

# DEBITAGE

Bits & Pieces ... Remnants Left Behind ... By & For Flint Knappers

Volume I

Number 5



**“A Wheel Of Points” Finished Work.**

## ***“Chips To Points” For Pressure Flaking.***

Once you have learned to make useful chips and blades from a core piece of stone, we will move on to preparing the initial stages of a small projectile point.

Progress at last!

You will learn to visualize your arrowhead when you look at a *“chip”* or *“blade”*. Then you'll plan the multiple steps used to accomplish your intended creation.

Initially, you will trim a selected *“chip”* or *“blade”* into the approximate form of your planned arrowhead or dart point ... into a preliminary shape which is logically called a *“pre-form”*.

Then you will learn to prepare the edges of the pre-form to make possible the several stages of thinning flake removals which will produce the delicate but deadly form of the finished arrowhead.

Plus, you will learn to master notching ... probably after you break your fair share of points along the way.

### **A Popular Ancient Arrow Point Style Which Many Flint Knapping Students Enjoy Making Is The “Side Notched” Triangular Point**

In almost every region of North America the native peoples used one or several different varieties of *“side notched”* triangular arrow points.

Perhaps the most famous of these side notched, triangular arrowheads are the delicate obsidian and even bottle glass arrow points produced by a man known to us as *“Ishi”* ... the last survivor of his family group



*Above: A chip of chert, trimmed into the rough shape of a small, triangular arrow point.*



*Above: Pushing flakes off along a prepared edge. Below: Inspecting the flake scars.*





*Above: Beginning another sequence of pressure flakes. Below: Inspect the results.*



*Below: Notching at the base for attaching to a shaft. Tip is ready to finish the needle point.*



of the Yahi Indians in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains of California ... who stumbled out of the "stone age" and into our so-called "modern" civilization in 1911 ... and for several years lived and shared his wilderness expertise with researchers at the University of California in Berkeley.

Ishi's arrowheads were a style used by the Yana and Wintu Indians of northern California, and similar to side notched arrow points used across the Great Basin (Nevada, western Utah, northern California, southern Oregon, northern Arizona) and Pacific Northwest.

Other side notched triangular points in the Great Basin are known as the "*Desert Series*", with several regional variations.

All of these arrow points were similar to but smaller than an ancient dart and lance point style from that same region, known as the "*Northern Side Notched*" dart point, which dates back to the early to late Archaic Period (9000-3000 B.P.).

#### **A "*Cahokia*" Style Arrow Point Illustrated Here**

Shown here is another side notched type of arrow point ... patterned after the triple notched arrowheads discovered in ancient burial mounds in the "*Cahokia*" settlement in southern Illinois. Hundreds of these arrowheads were discovered, arranged in bundles, oriented in such a way that we can tell they were buried as complete arrows.

Other side notched arrowheads were made across much of North America, wherever bows and arrows were in use.

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From the flint knapping workshop of

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