

" ... THE PALLAS PROVIDES THE MODERN-DAY WARRIOR WITH A KNIFE FIT FOR THE BATTLEFIELD BUT STEALTHY ENOUGH FOR URBAN LIFE."

TITAN OF EDC

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

SPARTAN BLADES' PALLAS ALSO FULFILLS THE ROLE AS A RELIABLE COMBAT KNIFE

LIKE its namesake "Pallas" — the Titan god of War-craft and father to the gods Victory, Rivalry, Strength and Power — Spartan Blades' Pallas knife is a titan that lives up to the legacy from which it was born.

Adding to a robust lineage of hard-use, combat-oriented knives designed by those who have been in the fire and came out as hard as the steel they form, the Pallas provides the modern-day warrior with a knife fit for the battlefield but stealthy enough for urban life.

Initial Impressions

When I first opened the Pallas' box, I was surprised by the size of this knife, because it is quite substantial for an EDC carry option. However, once I took it in hand, I found it to be very comfortable and ergonomic. I also discovered that the Pallas' length allowed it to be utilized as a yawara stick (see sidebar), thereby offering a less-than-lethal option if the need were to arise.

I had an initial concern that this knife's weight was going to be a bit much for any kind of EDC, but because of its 6061 aluminum frame, it was surprisingly lighter than I had anticipated — only 4.736 ounces. The Pallas' aluminum scales have a slight brushed feel to them, giving it a supple feel in the hand; and its machined grooves in the side provide some added texture to the grip.

I love that it carries tip up so it is already properly oriented in the hand when deployed; with the lower placement of the clip, it rides a little high in the pocket for more rapid access. While I do love the clip placement, the fact that you cannot

switch the clip to the other side makes me thankful I am right handed (although I understand Spartan Blades is planning a left-handed version in the future). The clip, featuring the company's distinct arrow icon, is made of 6AL-4V titanium and is very tight, adding excellent retention during carry.

Operation

I also noticed right away that the Pallas is a flipper-style opener. However, it also offers thumb studs for those who prefer them. Utilizing alpha bearings on heat-treated stainless-steel washers, the knife's blade comes to bear — at its full 8.75 inches — lightning fast and very smooth, with no impedance.

The Pallas takes advantage of a button lock, which is very tight and combines with the smooth alpha bearings to provide the truest one-handed operation I have seen in a folder; this was the case, even while I wore my leather winter gloves. The smooth operation of the bearings allows the weight of the blade to carry it easily back into place within the

frame by simply holding the knife's sides with the tip up and depressing the button lock to disengage it. No additional assistance is needed from your support hand.

The knife's snappy detent ensures that it closes all the way and prevents it from opening unexpectedly in your pocket. (Note that with this knife's button-style lock, I do not recommend any kind of batoning on the blade for safety reasons, as well as the unnecessary wear to the lock.)

Specifics

The Pallas has a 3.75-inch S35VN stainless-steel blade that is heat treated to 58-60 HRC. This gives the knife good edge retention and corrosion resistance



The button lock fits snugly into the groove, keeping the blade tight during use.



A closer look at the notch for the button lock

while also being a little easier to sharpen than some other stainless steels. The stonewash finish on the blade gives it a very rugged look, and its smooth polish lets it glide right through objects with very little drag. The Pallas' frame provides jimping down at the butt, working together with the jimping on the thumb ramp for added grip while doing heavy chores.

The knife's drop-point blade also includes a thumb indent following the thumb ramp; this feature allows you to choke up farther on the blade, itself, with greater control. The rounded spine also provides greater control when using the support hand's thumb to add strength to your cut — without being as abrasive on the thumb as a 90-degree spine. The high, flat-grind primary bevel gives the Pallas a very sharp, 23-degree edge bevel, resulting in less drag during slicing chores.

Function

I first laid eyes on the prototype for the Pallas at the 2015 Blade Show. After that, I couldn't wait to get one in my hands.

When it finally came in the mail, I was quite excited to get it into my pocket and fit it into daily use.

Right off the bat, I was glad to see the lanyard hole in the frame — something you see infrequently on a folding knife. When a lanyard is added to the Pallas, it helps with quicker access and blade deployment, even with cold hands, gloves or under duress, because it provides more to grab hold of while it is still in the pocket.

The Pallas is an EDC knife; nevertheless, I am confident I could bring it to bear during a life-or-death situation and that it would perform flawlessly for whatever task it was being called upon to fulfill.

This knife has turned out to be extremely handy. During the time I have been carrying it, I have used it for many and varied everyday tasks such as opening boxes, cutting thick plastic ties off products, slicing food products and cutting fabric, to name just a few chores. In every instance, I have been able to have it out, complete the task and return it to my

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pocket before most people were even aware of what happened — all this with simple, one-handed operation.

Putting it Through its Paces

Although the Pallas is a tactical folder intended more for EDC and combat-oriented tasks, I felt it could also perform well in the field and undertake light bushcrafting tasks. This is a function important to me with any knife I carry. I prefer to carry little into the field, so I am more inclined to make some of the items and tools I will need on any given trip once I get there.

