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Cold Steel Hudson Bay knife

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



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Description :

Review of a nice knife.

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After I gave away my Red River knife, I had to get another. I ended up getting its big brother, and in fact I got two.

Generally the comments about the Red River knife apply to this model - but there are some significant differences. The handle is rectangular in outline not oval like the Red River. This knife is 1 1/4" longer and the hump on the blade is far closer to the tip. This doesn't do a lot for its looks: this one just looks like what it is - a butcher knife. Only when you handle it do you see its potential for outdoor stuff.

Like the Red River the blade thickness tapers from the hump forward. This knife is far more suited for use with a baton. Better yet, the hump serves to hold the other hand when using the knife two handed for use as a plane or draw knife. The added blade length is an advantage for this use too. At 6oz, a little over 8oz with sheath, the knife is 50% heavier than a 6" Mora, but substantially lighter than my leukko. My leukko will fit in the HB sheath, being essentially the same size.



And - of course the logo..



This is the second knife, not the sharpened one used with a baton.. I guess the first question is just who would carry this type of blade. It sure would be a useful tool in skinning and quartering a moose - lots of people have moved to getting a set of butcher knives for the task - and this is one awesome butcher knife! It would also look great when wearing voyager gear and singing a few paddling songs.

Surprisingly this is quite a useful knife in the bush. While being long for many tasks, and without the bevel of Scandinavian knives, it is light enough and thin bladed enough to have serious utility for general tasks. The point is often made that a six inch knife gives 50% more edge than a 4" knife, and this gives even more. The fact is though that if the edge is marked with a permanent marker it will be found that normally only the first few inches of blade are regularly used. The rest of the long blade comes into play when using a baton to cut large green wood or split wood. Normally I am somewhat sceptical of holding a sharp blade with a two handed grip - one hand holding the tip. With this knife however it appears fairly safe because of the hump on the end of the blade. Used as a draw knife, this knife can do some serious woodwork. Unlike the harder Scandinavian blades the steel will hold a coarse edge as well as a fine one.

As with the Red River, this knife will find a lot of use in the kitchen.

The Sheath

The same comments apply as with the Red River sheath - except that these sheaths didn't outgass solvents. The sheath is great except for the belt loop which is designed to hold the sheath tucked inside the belt. A little work with steam will soon convert a leuko sheath to fit this knife (These sheaths are \$15 CAN from Dennis Holmbacka.) but a few real brass rivets and some leather will serve on the original sheath.

Conclusions:

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Watch a real butcher take on a moose with just a knife like this! For outdoor stuff the knife will serve well as a general purpose camp knife.

Post-scriptum :Original article at [OldJimbo's site](#).