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Bark River's Mikro

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- Gear reviews and tests - Edged tools - Fixed blades -



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Description :

The Bark River Mikro was conceptualized and designed to be a pocket workhorse. Something for those of us who appreciate a super tough, very portable package that didn't appear tactical and was still large enough to do big chores. So be it. Any knife that I'm going to have my name associated with better pass muster. Here's my testing results:

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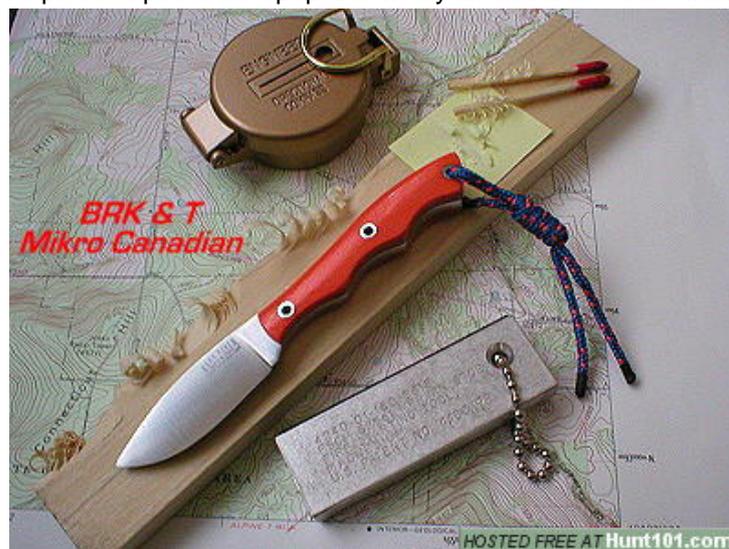
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Bark River's Mikro

The Bark River Mikro came to me very sharp, so I wanted to see how well it would perform fine tasks. It was capable of grabbing and popping free standing hair at the onset of the test and with that edge, was easily able to shave fuzz sticks from stick matches. The fuzz was so fine, it was hard to get a decent pic ...



I also used the Mikro to fillet a piece of post-it notepaper from my kit and shave curls from some hard ash I had.



Take note of the three separate sets of curls above. The first set, nearest the bottom, was done with the factory edge. The second (middle) set was done after I'd cut up a number of boxes and plastic jugs for the recycling bin. The uppermost set was done after I'd finished the day's chores and had restropped the edge back to hair popping sharp. Also, take note of that piece of wood - it got "transformed" over the course of the day. Here's what I mean ...



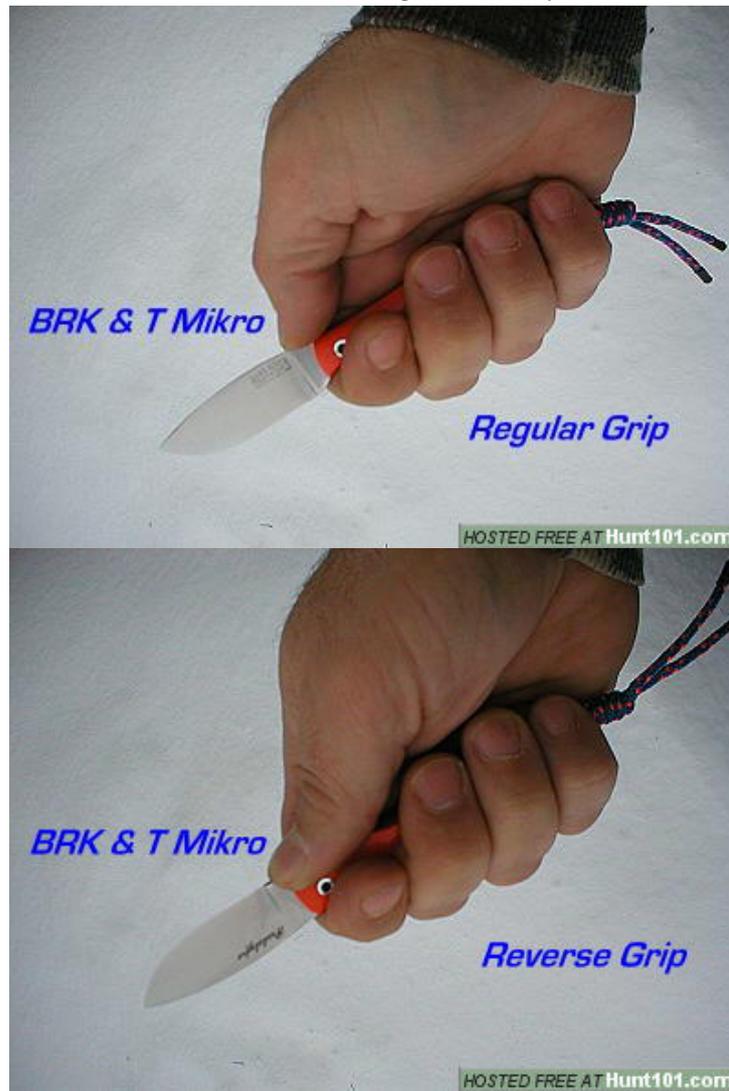
The spoon was chip carved and whittled out with the Mikro. I used the blade spine to smooth things out a bit and had to resort to a piece of sandpaper for the final smoothing. The coloration (stain) was achieved with smashed raspberries.

Speaking of the blade spine, I specifically told Mike to ensure that it's spine was left sharp to be used for a scraper and ferrocerium rod striker. The knife performed those tasks admirably ...



Bark River's Mikro

The knife was a joy to use and it remained comfortable throughout the day's events ...



Up to this point (and through cutting up sausages, and apple and cheese for lunch), the Mikro performed flawlessly and the edge restored to factory fresh with simple stropping.

Then the evil side of me appeared. I thought, "What's the Mikro going to be used for that might kill it?" To the side door I went. I jimmied the side door to my house open, prying the lock with the knife's tip. No damage to the knife, whatsoever. Easy task. Now I get to use the knife to trim up the holes I had to cut to install a new deadbolt on the dam* door. Now I was angry and determined, and hungry again. Out came a can of chicken breast meat and the evil overcame me ...



Bark River's Mikro

Yes, I did it. I pounded the Mikro through the top of the can repeatedly until I got my chicken. The Mikro did not fare very well on this test. I'd managed to roll the edge. How do I fix this? Out came the strop, loaded with a fresh piece of 400 grit wet/dry paper. Within 5 minutes, I'd removed the roll and refreshed the edge to useable condition. This morning, I replaced the 400 grit paper with 2000 grit and repeated the process. The knife is back to factory condition. The chicken can test was purely abusive - BUT, it took that much abuse to affect the edge significantly. Best part is, how easy I (the most sharpening challenged person on the U.S. east coast) was able to restore it.

The Mikro, therefore, passes muster. With flying colors. It can keep my name and I stand by it. Great knife - it's a keeper.

As a side note, production models are currently available. Final specs are:

5" Overall Length; 1 15/16" Blade Length; .150 Blade Thickness; 1.55 ounces without sheath, 2.5 ounces with sheath; Standard handle scales include Green or black canvas micarta or Antique Stag Bone;



Special handle materials to be made available in subsequent production runs. Here's a sneak preview -

