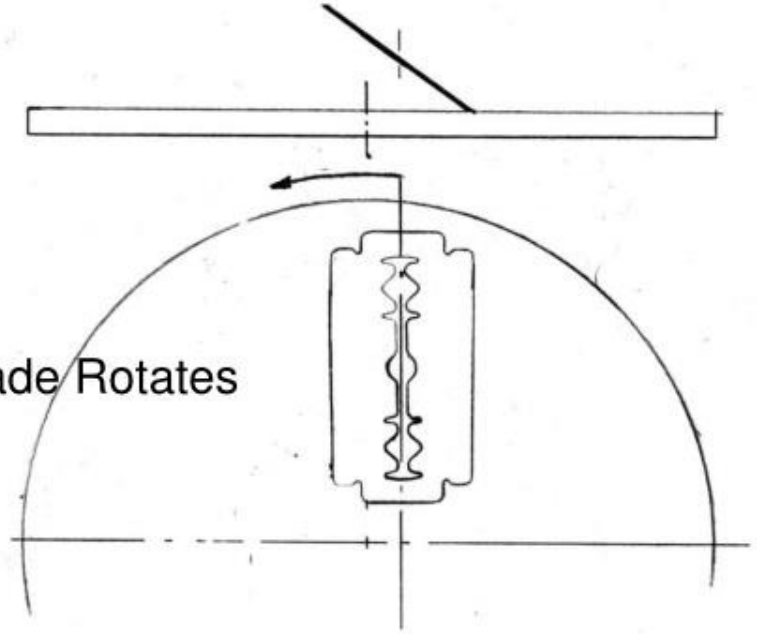


Blue Beard
USA
1925/32/34



Circular Types

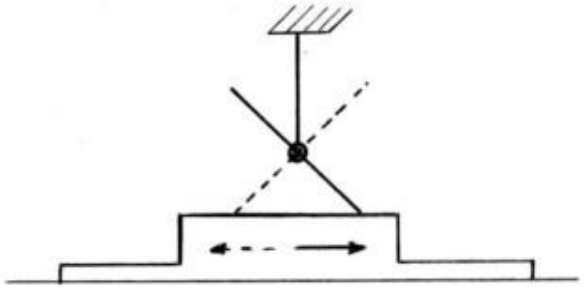




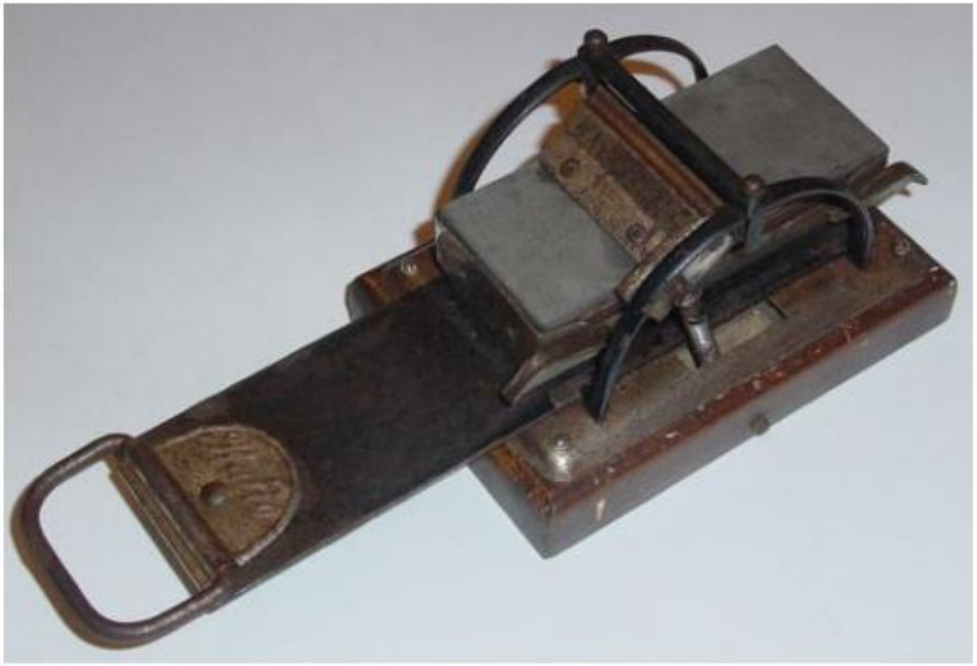
Blade Rotates



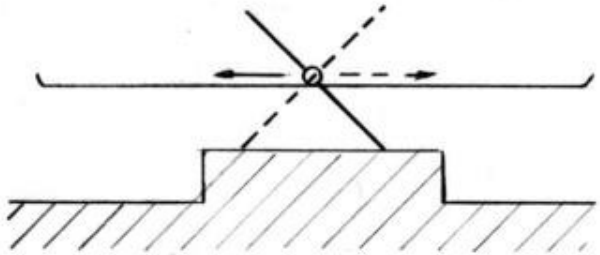
Rotello
Germany
1927



Hone is pulled back and forth



Ratio
Germany

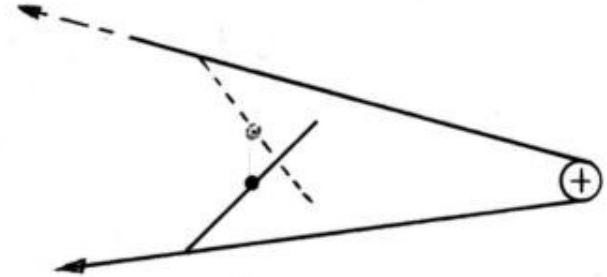


Blade is pulled back
and forth across hone



Allegro
Switzerland
1921

Machine Pull Handles Type





Apollo
France

Handle-Like Ingersoll Type



Ingersoll
USA
1925
Handle-Like Ingersol

Handle-Like Valet Type



Zig Zag
USA
1910

Sets with Sharpeners



Fox
USA
Stropper - 1892/94 (Schmitz)



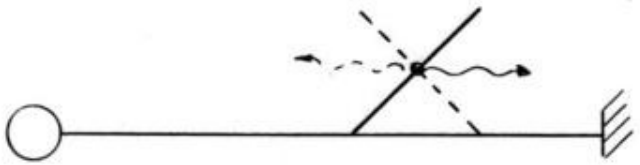
Kampfe
USA
Razor – 1889/1901
Stropper 1900/02

