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EKA W11

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



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Description :

A good and sturdy scandinavian fixed blade.

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The Eka W11 is a nice fixed blade. It comes with a superb leather sheath, and a leather lace, to be used to tie the sheath to the leg, or as a lanyard. I paid mine some 80 Euros.

Total weight with sheath: 250 grams.

The blade measures some 11 cm, and is 4 mm thick, and it is made of 12c27 stainless steel at HRC 59. The edge holding and sharpenability are very good, and 12c27 allows very fine edges to be honed, so, with some work the cutting power is awesome.

The eka in its preferred environment



It comes from the maker with a kind of saber-grind, with edge bevels. The edge is reasonably thin, a bit thicker near the tip. I sharpened mine like a Puukko, which means that the big bevel on the blade comes down to the very edge, slightly convex. That is how you see it on the pictures.

details of blade and sheath



As the blade offers a lot of belly, there is actually more than 11 cm of edge, probably close to 15 cm. Total size, with handle: 23 cm.

In my hand, to understand the size



The handle is made of burbinga wood, a very hard and resistant tropical hardwood. It receives the blade as a half-hidden full tang, meaning that the tang can be seen on the back on the handle, but not on the other side it holds there with 2 pins. A construct that is a gage of durability. The handle is very ergonomic and non sliperry, due to a very decorative and useful fine laser checkering on the lower half. The finger groove provides a kind of guard, and is not aggressive.

It is a knife tha feels bigger in the hands than it is really, A few things account for this: The thick blade, The fact that for the size, there is no length lost, it is either edge or handle, there is no ricasso.

There are two points that could have been better in my opinion: The blade is wide, and cuts in the recess of the seath tha matches the handle finger groove. On the other side, this recess retains the blade well in the sheath. The other point is the checkering of the top the blade, the thumb rest checkering, which I find a bit aggressive, but that some people may like.

A note on the often forgotten 12C27 Sandvik steel

Personally, I love the Sandvik 12c27 steel, because it has a very fine grain, so it can really be made razor sharp, it also holds an edge quite well, and is very easy to sharpen, while still being stainless. Oh, most experts will tell you it is not the top of the range, but the modern cutlery produces knives that in my opinion are also a bit too difficult to

sharpen in the field. 12C27 has been designed to be a Stainless steel which provides good cutting ability, to to it's very fine grain (very small carbides), while not being brittle, and staying easily workable, wether heat treating or grinding. I own many knives in 12C27, and in my opinion, they are to the level of ATS34, VG10, CPM440V, some carbon steels, an other more modern steels.

So let's see:

Good ergonomics, good steel, good blade geometry, good sheath, reasonable price, that must make a good knife. That is the evaluation of the knife as it comes from factory. But bit of work on the edge to transform it to a slightly convex scandinavian bevel, an you get an superb "bushcraft" knife.