

## Pikal Fruit Knife: Just The Facts

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

### What

The “pikal fruit knife” is part of a recent trend sometimes called “hobotactical” or “tactical minimalism.”

- The idea is to carry a small, “disposable,” readily available knife that looks like a common utensil.
- In theory, these knives are available everywhere (more on that in a bit).
- The Victorinox 40606 Bird’s Beak model is very popular and one of the most common.
- Another is the IKEA Skalad, which you can buy at any IKEA for very little money.
- The IKEA’s handle is very slippery, while the Victorinox is better; some users grind an index finger notch into the handle (more on that as well in a moment).

### When

When would you use a paring knife? Well, it’s mostly for what are called “non-permissive environments,” or NPEs. Why carry an expensive knife that will just get taken away? The cost of a paring knife is less than 10 bucks, and you can get a very good sheath for about twice that from online Kydex makers.

- Obviously, this won’t be as sturdy as an overbuilt combat or survival knife.
- You’d be surprised just how handy a simple paring knife can be. The Victorinox is actually a great all-around utility knife.
- Some people even cut down the handles for greater portability. They’re not full tang, so you can do a lot to the plastic part. They hold up surprisingly well, though.

### Why

The trend was popularized by self-defense instructors like Ed Calderon of Ed’s Manifesto.

It became a kind of “tactical fad” from there, and has many supporters.

- The knife is intended, usually, for Reverse Grip Edge In methodology.
- It appeals to those looking for a very efficient, practical, no-frills defensive method. To some, it looks a lot like thuggery, but that’s kind of its selling point.

### How

We can’t teach you “pikal knife fighting” in a single podcast, but the basics are pretty straightforward.

- With the knife in reverse grip, edge in, you “clear the road” with your support hand, knocking obstacles out of the way.
- You strike down and pull in, using the power of reverse grip, to puncture and then rip your way through.
- Reciprocate almost like that famous disco movie, knife down and in, support hand clearing and coming up over the top, again and again.
- The idea is to become a “human sewing machine.” It’s brutal and it works.

### Where

Fruit knives, such as the Victorinox 40606 bird’s beak paring knife, are available almost everywhere, including in grocery stores.

- You can make your own sheath from cardboard and duct tape.
- You can even make a sheath by melting plastic with a lighter, such as a soda bottle or milk carton.
- You can get fancy and buy a Kydex sheath, or by a knife with a sheath, from Pikal Fruit Knife sheath-makers on **Etsy** and **eBay**.

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