

KERRVILLE BIFACES

These generally oblong or pear-shaped artifacts are often called “fist axes” or “carcass cleavers.” Specimens have a rounded natural cobble surface on one end (providing the handgrip); the opposite end is rounded to almost pointed, with a worked edge that often exhibits extensive, glossy polish, perhaps from cutting meat or soft plants. They seem ideally fitted for butchering tools; the ends are too thin and delicate for heavy chopping. Specimens get shorter as they are continually resharpened. Some of the larger examples develop concave edges during their use-life.

In our 1985 and 1993 editions, we referred to the specimens as “buted bifaces,” utilizing Old World lithic terminology. Perino (1985) published the same artifacts under the new type name of “Kerrville.” This term has been adopted fairly widely, and we recommend that it be used, in lieu of our inelegant label.



Distribution: Central and south central Texas and the lower Pecos. **Period:** Late Archaic, ca. 650–300 BC. **Sites:** La Jita; Devil's Mouth; Nopal Terrace; Amistad Reservoir.

