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Spyderco Para Military

Nemo

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Publication: Monday 5 December 2005

Description :

Little folder for the big outdoors

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Son of the C36 Military the C81 ParaMilitary is bringing inheritance to a new level of excellence.



length overall	7 7/8" (200 mm)	blade length	3 3/32" (81 mm)	blade steel	CPM-S30V
length closed	4 3/4" (121 mm)	cutting edge	2 15/16" (75 mm)	weight	3.75 oz (108 g)
hole diameter	9/16" (14 mm)	blade thickness	5/32" (4 mm)	handle material	G-10

Back in 1997 when I was reviewing, with Fred Perrin, the C36 Military, our only complain was...it was to big for everyday carry in the city. Then the Starmate came offering the same technology in a more compact solution but... it was not as fast an easy to get into action as the Military. Sal Glesser, CEO of Spyderco and designer of the C36 has been studying the possibilly to reduce the size of that large folder. But he wanted to keep "the cockpit" of the Millie even if the length of the blade was shrunk from 1/3. As an inventor, Sal Glesser wanted to go beyond liner lock technology with his new compression lock he developped for the Gunting (a Martial Blade Craft folder, a very strong lock then!) So here it is: a smaller Military with a better lock !

After some times, it's easy to get absolutly addicted to the ParaMilitary. The opening and closing of the blade are fast and easy. It's fun !!! "The Compression lock..., it's all in the lock it gives that smoothness ! " told me Sal. Good thing also to know about that lock: the wear is self adjusting.

This knife has been designed for the spyder drop opening. (You catch the knife in your pocket by its 14mm hole and the blade opens with gentle flick of your wrist.) This is fast (faster than automatics), easy, beautiful and not hard on the lock and stop pin. Actually by releasing the lock you can also open the blade only by gravity. It is so smooth you will soon close it also by gravity...

The purpose and design of this knife is not a "quick and the dead" weapon. But a "medium size survival folding knife" which means

easy to operate

easy to clean

minimum moving parts and wear

Strong cutting power which last

reliable and solid construction

easy to maintain sharp.

The C36 Military owner were always very happy with the simple fact that knife was so light they forgot how big it was unless it was in play. Now the C81 provide you a more compact solution but instead of only one nested liner, the son of the C36 got two nested stainless steel liners providing a more solid feel about the construction and the reliability of

your tool. There is no play in any direction when the blade is locked. Also the full screw construction let you the possibility to adjust the smoothness to your knife to your need.

In the wood, it's good to have a folding knife you can open and close with ease, without to look at it. Sometime you need to cut something and get rid of the sharp and dangerous blade to avoid injury. Also your finger are not on the way of the closing blade when your are releasing the lock. This is another feature of the compression lock.

About cutting power. Spyderco are known for their full flat ground knives and the edge they put on it. The belly of the C81 gives you a lot of raw power with a very accurate control for cutting branch and trimming vines. Its only contender in hard wood cutting in my humble opinion is the Spyderco Dodo. The curves of the edge gives you a "scissor" motion with the cut material and the ease in cutting is really comfortable.

Now the blade is in S30V, the "ATS34 of the 21st century" as everybody use it from Chris Reeve knives to TOPs... Heat treating, geometry and "savoir faire" in the Golden Plant makes all the difference. The C81 can shave news paper and be used for eye surgery right out of the box. The point of the C81 blade is also more solid than the point on the old C36.

The solid handle is made to be used with wet hands and the G10 is gripping your palm. The indexing of the knife is so easy, you can use it without to look at it. You will know always where the sharp edge is. Also the choil assures your fingers against any failure of the lock . Notice this: the force applied to the blade is not transitted at 100% through the handle. Your index finger and your thumb are transmitting your strenght directly to the blade ! It's another factor of longevity in a knife destined to last in the harshest situations.

This is a knife you can clip in the waisband of in the front pocket without to notice it when you bend or sit in a car. The clip is mounted as high as on the Military and gives you less handle lenght to jab into your flesh. The handle is so comfortable there is no hot spot even with clip mounted.

I hope the C81 Paramilitary will announce the next generation of the C36 in term of smoothness and ultra strong lock. This is a knife I invite you to see at your local retailer. Because ergonomy an ease of operation is something you need to feel to be convinced.

Anyway if you are looking for reliability and user friendship in a little big folder. Here it is. The C81 is screaming to be used hard and he will never quit. And as far as I am concern it's sheeple friendly. It's also a perfect folding office knife for cooking duty. The compact size of the C81 give you also the opportunity to carry a strong bushcraft folder in the city.

Cheers

JM