



the **BRING STING**

THE SIG EMPEROR SCORPION AUTOMATIC FOLDER COMMANDS RESPECT WITH A RAZOR EDGE AND CHISELED LINES

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOSHUA SWANAGON



SIG Sauer and Hogue Knives, need I say more? I have been using SIG Sauer firearms for years, my old duty pistol is a SIG P226RDAK with Hogue grips, and I still love to shoot it to this day. When I saw that Hogue Knives was making SIG-branded knives and matching them up to the Emperor Scorpion line of firearms—which have attracted my interest for some time—I went a little goofy over the whole thing.

The EX-A05 SIG Emperor Scorpion Automatic Folder holds true to the SIG name and quality that many have come to expect from any SIG product throughout the years. And, wow, it looks good too.

Below: I was able to cut up a mountain bike tire with almost no effort whatsoever.

“THE CPM154 STAINLESS STEEL BLADE WAS CRYOGENICALLY TREATED TO AN RC OF 57-59, GIVING IT EXCELLENT EDGE RETENTION.”

First Impressions

To say that I am impressed with this knife would be a bit of an understatement. Featuring the two-tone look, with matte black handle and Flat Dark Earth (FDE) PVD blade and accents, the Emperor Scorpion really matches its counterpart, the SIG Sauer Emperor Scorpion 1911, perfectly.

The 3.5-inch blade has a FDE PVD coating that is very durable during heavy use. The CPM154 stainless steel blade was cryogenically treated to an RC of 57-59, giving it excellent edge retention, which came razor sharp right out of the

box. Because the blade is crafted from stainless steel, the SIG Emperor Scorpion is not going to be easy to sharpen, so most maintenance will likely need to be done at home. However, the tradeoff is that it requires less maintenance because properly treated stainless steel retains an edge really well.

The spine fin on the blade runs just over 2.5 inches long, from the spear-point tip back toward the handle, and features a swedge that increases the tip strength and assists with penetration power. The high flat grind aids in the hair-popping edge that came on the Emperor Scorpion.

The contours of the handle, along with the checkered G10 grip inserts, give it a real SIG look and feel, while the FDE SIG medallion and clip butt plate give it subtle highlights that make it stand out in a crowd. There's a sizeable lanyard hole that is easily large enough to fit a paracord lanyard for retention or speedier retrieval from your pocket.

Approximately 1.5 inches back on the spine of the handle is a slight rise that mirrors the spine fin on the blade, finishing the look and giving it a nice flow. Everything on the handle has a very chiseled look, making it stand out; although I would have rounded off the edges of the handle a bit and sacrificed a little of the aesthetics for comfort. The index finger groove in the handle is nice and deep and is finished with scallops taken out of the sides of the handle for a secure purchase of the knife.

The 6061-T6 anodized aluminum handle is extremely light but very solid. It almost felt weird when I first picked it up, and I was sure the balance was going to be way off. Instead, I was very surprised to find that the balance was perfect, just a tiny bit forward of the index finger groove. This balance point makes the Emperor Scorpion very light and nimble in the hand.

The pocket clip is made of stainless steel and was quite tight when I first got it, which made it a little difficult to get over the lip of my pocket for placement and retrieval. But after I gently pulled it away from the handle it has gotten much better. The clip finishes right at the butt, which lets the Emperor Scorpion ride nice and deep in the pocket. But due to the clip angle, it does stick out slightly, just enough to aid retrieval. The clip is also reversible but is designed specifically to match up with this side of the knife, so Hogue includes the pocket clip for the other side in the box.

I should note that with the hard angles and chiseled lines on the handle, the butt has some sharp edges that can dig into the hand when reaching into your pocket for your keys or money, but you

get used to working around it.

Automatic Action

The SIG Emperor Scorpion is a push-button, side-opening automatic with a slide lock for additional security. The blade action after depressing the button is very quick, and the blade comes out with a solid snap. Make sure you keep a good hold on the knife when actuating it.

The slide lock is good for keeping the blade from opening unexpectedly in your pocket, but to be honest, I am not sure it is necessary for that function. I tried pressing the button on a hard surface, and it wouldn't go in far enough to launch the blade. I then tried pressing it on my leg—carefully of course—and still no action. I found that the best way to depress the button far enough to launch the blade was to use the thumb or any finger. The slide lock is most useful when the knife is open to prevent it from folding on your hand by an accidental finger press of the button during use.

Through the Paces

I tested the Emperor Scorpion on a lot of different mediums, from rope and heavy-duty cardboard to mountain bike tires and tough nylon webbing, and it performed flawlessly.

