



Above: From left to right, the Myerchin, Cold Steel Land & Sea Rescue, and the West Marine/Wichard.



Above: The Spyderco knives, from left to right: the Snap-It Clipit, Remote Release and Rescue.

dry) will obviate most corrosion, however, we assigned corrosion resistance a relatively low weight.

Exotic blade materials such as cobalt, titanium and ceramic offer high-end corrosion protection. The term “stainless,” however, should not be taken literally, as it really means only stain-resistant. Any blade with enough carbon to provide serious cutting ability will corrode under the right conditions.

Always flush a knife in freshwater after exposure to saltwater, as chlorine in its dry state—which forms if you let saltwater dry on a knife—can be more corrosive than chlorine in solution as sea water. Follow the rinse by drying the knife. If a folding knife has been immersed in saltwater, oil the blade pivot as well.

Two protective products, Marine Tuf-Cloth (\$8.95) and Militec-1 Metal Conditioner, are endorsed by at least one of the makers whose knives received high evaluations. Each has a different action. Tuf-Cloth is a dry film corrosion inhibitor and lubricant that is rubbed on, leaving a “fast-drying, water-displacing micro-bonding crystal barrier against rust, friction and wear [that] ... will not wash off.” Militec is a liquid which is briskly rubbed on, creating “a chemical bond within the micropores of metal surfaces. Militec-1 actually becomes part of the metal, not merely a film on

the surface. Militec-1’s chemical action seals the metal, reduces friction, and creates a self-lubricating effect.” We hope to test these and similar products in the near future.

Individual Evaluations

Apart from the tests, here are our evaluations of the design and manufacturing qualities of 14 knives based on close inspection and cutting tests. The order is alphabetical by maker.

Benchmade 145SBT Nimravus Cub. The only fixed-blade knife in this review, the Nimravus handles as though it were a locked-open folder. With its versatile Kydex sheath (may be worn in several positions) it’s an appealing package even to a sailor who’ll be spending much of his time sitting. Its partially serrated blade has a drop-point shape, coated with BT2, a “proprietary Teflon-based polymer that provides corrosion protection and lubricity.” Handles are of G-10 glass-filled epoxy and provide excellent grip.

Benchmade 710S Axis. A full-size folder with a useful, partially serrated, recurved blade, the Axis’ S-shaped edge tends to prevent items being cut from moving away from the blade, and draws them instead toward the user. The new Axis locking mechanism is notable for smoothness of operation—and, most importantly, its design should automatically compensate for the inevitable wear that loosens most locks. Scales (the outer handle material that you grip when using the knife) are of G-10; liners (inner pieces that strengthen the handle and are attached to the scales; they are

typically metal) are titanium.

Benchmade 800SBT AFCK. A capable working folder that’s available in several choices of size, serrations, steel and blade coating. Ours is the larger size with an uncoated blade. It has G-10 scales and titanium liners. Its drop-point blade is partially serrated and has a round opening hole in the style of the Spyderco models. The AFCK affords a natural feel in the hand that many knives of its size lack.

Benchmade 910SBT Stryker. With the following exceptions, the Stryker can be considered a folding version of the Nimravus. Its blade is straight and tanto-shaped, giving it extra slicing performance and a stronger point, at the cost of extra effort to resharpen. A knurled disk fixed perpendicular to the blade allows either thumb to open it easily. G-10 scales and titanium liners. An effective clothing clip, also coated, completes this lightweight package.

Boker 89 Infinity Ceramic. Handle is lightweight molded plastic, of substantial thickness. Linerlock locks opened blade. Although the drop-point blade is ceramic, the other fittings (e.g., pivot pin, liner lock, pocket clip) contain ferrous metal. The opening stud on the blade is too small and too smooth, and it’s mounted on the blade too close to the pivot pin. The ceramic blade must be sent to the factory for sharpening, since the blade is as hard as any sharpener material