

THE CLASSY CLASSIC

THE VICTORINOX LIMITED EDITION DAMAST
SWISS ARMY KNIFE IS A HEAD TURNER

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOSHUA SWANAGON



“THE 3.5-INCH BLADE IS A BEAUTIFUL DAMAST STAINLESS STEEL, CREATED FROM 115 LAYERS OF RWL-34 AND PMC-27, COMING TOGETHER TO FORM THE ELEGANT ‘ODIN’S EYE’ DAMASCUS PATTERN.”

Although the details may be a little fuzzy from the years that separate then and now, I remember my first Swiss Army Knife. I was young and it was the thing that told me that I had arrived. I was now responsible enough to be trusted with my own knife. I remember being intrigued by all the different tools and feeling like I could now fix the world.

Having grown up a little, I now see the Swiss Army Knife for what it really is, one of the most useful tools in my pocket for urban or wilderness use, and I never leave home without mine anymore. My late friend, Ron Hood of Hoods Woods and Survival.com, used to swear by the Swiss Army Knife and even included a discussion on them in his video "WoodsMaster 4 Making and Using your Outdoor Survival Kit," because it is one of "the most useful tools you can have on you." It's hard to argue with one of the world's foremost leaders in wilderness survival.

Due to my personal love for and history with Swiss Army Knives it should come as no surprise that I was

01: Both the blade and the screwdriver/bottle opener/wire stripper utilize a liner style lock.
02: Each knife is numbered, up to 5,000.
03: The Victorinox Limited Edition Damast Swiss Army Knife has a full complement of tools.



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quite thrilled to be able to be one of the first people in the United States to see, hold, photograph and write-up the 2017 Limited Edition Damast Swiss Army Knife from Victorinox.

Limited Edition

Limited Edition runs are nothing new to Victorinox, and if you have the opportunity to be the proud owner of one, it may be the centerpiece of your collection. With such a rich history and recognizable style, Victorinox holds a place in the hearts of most knife users today.

The 2017 Victorinox Limited Edition Damast Swiss Army Knife is limited to 5,000 pieces, with only 360 to be available in North America, and the

rest being spread out amongst the rest of the world, having been released April 10th. Each knife is numbered on the handle and comes in its own gorgeous display box, ready to be placed with prominence within your collection or anyplace in your house that needs a décor upgrade.

Details

As you would expect, the Victorinox Limited Edition Damast Swiss Army Knife is a fully functional knife with some of the tools you would come to expect from any Swiss Army Knife. As I'm sure you can understand, with the model that was sent to me being number 0000/5,000 I was not able to put it through the series of tests that you have come to expect from

04: The blade is stamped with "Victorinox Swiss Made Stainless"
05: It includes a standard screwdriver/bottle opener/wire stripper.
06: The "Odin's Eye" Damascus blade is truly captivating.

me. However, it is easy to tell just from the feel of it alone, this is as stout and trustworthy as any knife you put your faith in from the Victorinox line.

Victorinox and the Swiss Army Knife

Having a rich history beginning in 1884, the Swiss Army Knife was originally designed by Karl Elsener and was commissioned by the Swiss Army as a folding pocketknife for their soldiers. It was to be used in opening canned food and dismantling the Schmidt-Rubin (the Swiss Service rifle). The original knife was called the Model 1890 and included a blade, reamer, can opener and screwdriver. In 1909 Karl Elsener's mother passed away—he named the company Victoria after her. In 1921, when they started using stainless steel in the construction of the Swiss Army Knife, they added "inox"—a shortened version of the French word for stainless steel, making the full name Victorinox. The rest, as they say, is history.

SPECS

Blade Material: Odin's Eye Damascus
Blade Length: 3.5 inches
Closed Length: 4.37 inches
Overall Length: 7.35 inches

Features:

1. Lock blade
2. Can opener
3. Small screwdriver
4. Lockable bottle opener
5. Screwdriver
6. Wire stripper
7. Reamer/punch
8. Keyring
9. Scissors
10. Long and fine Phillips screwdriver

MSRP: \$400



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The knife comes with a host of features, including the standard screwdriver/bottle opener/wire stripper, scissors, Phillips head, reamer/punch and can opener. All of the tools are the same that you would find on any in the Victorinox line of tools, apart from the reamer/punch, which I noticed does not have the hole which would have also made it an awl.

The blade is where the Limited Edition Damast knife really makes an impact. The 3.5-inch blade is a beautiful Damast stainless steel, created from 115 layers of RWL-34 and PMC-27, coming together to form the elegant “Odin’s Eye” Damascus pattern. The name is meant to reflect a central theme of Norse mythology—Odin’s quest for wisdom.

Heirloom Quality

When I was first notified about this knife from Victorinox, I was interested in doing a write-up, so much so that it was an unscheduled addition to this issue, but one that I didn’t want to miss. However, when I received the knife in the mail I was taken aback by the gorgeous Odin’s Eye Damascus and couldn’t wait to get out and photograph it. This knife is everything I was told it would be, and more. If you are a knife lover, or have any history at all with Swiss Army Knives, I can promise you, you will not be sorry with the new Victorinox Limited Edition Damast Swiss Army Knife. This is a true heirloom piece that you will admire for years to come. **KI**

Middle: The long, narrow Phillips head screwdriver can get into tight spots.



Bottom: It also comes complete with scissors.



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