

Specs: High-end Knives

Make/Model	Price (retail)	Blade Material	Opening Device	Type of Lock	Attachment to Clothing	Weight	LOA
Benchmade Nimravus	\$135	ATS-34	—	—	Kydex sheath	4.0 oz.	9.4"
Benchmade Axis	\$160	ATS-34 SS	Stud	Axis	Steel clip	4.5 oz.	8.8"
Benchmade AFCK	\$145	ATS-34 SS	Round Hole	Liner	Steel clip	4.1 oz.	9.0"
Benchmade Stryker	\$155	ATS-34 SS	Thumb disk	Liner	Steel clip	3.8 oz.	8.25"
Boker Infinity	\$142	Ceramic	Stud	Liner	Steel clip	2.8 oz.	8.2"
Boye Dendritic	\$135	Cobalt	Elliptical Hole	Lockback	Aluminum clip	2.1 oz.	6.8"
Buck River Rafter	\$57.50	SS	Stud	Liner	Steel clip	3.5 oz.	8.5"
Buck Yachtsman	\$68	2 x SS	Stud	Liner	—	5.0 oz.	8.5"
Cold Steel	\$90	AUS-8A SS	Stud	Lockback	FRN clip	3.4 oz.	9.0"
Myerchin Navigator	\$68	440C SS	Keyhole-shaped hole	Lockback	FRN clip	5.2 oz.	8.0"
Spyderco Rescue	\$69	ATS-55 SS	Round Hole	Lockback	Steel clip	2.4 oz.	8.2"
Spyderco Snap-It	\$57	AUS-8A SS	Round Hole	Lockback	Steel snap shackle	2.4 oz.	6.9"
Spyderco Remote Release	\$65	AUS-8A SS	Round Hole	Lockback	Steel snap shackle	2.5 oz.	7.9"
West Marine/Wichard	\$20	Unknown	Nail nick	No lock	None	3.5 oz.	7.2"

Notes: All models have lanyard holes and locking blades. The Benchmade Nimravus is a fixed-blade model; all others are folders. SS = stainless steel, FRN = fiberglass-reinforced nylon. Substantial discounts are available from Internet sellers.

with its plain edge was no match for most of the serrated blades. The best-executed serrations for cutting the test rope material were those on the Benchmade models. Spyderco serrations, with their long points, tended to snag in this material. (An older Spyderco knife (not reviewed) that had more rounded points, would

Below: The Benchmade knives have handles made of G-10, a material that is finding its way into boatbuilding. From left to right: the Nimravus Cub, Stryker, Axis and AFCK.

have earned a 4 or 5 in cutting because it did not snag.)

Among the top cutters, the ones with the narrowest edge bevels (the final angle right behind the cutting edge) cut best. Beware too wide an edge bevel; either the manufacturer doesn't trust his steel to stand up at a more useful (i.e., narrower) angle, or a poor design escaped from engineering into manufacturing. If possible, avoid those. To some extent you can reshape the bevel, but it's a lot of work.

Comfort. The most comfortable knife to use was the Benchmade Nimravus Cub, probably because it had no

opening in the handle to dig into the hand when gripping hard.

Portability and Deployability. Portability is vital because the knife one uses when the need arises is typically the one he's carrying: The term "just in time" comes to mind. Portability includes not only weight but size. The knife you leave home or belowdecks is of little use in an emergency.

Deployability includes the rela-

Below: The Buck River Rafter (left) and Yachtsman, which comes with a sheath and combo blade tool.

