



You Define Your EDC

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

We often look to the definitions others place on a given subject to determine what we feel is acceptable practice. It's human nature. It seems that no matter how much we try to be individuals, we still find ourselves falling into a category. The same goes for knives. There are tactical knives, bushcraft knives, EDC knives, and so on. However, what really makes a knife an EDC knife?

It seems as though the definition of an EDC knife should be determined by simple demographics and/or occupation. If you were to go to a deeply rural and wooded town, you would probably find a lot of people carrying bushcraft- or hunting-style knives on their hips. However, if you were deep in the urban jungle you would probably find more people carrying a pocketknife that could be anything from a tactical-style knife to a Taylor Brands Old Timer. So, there really isn't a set definition of EDC, because it is determined by what you carry every day.

That being said, there are factors that make particular knives more common for EDC than others. For any knife, you need to take into account your local and state laws. As mentioned, in some rural areas you may commonly see the locals wearing fixed-blade hunting or camping knives; whereas in some states or local jurisdictions, that might be against the law, or at the very least, in poor judgement.

A good EDC knife should be something you use daily, no matter how large or small the chores you encounter.

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So, for most cases, a “typical” EDC would be a knife that fit the broadest spectrum of knife laws. A knife like that would typically be something along the lines of a 3-inch, non-automatic blade. Whatever the case, always ensure that you are within the guidelines of your local ordinances.

I believe a fundamental aspect of EDC is a knife that fulfills your typical daily needs without being too much for simple jobs. My idea of an EDC knife is one that is easy to access, easy to use and something you won't shy away from using for any task. The beautiful thing about knives though, is that you are not limited to just one—I carry at least three on me at all times. You just never know when a given job might require a little more specified touch.

Stay sharp and keep it real. **KI**

Joshua Swanagon