Blade Scabbard, Sharpener and Sharpening Cassette

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a blade sharpening and storing device. The device includes a hollow housing for receiving and storing a blade and an access opening at an end of the housing through which the blade can be moved longitudinally to be inserted into or withdrawn from the housing. A blade sharpener is positioned to be engaged by a cutting edge of the blade when the blade is inserted into or withdrawn from the housing and which is responsive to movement of the blade relative to the housing to sharpen the cutting edge. A blade honing device positioned to be engaged by the cutting edge of the blade when the blade is inserted into or withdrawn from the housing and which is responsive to movement of the blade relative to the housing to hone the cutting edge. In another aspect, the invention relates to a blade storing device and blade combination. The blade includes opposite substantially parallel sides which meet at a cutting edge. The blade storing device includes a housing having an access opening at an end of the housing through which the blade can be moved longitudinally to be inserted into or withdrawn from the housing. The blade storing device and blade combination includes a blade restraining mechanism that includes a restraining member coupled to the housing and an opening within the blade, the restraining member having active and inactive positions in that when the blade is inserted within the housing such that substantially an entire cutting edge of the blade is within the housing, in the active position the restraining member is positioned inside the opening within the blade for preventing withdrawal of the blade from the housing and in the inactive position the restraining member is positioned outside the opening within the blade for allowing withdrawal of the blade from the housing.

FIG. 5