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Pulaski Hatchet

Steve

- Gear reviews and tests - Edged tools - Axes and hatchets -



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Description :

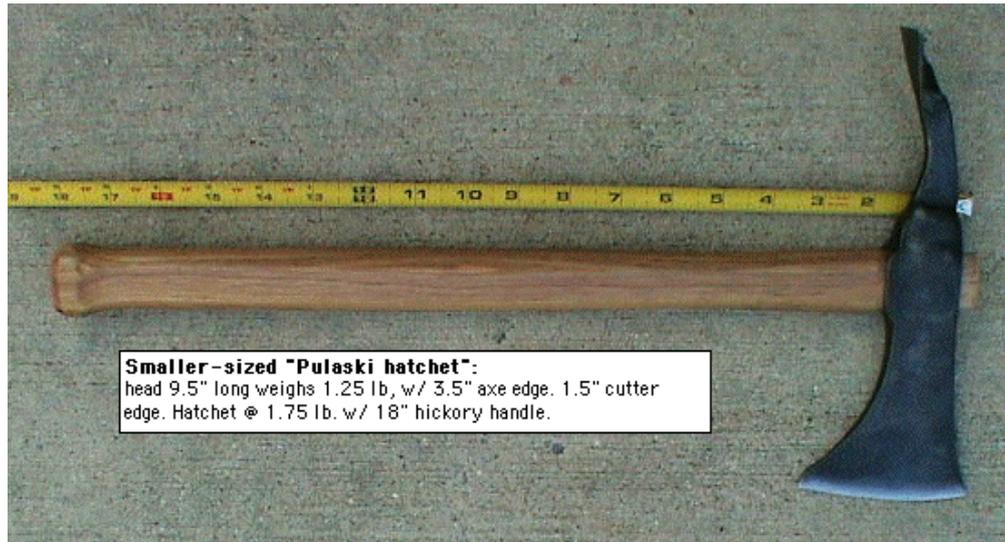
I made this as a followup to the larger "Pulaski-style axe"

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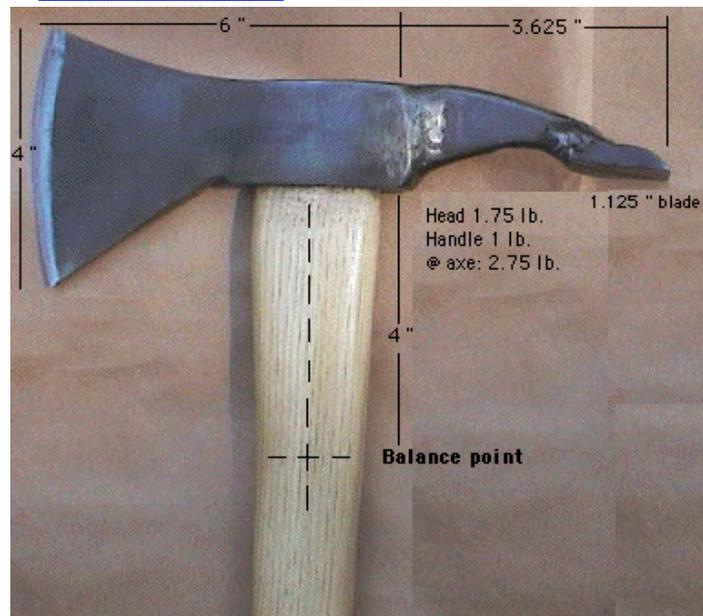
Pulaski Hatchet

This is a modified Pulaski-style hatchet, with a shorter handle:



"Pulaski" style hatchet

I described in my recent article [Portable Pulaski axe:](#)



"Pulaski" style axe with 27 inch handle

I was curious to see if the same type blade could be made into a shorter, lighter tool and still prove useful. I made this hatchet blade slightly smaller & lighter than the one I used on my axe. For the curved arm on the poll, holding the cutter blade, I used .25 inch steel. For the cutter blade itself, I used lighter-weight medium-carbon steel from an old rotary lawn mower blade. I also thinned the blade a bit so it ended up with a finished weight of 1.25 lbs, vice the 1.75 lbs. on the larger axe-sized head. The handle is an 18 inch hickory shop hammer handle. I wanted to end up with a hatchet that was less than @ 2 lbs and I managed to keep below that figure, at 1.75 lbs.

The hatchet does well on cutting modest size pieces of wood and in digging. It's not quite as efficient as the larger axe with its' heavier head & longer handle, but it does OK. And it is definitely easier to carry around. The downside, as with any hatchet, is that you must often stoop or kneel to cut or dig. Also, swinging this double-edged tool when you are crouched fairly close to your work can be a bit intimidating. You can see a sharp edge coming back towards you as you lift & then swing the blade into your target. It makes you a bit careful how you swing the hatchet! I guess my choice between the axe & the hatchet would depend on how much work I judged needed to be done versus the weight of the tools I had to carry with me. The larger axe is definitely less tiring to use for heavier work or for an extended time. But this at a price of extra weight & length to be carried to the job site. The hatchet can be more

Pulaski Hatchet

easily stuffed in the rucksack. Choices, choices.

Incidentally, if you feel the urge to make up one of these for yourself, I would not let the lack of a welder stop me. You could cut, grind & fit the cutter parts yourself, less the actual welding, and then take them to either a friend with a welder or a commercial welder who might take on a small job. For them, the job would be a 10 minute chore, less the finish-grinding of the welds so they look halfway decent. If you are willing to do the finish grinding and smoothing yourself, you should not have to pay too much for the welding.