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MOBILIZES A
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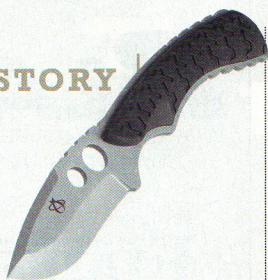
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COVER STORY



According to Jared West of Mantis Knives, at 7.75 inches overall, the company's newest TA-2CM "The Principal" integral fixed blade is the perfect size—large enough to take on the toughest cutting tasks yet compact enough for assorted carry options, including horizontally via the belt sheath for right- or left-handed draw. It also "fills your hand with rubberized confidence," West says.

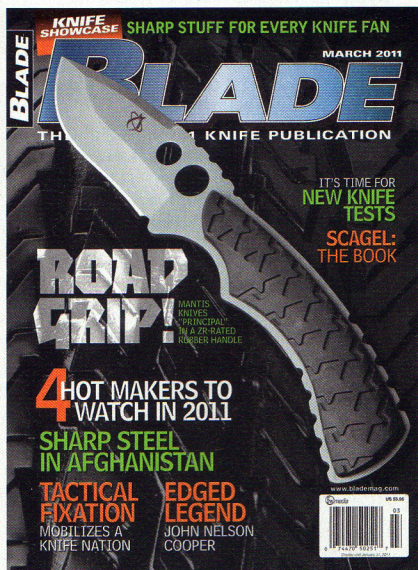
"We've utilized a specific type of soft rubber for the handle overlays on this knife. The composition is identical to that used on racecar tires, and most commonly known as 'ZR rated,'" he explains. "This rating basically states that the rubber is capable of handling the frictional heat of 186-plus miles per hour."

In addition to the handle overlays, The Principal sports a 3-inch, drop-point, recurved blade of 154CM stainless steel. It also has a polymer belt or neck-knife sheath West says is a good size for mounting vertically or horizontally on a duty belt via the clip. The Principal weighs 4.2 ounces and carries a manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$80.

For more information, contact Mantis Knives, attn: J. West, Dept. BL3, 1580 N. Harmony Cir., Anaheim, CA 92807 714-701-9136 jwest@mantis.bz, www.mantisknives.com, or see the story on page 28.

The cover photo is by Kris Kandler.

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TACTICAL FIXATION



Mantis Knife Co. utilized a specific type of soft rubber for the handle of this issue's cover knife—the TA-2CM "The Principal"—with a composition identical to that used on race-car tires.

The all-integral construction, ring pommel and neck sheath with bead chain make the Meyerco MBKBIT "K-Bit" a handy little fixed blade that measures 6 3/8 inches overall with a 2.5-inch cutting edge.



Buck Knives and TOPS Knives collaborated on the CSAR-T that features a 4.5-inch, modified-tanto blade, grooved "Rocky Mountain Tread" G-10 scales, an extended pommel that acts as an impact tool and multi-function hex driver, and a M.O.L.L.E.-compatible nylon sheath.

Tell all your fixed-blade friends they don't have to be weighted down by clunky, heavy straight knives anymore. The newest in the non-folding tactical genre are refreshingly light, maneuverable, safe and sound. So accept a tactical upgrade and let the knife do the walking and talking for you.

"The KA-BAR Becker K-13 'Remora' is just what its name implies, a small knife that can be carried anywhere on the person. One obvious place is slung from around the neck, but as with many neck knives, it can be attached and carried many different ways," says Paul Tsujimoto, senior engineer for KA-BAR Knives.

"We have six small fixed blades in our product line, neck knives if you will, and they are all doing well," he adds. "The response from our customers is that the knives are cost effective, low profile, unobtrusive and can be easily accessed. In crowded areas, they are small enough to use and not be considered threatening or menacing."

Weighing a scant 2.4 ounces, the K-13 Remora is an integral 440A fixed blade, measuring 5 1/8 inches overall, with a

skeletonized handle. It comes in a glass-filled-nylon sheath and carries a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$28.07.

In conducting consumer research, Jason Michelotti, senior brand manager for Gerber Legendary Blades, says knife users expressed a familiarity and higher comfort level with fixed blades over folders. "Fixed blades are intuitive. A folding knife can be a little less intuitive, especially one with closing and locking mechanisms," he reasons. "There's a feeling of security because a fixed blade won't fold while using it."

The Gerber "Basic" weighs 3.77 ounces and features a 3.4-inch, semi-serrated 7Cr17MoV stainless steel blade with a full, extended tang, "TacHide" (textured rubber) grip overlays, finger and thumb grooves, and a nylon sheath with a stainless steel pocket clip that can be attached to a pack, belt or clothing. The MSRP: \$55.

"Gerber noticed a trend with many custom knifemakers moving toward smaller fixed blades. Trends are based on consumer demands, so I'd say smaller

fixed blades are on the rise," Michelotti remarks. "Hunters tend to love fixed blades thanks to their simplicity and durability, and smaller models like the Basic cross over into anyone looking for an easy everyday carry blade."

Jared West of Mantis Knife Co. also insists that this issue's cover knife—the Model TA-2CM "The Principal"—bridges the gap between hunting and tactical fixed blades due to its "unique silhouette and hi-tech materials."

Metro-Tactical Look

"Knives like this are certainly still in their prime, with buyers for it being born every day. Frequent buyers would be outdoorsmen with a propensity for the 'metro-tactical look,'" West says. "The fixed blade is an integral part of the Mantis knife lineup because of its overall strength and subsequent confidence it instills in its user."

An integral knife with a full, extended tang, The Principal stretches 7.75 inches overall with a 3-inch, drop-point 154CM blade, tire-rubber handle overlays, and a polymer belt or neck-knife sheath that West says is the perfect size for mounting