



## Combat Tomahawk

with Ben Bradak from [Facebook.com/DragonsTail](https://www.facebook.com/DragonsTail)

### The Biggest Misconceptions About The Tactical Tomahawk

Most approaches to training with the tactical tomahawk are not well-rounded.

- The tomahawk is not a sword and it is not a knife. It does not behave as either.
- You can't draw a tomahawk through a target like a knife or sword, even with percussive cutting action.
- Just because you don't want to hook with it, doesn't mean you won't... and just because you want to hook with it, doesn't mean you should.
- More than any other weapon, a tomahawk will probably hang up in the target. Be prepared for a continuous flow of action if it doesn't hang up, and be able to utilize it properly if it does.
- Don't hook just for the sake of it. That's not the most realistic training.

### Why The Tomahawk Is A Good Weapon

The tomahawk is a great weapon because...

- It hits hard
- It masses at the far end of the lever, the opposite of most bladed weapons (which keep the mass near your hand)
- It's an intuitive, stroking weapon. Without much training, you can use it effectively.

### Finding The Right Tomahawk

Base your purchase on what you need the tomahawk to do.

- There are different tomahawks for different purposes, from field tool to survival to brush clearing, rescue, and breaching. What will you be using your tomahawk for?

- Buy quality.
- Avoid cheap steels.
- Look for a slightly curved spike or beak on the back, giving you the ability to puncture and manipulate.
- The blade should have both top and bottom points. It's a small battle axe, essentially.
- Choose the length you prefer.

### Using The Tomahawk In Close-Combat

The tomahawk is much better when used offensively than defensively. Take the initiative.

- Blocking with the blade is unlikely, as it is too small.
- Focus on counter-cutting while avoiding the opponent's weapon(s).
- Bridge the gap and start trapping and meat-hooking.
- Stab and strike while checking with the flat top to the opponent's hand or weapon arm.
- Know how to use your empty hand or legs. Historically, the battle axe was paired with a defensive weapon in the other hand.

### Training With The Tomahawk

The tomahawk should act as an extension of the body.

- Use it in many different ways, holding it differently and evaluating its weight.
- Ratchet up your training as you gain familiarity with the weapon.
- If you can start with another person, training safely and with appropriate training tools and protective equipment, you can see how it works out.

*Prepare. Train. Survive.*