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The Ontario RAT-3

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



Publication: Tuesday 2 August 2005

Description :

A handy new EDC utility knife from Ontario Cutlery and RAT Training.

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The Ontario RAT-3

Several weeks ago, I received a brand new Ontario RAT-3 for test and review. Opening the box, I was quite pleasantly surprised at the contents...



Here's some specs - The RAT-3 is constructed of full tang D2 tool steel with black canvas micarta scales which are secured by stainless hex head screws. It is 7 7/8" overall length with a 3 1/4" flat ground blade with beveled edge. The blade is 1 1/4" wide by 1/8" thick. The RAT-3 weighs in at 4 3/4 ounces.

The polymer sheath is equipped with a belt clip attachment (shown) and a tech-lock. The belt clip as shown is my preferred method of carry - cross draw inside the waistband with the clip gripping my waistband and riding under my belt. The sheath grips the knife securely and is easy to draw from and reinsert the knife into. Under a loose shirt, the knife literally disappears.

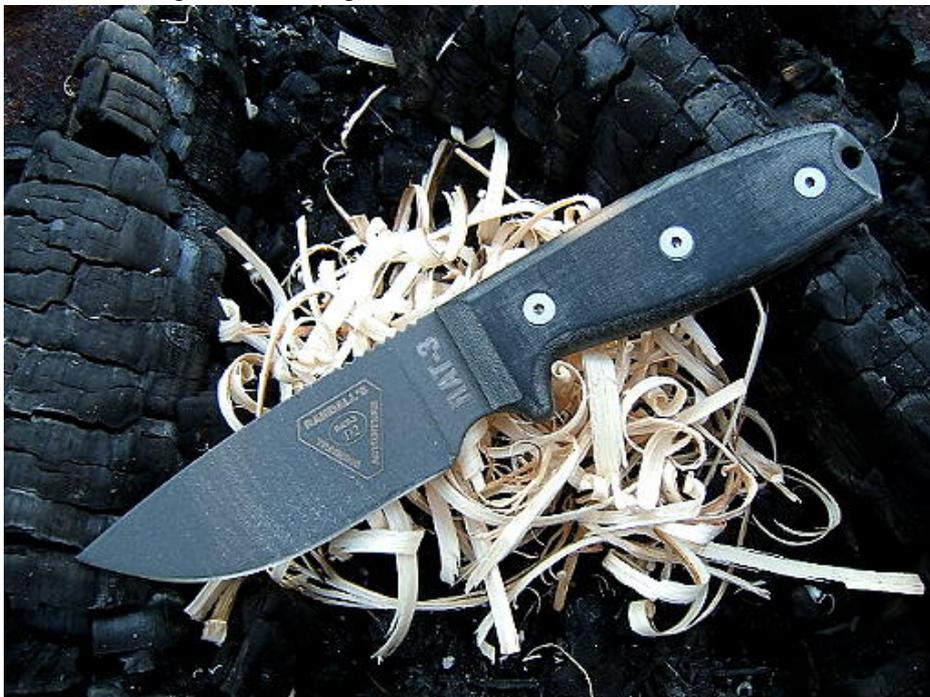
I've carried the knife for two weeks and have had the opportunity to use it for a bunch of mundane household and kitchen chores. It's proven to be a good cutter with its thin, wide stock. The RAT-3 has an incredible tip for penetration and a nice, full belly for slicing cuts. It's nicely sized choil allows for really choking up on the blade if necessary for very fine work without worry of cutting yourself. The D2 steel blade came to me shaving sharp and through the mundane tasks has held its edge well.

I've had the opportunity to use the knife on several occasions for campfire prep...

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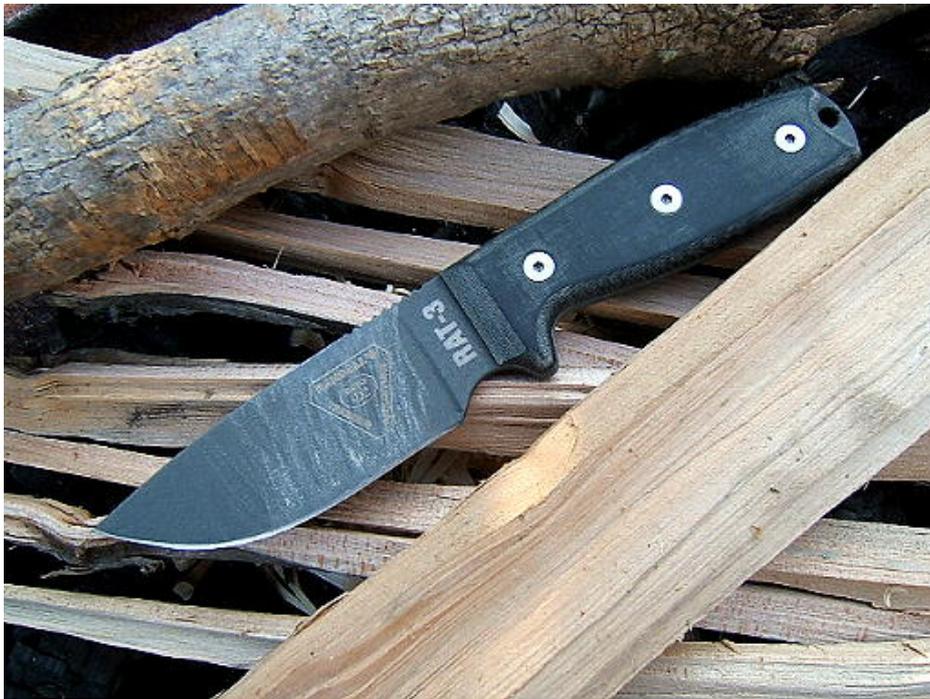


The RAT-3 easily shaved curls from the fatwood and rock hard maple I had available. It also made quick easy work of making piles of tinder to kindling sized shavings from hornbeam...



Although the blade is somewhat short, it still provided me the opportunity to use it for batoning kindling from larger pieces of fuel...

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The RAT-3's blade spine, even through the coating, was sharp enough to provide showers of sparks from both my MFS and FireSteel sufficient to strike a fire from the fatwood shavings.

The RAT-3 easily performed all of the tasks required of it. It is easy to carry and conceal, yet provides enough handle and blade to tackle serious work when called to task. The handle is well designed and comfortable, I did not experience any discomfort during use. The blade edge has also held up very well. Although it did not retain its shaving edge through testing, it held a decent workable edge. When I thought it was time for resharpening, a simple stropping on charged leather brought the edge back to near that of its original level of sharpness from the factory. The blade coating is the only feature which suffered my tests and playing. It's showing a little scratching and some rub marks, but it's still fully intact and serviceable - nothing more than the knife gaining character marks from use.

The Ontario RAT-3 is clearly a winner for civilian EDC or as a Soldier or LEO's backup knife. Need more info? Try here: <http://www.jungletraining.com/rat%20knives.htm> or here: <http://www.ontarioknife.com>

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