For that reason, it is essential to practice different knife techniques, types of

PALLAS

In Greek mythology, Pallas was the Titan god of warcraft whose name is derived from the Greek word, pallo, which means, "to brandish a spear." Married to Styx, Pallas fathered many children, most notably the warlike gods Nike (victory), Kratos (power), Bia (force) and Zelos (rivalry).



When closed, the blade centers nicely in the frame, with only a slight lean to the right.



The machined grooves in the side of the frame help provide extra texture to the grip.



The high grind of the primary bevel allows the Pallas to be sharpened to a very sharp 23 degrees.



The blade, itself, is 3.75 inches long.



The drop-point blade uses S35VN stainless steel and features a polished, stonewash finish and jimping on the thumb ramp. A thumb groove provides increased control during fine work.



All hardware — the thumb studs, button lock, spacers and screws — are made of stainless steel.



The clip, featuring Spartan Blades' distinct arrow, is made of 6AL-4V titanium.



The Pallas measures 5.25 inches when closed and uses 6061 aluminum for the frame, keeping it surprisingly light.

notches and other carvings into wood, making a knife's use more meaningful. For instance, I was able to carve some different notches and a hook on a small piece of maple with very little work, very little fatigue and without hot-spot development during the process.

I wanted to further test the Pallas with bushcrafting chores: I was able to create a serviceable feather stick out of another piece of maple. Most folders aren't generally designed for these types of tasks, so I was very pleased with the results.

As with all knives, I like to test sharpness by doing a rope press test. This involves pressing the knife through a half-inch piece of climbing rope to observe how clean the cut is and how much work it took to cut through the rope. Once again, I was quite pleased with the factory edge on the



The author was easily able to cut a variety of notches, a small hook and other carvings in a small try stick. The Pallas also produced a serviceable feather stick for fire building.



The author tested the Pallas on a bike tire and was able to slice right through it with a little bit of work. (He used wire cutters to cut the steel beads around the rim of the tire. Don't attempt to cut these with your knife; you will ruin it and most likely void any kind of warranty).

"I LOVE THAT IT CARRIES TIP UP, SO THAT IT IS ALREADY PROPERLY ORIENTED IN THE HAND WHEN DEPLOYED."



YAWARA STICK

The yawara stick is a Japanese martial arts weapon similar to the kubotan and was introduced to the United States by Professor F.A. Matsuyama in 1940. Utilized for less-than-lethal, pressure point control and pain compliance. Many people in law enforcement adopted the yawara stick as a force equalizer. It is still carried by some officers today.

The yawara stick and kubotan are also excellent for civilian use, because they are not lethal, and the techniques needed to use them correctly can also be carried out with various improvised weapons, such as pens, magazines, phones, flashlights and other common, everyday items.

Even after a couple of the author's tests, the Pallas was sharp enough to slice paper down to very small curls and also make clean slices on cardboard.



" ... I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE IT OUT, COMPLETE THE TASK AND RETURN IT TO MY POCKET BEFORE MOST PEOPLE WERE EVEN AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENED—ALL THIS WITH SIMPLE, ONE-HANDED OPERATION."

Pallas, because it allowed me to get a clean cut with a marginal amount of work. This knife sliced right through the rope without struggle or drag. I followed this by cutting up a piece of paper and some cardboard. I was able to get some fine slices on both, even achieving some good slivers and curls with the paper.

I was curious about the knife's edge retention during some more-rigorous use

and utilized it to cut an old bike tire. I started by cutting off some of the thick rubber treads, which sliced off very cleanly and with little effort. Finally, after cutting the steel beads with a wire cutter (I clearly wasn't looking to destroy the Pallas — just test it), I folded the tire in half and cut it. Using the chest pull method to cut, I was able to get through the tire with a little work — but it was clean.

This Knife Does it All

Living up to its namesake, the Pallas is a robust folder that functions equally as an everyday knife or battlefield warrior. It is such a well-rounded knife with great features, great looks and comfortable ergonomics. To top it off, it is made right here, in the United States, by soldiers who know what a good knife needs to accomplish.

Even after having been subjected to all my tests and everyday tasks, the Pallas was still able to cut paper — although not quite as cleanly as when I received it. However, I will throw it on my Wicked Edge sharpener and refine the edge, and the knife will be good as new.

If you want a knife that was obviously produced without "cutting" corners and that can take what you throw at it, look no further than Spartan Blades' Pallas. **KL**

The author was able to get a very clean cut through half-inch climbing rope with minimal effort during the author's rope press cut test.



SPECIFICATIONS

DESIGNER: Curtis Iovito
BLADE LENGTH: 3 3/4 inches
OVERALL LENGTH: 8 3/4 inches (open)
BLADE THICKNESS: 0.153 inch (5/32 inch)
BLADE STEEL: CPM S35VN
BLADE HARDNESS: 58-60 HRC
BLADE STYLE: Drop point
FRAME: 6061 aluminum
CLIP MATERIAL: 6AL-4V titanium
FINISH: Stonewashed blade; frame and clip with a black, mil spec, anodized frame
WEIGHT: 4.736 ounces
MSRP: \$285