Auto Strop
USA
1904





Blade Holder Type





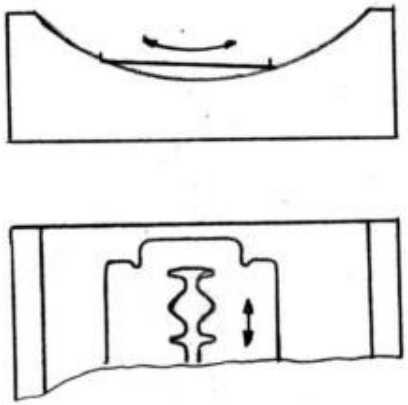
Wilsonium

Pull String Type



Racid
Czechoslovakia

Hone-Glass/Other Types



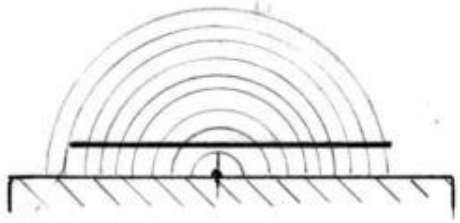


Buki, Brazil



Aero-Strop
USA

Magnetic Types

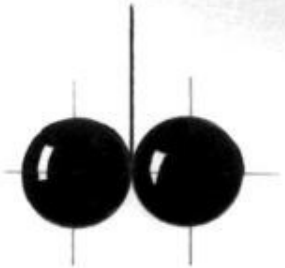


Everkeen
USA
1925/29
Magnetic



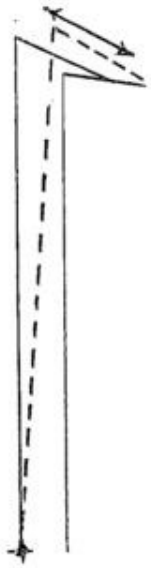


Ball Bearing / Marble Type









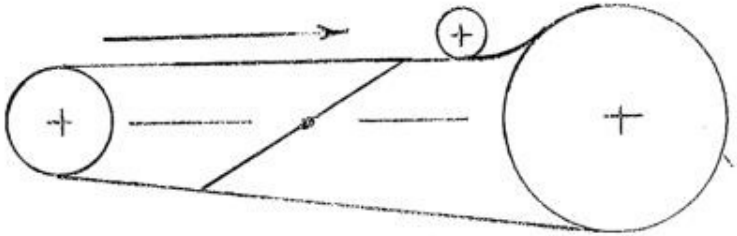
Shake Sharp Types

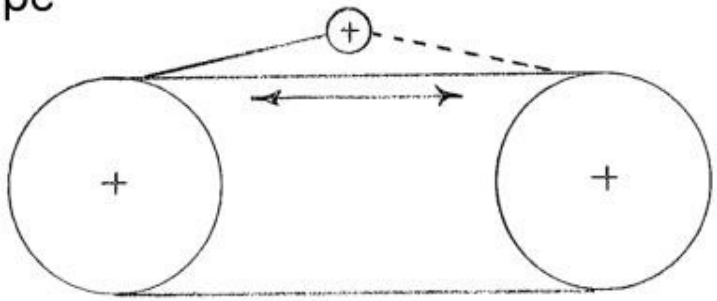




De Haven
USA

Rotary Belt Type





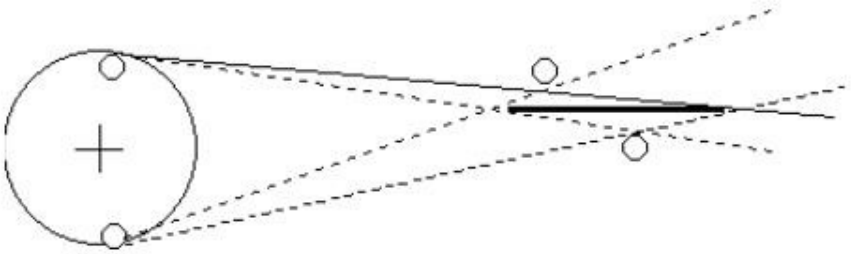


Multi-Blade Stropper
England



Mulcuto
Germany

Edge-Bak Type



Edge-Bak
USA
1934



Electric Types

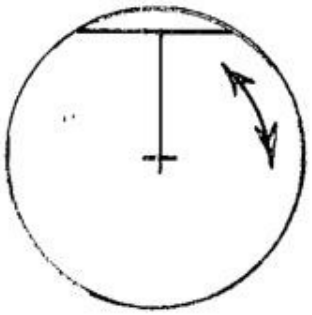


Simmons
USA
1933



Olympic
USA
1938

Other Types



Lutes
USA







Dey
USA
1888/89

DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY AND TYPE

USA	754
England	166
Germany	154
Switzerland	29
Austria	25
Australia	18
Japan	14
Czechoslovakia	12
Russia	11
Sweden	11
Canada	10
Denmark	6
Hungary	4
Italy	4
Ukraine	3
Argentina	2
Holland	2
Brazil	1
Netherland	1
Spain	1

Rollers-2	203
Set	166
Hone-Glass/Other	145
Machine-Pull Handles	115
Blade Holder	100
Hone-Carborundum	90
Handle-Like Ingersoll	80
Strop	77
Allegro Type	69
Handle-Like Valet	66
Pull String Type	62
Auto Strop	39
Other	30
Rollers-4	29
Marbles-Bearings	26
Rollers-1	23
Circular	18
Electric	13
Magnetic	11
Shake Sharp Type	8
Edge-Bak	4
Rotary Belt	3
Marvel Type	2

Stropper Collections

Tom Willard	USA	1500+
Wilhelm Neubert	Germany	1100
Martin Elshoff	Germany	900
Guenther Janisch	Germany	700
Bruno Lacoste	France	400
Alan Zimmer	USA	350
Aart Roelandt	Netherlands	300+
Morten Danielsen	Norway	200+
Per Dahlstrom	Sweden	200+
Stan Henry	USA	200+
Danny Rosculet	Holland	200
Richard Lefebvre	USA	180
Rob Kesner	USA	150
Dominique Huet	France	100