



IT ALL COMES DOWN TO PREPAREDNESS

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

carry what I need.

When I think of EDC in general, I try to consider the essentials of everyday life and the possibilities that can arise in any given situation. When I am putting together my personal, small EDC day pack, I try to ensure that I have the essentials—water, fire, shelter and essential tools—covered.

When I think of EDC knives, I like to consider the types of functions they might need to perform. However, I may be one of those who goes a little overboard sometimes. In fact, I have heard my brother say that I look like Mad Max going into Bartertown, pulling out item after item. But I am the type who would rather have it and not need it, than need it and not have it. I have found myself in situations in life where I was kicking myself for not grabbing something on my way out the door, thinking I wouldn't need it, and then finding that I did. And I had nobody to blame but myself.

With that said, I like to consider my knife and edged tool selection in the same way I consider any general EDC options: I like to cover my bases. One item you will always find on my person is my Swiss Army knife. It is the quintessential pocket tool and mine sees a lot of use. I also like to always have a pocket, clip knife. Something I can access easily, that has a bit

The Kershaw Condierge lends itself to a great EDC option, due to its affordable pricing, 8Cr13MoV high carbon stainless steel, G-10 handle scales and a 3.25-inch blade – which is legal in almost all municipalities.

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of a more robust blade for more serious tasks than the blade on a Swiss Army knife would be accustomed to, but is also quick and easy to draw in a survival or self-defense situation. Finally, I typically like some kind of fixed-blade knife, for even heavier duty chores that I wouldn't want to put a folder through. As an addition, at times I will have a multi-tool for more expanded options.

Something important to point out is to use the knives you carry, even if, in your mind, they are dedicated for self-defense. It is easier to convince law enforcement that it is a tool if it looks like it is used as such on a regular basis. If it is clean and unused, they will be less likely to believe it is meant as a tool.

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

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