

## Hold It By the Handle

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### A Slightly Tongue-in-Cheek Guide to Tactical and Hunting Knives

Let's face it, we all have that primal urge to slice, dice, and generally conquer the world (or at least a particularly stubborn roast). Whether you're a seasoned hunter stalking the elusive... sandwich, or a tactical ninja grunt navigating the treacherous landscape of your backyard, a good knife is your best friend. But with so many pointy options, how do you choose? Fear not, intrepid slicer, for we're here to guide you through the wilderness of blades and to provide you with some pointers 😊

#### Hunting Knives: For When You Need to Get Your "Game On" (Even if it's Just a Chicken)

Hunting knives are designed for the delicate art of turning a furry (or feathery) friend into dinner. They're basically the kitchen knives of the wild, but with more dirt and fewer dishwashers.



- **Fixed Blade Hunters: The Unbreakable Chunks of Steel:**

- These bad boys are like the tanks of the knife world. They're tough, reliable, and about as subtle as a bull in a china shop.
- **Usage:** Everything from field dressing your game (which, let's be honest, sounds way more hardcore than it usually is) to chopping firewood (because why not?).
- **Steel Recommendations:**

- **High-Carbon Steels:** These'll hold an edge like your grandma holds onto her secret lasagna recipe, which means forever, but they rust faster than a politician's promise.
- **Stainless Steels:** For those who prefer their knives rust-free and their lives drama-free.
- **Folding Hunters: The Pocket-Sized Predators:**
  - For when you need to be sneaky, like a squirrel (what's with this guy and squirrels?!?) with a nut. These fold up neatly, so you can pretend you're not carrying a weapon...until you need to open that stubborn pickle jar.
  - **Usage:** Light field work, opening packages, and generally looking cool.
  - **Steel Recommendations:** Stainless steels, because who has time for rust?
- **Fillet Knives: The Non-slip, Slippery Knife:**
  - These are the surgeons of the fishing world and are designed with the long, thin and flexible blades needed for removing bone, scales and slim from that one that *almost* got away.
  - **Usage:** Removing the fish fillet from the bones, obviously, and removing the scaly skin because they tend to get stuck in your throat (cough...) when you are enjoying your meal!
  - **Steel Recommendations:** Stainless steel, because it is easy to clean those fishy fluids off.

## **Tactical Knives: For When You Need to Feel Like a Secret Agent (Even if You're Just Opening Mail)**

Tactical knives are all about looking tough and being prepared for anything, from a zombie apocalypse to a particularly aggressive cardboard box.

- **Fixed Blade Tactical Knives: The "Don't Mess With Me" Blades:**
  - These are the knives that scream, "I'm ready for anything!" (Even if "anything" is just cutting tape).

- **Usage:** Self-defense, survival, and general badassery.
- **Steel Recommendations:**
  - **High-Carbon Tool Steels:** For when you need a knife that can take a beating, like that old flip phone you refuse to replace.
  - **High-Performance Stainless Steels:** For the discerning ninja who wants both toughness and shine.
- **Folding Tactical Knives: The Pocket Ninjas:**
  - These are the James Bonds of the knife world, sleek and ready for action.
  - **Usage:** Everyday carry, self-defense, and opening those infuriatingly sealed plastic packages.
  - **Steel Recommendations:** Stainless steels, for a quick draw and a clean cut.
- **Tanto Knives: The Pointy Powerhouses:**
  - These blades are like the ninjas of the knife world, with a point that can pierce just about anything.
  - **Usage:** Piercing, stabbing, and making a dramatic entrance.
  - **Steel Recommendations:** Strong steels, for a strong point.

## Steel: The Secret Sauce (Or Metal, Whatever)

Choosing the right steel is like choosing the right spice for your culinary masterpiece. It can make or break your knife experience.

- **Edge Retention:** How long your knife stays sharp, like your grandma's memory of your childhood embarrassments. High carbon steels or high carbon stainless steels are the best for edge retention.
- **Toughness:** How much abuse your knife can take, like your tolerance for bad puns. High carbon stainless and tool steels can stand up very well!
- **Corrosion Resistance:** How well your knife resists rust, like your ability to resist that extra slice of pizza pie. Stainless steel is the most resistant choice here!

- **Ease of Sharpening:** How easy it is to bring your knife back to its former glory, like trying to explain memes to your parents. Let's face it here, Crocodile Dundee, no matter the razor you pick, you are going to spend time sharpening it!

So, whether you're a hunter, a tactical enthusiast, or just someone who likes sharp things, choose wisely – and a good sheath if your blade requires it! The right choice in knives can be the difference between staying warm while camping, eating or even surviving out in the wildness or your backyard. Obviously, we came nowhere close to covering all the various knife types out there so do your own research into what covers your needs. You are sharp enough to figure this out (last bad pun...thankfully)!

And remember, a dull knife is a sad knife and the handle is there for a reason – to hold the knife (as someone very special said recently to me).

