

I just talked to Mr. Stremmel, the managing director of DOVO (32 years in the company if I remember correctly). Besides other stuff I asked him about the various rumors on DOVO making razors for other companies. This is what he told me:

DUBL-DUCK

DUBL-DUCK was a trademark by the New York company PEARL DUCK (my remark: the first company name was BRES DUCK). About 10-15 years ago DOVO made DUBL-DUCK straight razors for Pearlduck. Obviously (see John's message) Puma did the same for some time. If I understood it correctly, the DUBL-DUCK trademark was sold to a company called Miller's Forge in Texas

CASE

DOVO did make and will make razors for CASE USA, these are labeled as Case razors and are not allowed to be sold from Solingen but will always completely be distributed by Case, USA.

PUMA

DOVO actually made razors for PUMA and stopped doing this only about 9 months or so! So old-new stock doesn't tell you if they were done by PUMA or DOVO, as I didn't want to pull each and very detail about "since when, how long, exclusively?" But it's a fact that a good number of modern PUMAs are in fact DOVOs. In Germany PUMAs are mainly distributed through the company Herbertz and thus DOVO also made a number of razors for Herbertz as well.

BOKER

(actually BÖKER with O-Umlaut). DOVO did make razors for BÖKER but Mr. Stremmel told me that there was another company doing the same (producing razors for BÖKER, that is) and they do not know who that is/was. My guess would go to South America, as Böker produces (good!) knives in Argentina (Böker Arbolito series)...

Note: this is totally different from buying a company/trademark as DOVO did with Tennis, Merkur etc. This is only a service rendered. The companies themselves appealed to DOVO for this service -- was it because they did not want to employ the necessary skilled workers (any longer) or these workers just did no longer exist! As far as I know it is EXTREMELY hard to find people who are interested in learning how to forge and grind razors. Mr. Stremmel told me that some decades before this practice of making razors for other companies (many US companies!) was rather common with DOVO and other Solingen razor makers. That's why you see so many old razors with English words saying "Solingen" or "Germany" somewhere.

Funny sidenote: Mr. Stremmel said he wished there were more companies making razors today. They definitely are no monopolist and don't want to be one but so many companies quit making own razors and ask(ed) DOVO! He said that if there were more razor companies like in the past this would help the whole trade and I think I know what he means. Everybody would profit from more diversity. Education of new skilled workers, advertising, growing customer base, more choice and (not only commercial but also technical) competition etc. I fear that the skilled worker problem is a VERY serious one!

What an interesting phone call! Another interesting note from Mr. Stremmel:

He told me that most Pakistan "cutlery" companies don't use steel made for blades (and simply suck royally on making it right) but use old steel bought anywhere on the world market. After the end of the cold war and the separation of the USSR all the steel of the old war machinery was sold and the Pakistani bought in HUGE! As we all know cheap military steel comes from other cheap sources (they made ANYTHING into helmets, tanks etc.) so this is recycling of recycled of recycled ... scrap metal.

So you don't know NOTHING about its consistence, its features etc. So no two batches of stuff one of these companies produces might be made from the same material. I'm afraid to think that maybe this garbage even radiates...

It might be "turn swords into ploughshares!" but it's not "turn tanks into straight razors!" -- no-no-no!

Best regards, Stefan.