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Ontario TAK-1 In D2 Tool Steel

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



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Description :

A favorite military / survival knife undergoes a few tests...

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Anyone that knows me well, knows that I have an affinity towards small and medium sized bladewear. I've been playing around with and testing an Ontario TAK-1 in D2 tool steel that reaches the upper limits of the medium size aspect and delves into the realm of the wilderness survival/combat survival tool size range.

Here's a pic of the Ontario TAK-1 with it's newly redesigned sheath, followed by its specs as provided by Ontario Cutlery -



D2 Steel Textured Powder Coated Blade 4.25" cutting edge length with drop point 10" overall length Blade .1875" thick Black Linen Micarta Handle 10.18 ounces Newly designed Ambidextrous Cordura® nylon sheath with lashing holes for attachment or paracord storage

The Ontario TAK-1 came to me with a better than average edge which would shave hair. I've used the knife in a myriad of chores around home and in the field. So far, It's proven to be an excellent performer and it's D2 edge is hard to kill -

I batoned it in normal fashion...



and I batoned it "tip-in" fashion...



The TAK-1 readily provided me with a fair supply kindling and tinder without a bobble. The edge held up well, even when I purposefully drove it through several knots in the wood I was working. It wouldn't shave hair when I was

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done, but a quick stropping on charged leather brought the edge back to it's original level of sharpness in no time.

I also used the knife for snap cuts on some annoyance brush. Although the knife is handle heavy, it's also got a decently sized handle and enough blade mass to allow for good snap cuts...



The TAK-1 was more than capable of handling the tasks at hand on this day. Even after all of the cutting and baton work without sharpening, the knife was perfectly capable of whittling fine fuzzies to start the fire with. The Ontario machete I toted along and thought I'd need didn't see use - maybe another day.

I've used the TAK to dismantle (read pry apart) several military style wooden crates than needed to be discarded. The TAK sailed through the chore with flying colors. Not normally a chore I'd put a knife through in field testing, but this knife can take it. I've also used it for the mundane stuff in the shop and in the kitchen - again, it performs well as a "jack-of-all-trades" knife.

The sheath is similar in design and construction to the one supplied with the RAT-7. However, it does not incorporate the storage pouch found on the RAT-7 sheath. Not a problem, it's a far better design than the first sheath design marketed with the TAK. The new sheath is secure and rides well, albeit a tad low for my personal preference. I noticed a bit of blade rattle in the current issue sheath, but that was easily cured by sliding a small piece of closed cell foam into the bottom of the sheath. An email to our friend Eric at On/Scene Tactical cured my sheath desires for this knife -



Eric's typical excellent quality craftsmanship abounds in the On/Scene sheath - it fits the TAK like a snug driving glove.

As a side note, yesterday I was watching a program on the Military Channel which showed a US Marine unit in action in Iraq. Watching very closely, one gets an occasional glimpse of a Marine with the TAK's big brother, the RAT-7, and several Marines with other non-issued Ontario bladewear. Ontario is putting out some fine combat survival and wilderness survival tools that merit consideration if you're in the market. The TAK-1 is no exception, it's a fine cutting tool for civilian, LEO or Soldier. Need more info? Check here: <http://www.ontarioknife.com/>