I recently went over to a friend's house who does bump and paint work in his shop, and he had some really heavy-duty cardboard on hand, so I started cutting some of it up for him. The Emperor Scorpion glided right through it. After quite a few cuts I was curious to see how much of a difference it made to the edge, and there was no perceivable change, I could still cut paper cleanly.



Photo credit: Hogue Knives

The SIG Sauer Emperor Scorpion 1911 Adds Form to Function

The Sig Sauer Emperor Scorpion 1911 is an amazing piece of machinery, defined by SIG Sauer as the "SIG 1911 variant to rule them all." The Emperor Scorpion is available in six different models: P226, P229, P938 TB micro-compact, P238 micro-compact, and the 1911, which comes in two different frame sizes: fastback carry frame and full size.

All of the Emperor Scorpion models feature a stainless steel frame with durable Flat Dark Earth PVD finish. Each one has dark Piranha-textured G10 grips and dark controls but can be ordered with custom Hogue G10 grips and mainspring housing. Forward cocking serrations and SIGLITE night sights help round out the overall product.

“THE 6061-T6 ANODIZED ALUMINUM HANDLE IS EXTREMELY LIGHT BUT VERY SOLID.”

Below: The pocket clip is form fit with the knife, and each knife comes with an extra that is fitted for the obverse side.



SPECS

- Blade Material:** CPM154 stainless steel
- Blade Length:** 3.5 inches
- Closed Length:** 4.625 inches
- Overall Length:** 8.125 inches
- Blade Thickness:** 0.15 inch
- Blade Treatment:** Cryogenically treated
- Blade Hardness:** RC 57-59
- Blade Finish:** Flat Dark Earth PVD
- Weight:** 4.6 ounces
- Mechanism:** Automatic button deployment with manual safety
- Handle Material (Frame):** Matte black 6061-T6 anodized aluminum with solid black G10 inserts
- Pocket Clip:** Stainless steel ambidextrous deep pocket carry
- MSRP:** \$269.95





Left: The spine of the handle features vent holes that keep air moving and dust flowing through. They also aid in cleaning when necessary.

Right: The slide lock is directly behind the firing button for quick and easy access.

Below: Cutting rope and various other tasks are simple with the razor-sharp edge.



“THE BLADE ACTION AFTER DEPRESSING THE BUTTON IS VERY QUICK, AND THE BLADE COMES OUT WITH A SOLID SNAP.”



The only thing I noticed during this test was that the rise on the spine of the handle started creating a hot spot in my palm from digging into it while bearing down on the knife. I was able to make some adjustments to my grip to counter it, but I wouldn't have been able to do heavy work like this for too long. Although it is hardly noticeable during typical EDC chores.

I also got a hold of some old mountain bike tires from a local bike shop and proceeded to cut one up. The sharp edge of the Emperor Scorpion glided right through with no issues and remained razor-sharp, a testament to the stainless steel and proper cryogenic treating.

Cutting rope and nylon webbing, along with other regular day-to-day tasks, was no issue at all for the Emperor Scorpion. The only thing worth noting was that when I

Above: The Emperor Scorpion sliced right through this heavy-duty military nylon webbing with no resistance.

Below: The SIG medallion and clip plate accentuate the Emperor Scorpion.



Legal Considerations

Although many states have been overturning legislation on the ownership and carry of automatic knives, you should check to make sure that your state is among them. Also, even if your state does allow for the ownership and carry of automatic knives, your county or town may have its own ordinances prohibiting it. Make sure to check your local, county and state laws regarding automatic knives before carrying one.



held it in the chest-lever grip, for cutting rope, the rise between the finger grooves on the handle bit into my palm because it comes to a very aggressive point. But I very rarely use a folding knife in this manner anyway. I only tested it so I could report on it. I don't recommend using a folding knife in this way, so it should be a bit of a moot point.

Living up to the Names

From super clean lines and amazing aesthetics to very well-done automatic action, this is a finely crafted knife that lives up to both the SIG Sauer and Hogue names. The only thing that could have moved this knife into the super knife range for me would have been a little more rounding on the handle for comfort.

The fact that the SIG Emperor Scorpion is in the mid-\$200 range is almost staggering. If you live in a state that allows automatic knives, and you are a fan of SIG Sauer, even a little bit, you owe it to yourself to pick up an EX-A05 SIG Emperor Scorpion Automatic Folder. **KI**

Above: Even after cutting up a lot of this heavy-duty cardboard, the edge was still extremely sharp and could slice paper cleanly.

The SIG Emperor Scorpion has striking lines and is the perfect companion to its namesake.



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