

Mini-Knife Tip #2

Choosing Your Knife — Different Advice

by Keith Pascal

Should the knife and the handle of your fighting knife be equally balanced?

Do you choose your weapon based on blade length? How about the method of quickly opening the blade?

Adam Bridgers wrote asking for a tip about choosing one's blade. I gave him a tip for blade selection based on balance.

Adam is 35 and has picked up his martial-arts skills from some formal training, but most of his training is "street learned," with tips from books, marines, navy seals, etc.

Adam, after purchasing **10 Days to Better Knife Fighting**, wanted to know my thoughts on what kind of knife to use for a knife fight.

In the letters, we started talking about balance. Most of the time, knife fighters check a blade by balancing it on their forefinger.

That's not a bad idea. Here's the way I explained it to Adam.

For balance, no matter what blade I am using, I want the "samurai sword" feeling.

When the sword fighters of old fought with katanas, they described the blade as having a will of its own.

(Once, after class in the early 1980s, my teacher, Steve Golden, showed me some of his swords.

One felt like every other sword I had held — normal balance. It was a modern sword that anyone could purchase from a catalog. The second was old ... over 75 yrs.

The blade seemed to whip through the air without effort. He progressed to even older blades ... at some *point*, pardon the pun, I wasn't allowed to handle the oldest of the blades.

If the older ones felt like they were flying without effort, can you imagine what it must have felt like, when his oldest sword spun in various patterns around his body?

The blade flicked effortlessly through the air.

The point of all this is for you to try to duplicate that feeling.

Find a blade that is balanced as an extension of your wrist. And once you have such a knife ...

Your goal is to position the blade, so it doesn't feel like a heavy paperweight held in the hand. Experiment with the balance, until 'you' feel that the blade is just an extension of your body.

Does any of this make sense?

Conclusion

Did you know that Adam was one of the only people ever to ask for a refund on "10 Days to Better Knife Fighting."

I wrote back to Adam, and asked that he take a chance and try some of the exercises. Just enough, so his body would start to react automatically.

Here's what he wrote:

"...I am not too proud to say that I was wrong, but in this case I was VERY VERY wrong! Your book + articles are excellently written, comprehensive, fairly easy to follow.

"I must congratulate you on creating such a unique piece of useful information without 'brain bombing' the student with far too much information in a short time. "

— Adam Bridgers