

MACHAX SURVIVAL TOOL

Modern interpretation of the classic Gurkha Kukri

Staff Evaluation

"I want a tool I can use For everything - chopping and whittling as well as a froe, hammer or pry bar." explains Ethan Becker. president of Becker Knife and Tool Corporation which makes the Machax Survival Tool and a similar knife called the Warrior.

"It is not the best hammer, but the flat can be used for one if needed. It Is not the best pry bar, but it works. In Its primary uses, chopping and hacking,, please note that when it bits it hits dead. There Is no 'machete wrist' from vibration! You will be able to use the Machax for quite a while before your wrist hurts." One of our guys took a Machax out in the woods and in four hours with the Machax as his only tool he built and thatched a roomy lean-to shelter for two people. a fire triune and reflector, two pieces of camp furniture and stocked the camp with firewood - and no machete wrist

"Note also the differential grind on Mach ax which has more of a slicing angle on the inside of the curve to more of a chopping and splitting angle closer to the tip. We are, I think, the only people who sharpen down close to the grip on a tool like this so that it is easy to use for close-up work."

The heavy 11.4 inch 4140 chrome-moly blade of the Machax borrows the unmatched weight distribution of the Gurkha Kukri knife (which itself is a variation of an ancient design), combines it with fine American steed, full tang construction and Zytel scales large enough for a good working grip. Weight is 20 ounces.

The 4140 chrome-moly steel is moderately heat treated, giving it a very tough nature. It can be quickly sharpened using a file, stone or rock: if need be. It will rust, but it has a rust resistant phosphate finish except for the edge. A little oil will help present corrosion. If the scales or blade are ever broken, BK&T will replace them without question - provided you didn't do it on purpose. We tried out the Machax in a bamboo thicket and on several types of dead and live trees and heavy brash and found it to be excellent.

The Machax can be purchased with fine black leather or nylon sheath for \$129 (either sheath alone is \$25) from Becker Knife & Tool Corp., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 44179. Cincinnati, OH 45244: (513) 231-9446. Ohio residents add 5-112 percent sales tax. Also available at better cutlery dealers.

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