

5 Reasons To Carry Cheap Knives

with Buck Greene for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

What's The Most Expensive Knife You've Ever Bought?

Like you, we here at MCS love knives. We love good-quality knives, too. When we say, “reasons for carrying cheap knives,” we DON'T mean not to carry something better TOO. We simply mean that there's a place for cheap knives. What's the cheapest one you've ever bought? What's the most expensive? There's room on the “knife spectrum” for just about everything.

1. They're Available Everywhere

A great example of a high-quality, cheap knife is the IKEA Skalad paring knife. We've talked in previous podcasts about using fruit knives, like the bird's beak model from Victorinox, for “pikal” and Libre-style knife fighting.

- IKEAs are pretty common these days, and the Skalad paring knife is dirt cheap. (It even comes with its own plastic sheath.)
- If there is no IKEA, that doesn't matter. Dirt-cheap but sturdy paring knives and steak knives can be had in any dollar store. Some dollar stores even carry some pretty decent Chinese cleavers and other cutlery, depending on the situation (although, everybody has their own feelings about buying Chinese goods these days).

2. They're Easily Replaceable

By far one of the most common reasons to go with a cheap knife is that there's little cost to replace it.

- You can use these for “grunt work” you'd never put your “safe queens” through.
- You can risk carrying them in areas where, while it's legal to carry a knife, you're not

sure about civilian security checkpoints where you might have to give them up.

- Knives are often used as prying tools and for other tasks for which they're not designed. If you break a cheap knife, hey, no big deal.

3. It's Easy To Rig Up A Sheath

You can make a sheath for any fixed blade using commonly available materials.

- Cardboard and duct tape is an old method.
- Melting plastic bottles is also pretty easy.

4. They're More Likely To Be Seen As “Normal”

Nobody thinks twice about a paring knife carried with your lunch, you know?

- Because most cheap knives were never sold as “tactical” blades, they enjoy an aura of “normal.”
- It's not a guarantee, but this can help when dealing with other people and police.

5. You Can Still Get A “Good” One

When you're selecting a cheap knife, here's what to look for while you're at the Dollar Store or elsewhere.

- Unless it has a proven track record (like the IKEA or the Victorinox), go with full tang. A full tang knife is less likely to break and you'll be able to see the tang in a dollar-store steak knife if it has wood handles.
- If you can't see the tang, it's still a good bet to go with metal or wood.
- You can use the “rubber band trick” to improve traction on a smooth handle.

Prepare. Train. Survive.