

## 5 Pros Of Balisongs (Butterfly Knives)

with Buck Greene for [www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com](http://www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com)

### The Balisong Or Butterfly Knife

This knife has a long history in popular culture.

- Most people associate the butterfly knife with the Philippines. There's some speculation that the design actually predates this association, but the specifics aren't important.
- Balisongs have a sketchy legal history in parts of the United States, and at various times it has been difficult to get them.
- In Buck Greene's home state of New York, these were once misinterpreted as “gravity knives,” although a balisong is not a gravity knife.
- Cold Steel even marketed a knife called the Paradox that was not a balisong but looked like one (and they had a tri-folder that was probably a gravity knife).
- In an era of tactical folders, the balisong is kind of “old tech,” but it actually has 5 great reasons to recommend it.

### It's Self-Contained

While you can get sheaths for balisongs, there's no need for one.

- Like a folding knife, the balisong requires no sheath. This makes it simple to conceal and deploy, such as from a jacket pocket or back pants pocket.
- When closed, the knife is completely safe, and the blade is entirely enclosed by the handle (without even the spine exposed).

### The “Lock” Is Very Strong

One of the big disadvantages of a folding knife is that the lock could fail, injuring you.

- Balisongs don't have a “lock” as such.

- Some don't even sit flat all the way when they're open. The blade is held open by the power of your hand on the handles.
- I've never heard of a balisong breaking at the pivot, and I don't think I've ever seen a story of a balisong failing in a way that could injure the user.
- The butterfly knife is therefore one of the safest of all folding knives.

### It's A Great Kubotan Or “Pocket Stick”

The size and shape of the closed butterfly knife make it a good striking tool.

- You can hit with the “flat” of the handle halves or strike with the end of the knife.
- The pivot end is a particularly nasty “skull crusher” type striking surface.

### It's Easily Concealed

The balisong is flat and relatively small.

- The flat, symmetrical shape makes the knife comfortable for “deep concealment” and easy to slide into a pocket.
- At one time there were even balisongs designed to look like two pens sitting next to each other.

### It's Quick To Open

And no, you don't have to open it “the pretty way.”

- While it's fun to learn complicated opens and spins, there's no need to do that.
- You can flip the knife open and over once and it's instantly open.
- The balisong can also be opened directly into a reverse grip with one move.

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