

Walther Pro

Black Tac folding knives

by Nathan Lindsay



The Walther Pro creation, with nylon sheaths and aluminium display/storage tins.

Fixed blade knives are a staple tool for any situation, whether it is hunting, camping, the kitchen or just being prepared. However, with all the fuss over 'survival', we can be coaxed into buying so-called survival knives and it is easy to overlook a simple locking, folding knife.

Walther is famous for making quality firearms, which it has been doing with its pistols for more than 100 years. The firm's tools though are also some serious pieces of gear, as it manufactures fixed blades knives for hunting and outdoor applications, machetes, axes and hatchets, multi-tools and folding knives. Walther has a generous selection of

folders, including two Walther Pro items under review here.

The Walther Pro Black Tac and Black Tac Tanto each sport blades of 12C27 Sandvik stainless steel, a quality Scandinavian steel. Both knives feature blade lengths of 8.7cm and are 20.9cm in overall length. Partial serrations make the blade a 'combo edge', with the fine edge for delicate slicing and the serrated edge for tearing off materials like cordage and sinews (arteries and tendons). Usually I am not a fan of combo edge knives, but Walther has done a wonderful job in its design, making this feature functional with aggressive teeth.

There are dual thumb-studs for quick,

one-handed blade deployment. Dual thumb-studs also allow for use by either right- or left-handed users without discomfort. Both blades are partially flat ground, with a convex micro bevel.

Mild jimping on the spine of the knives and the thumb ramp aid in security of grip. Both knives feature an unsharpened swedge towards the tip, for penetrative purposes. The Black Tac has a spear-point tip, and the Black Tac Tanto, obviously, has a Tanto point. Both knives are identical, except for their tip design.

The handle scales are rubberised G-10 and are contoured for a smooth and sure hold in various grip positions. The handles on these knives are some

Walther Pro Black Tac folding knives

of the most comfortable on a folding knife I have ever felt. Most importantly for a folding knife, is the locking mechanism. The Black Tac and Black Tac Tanto have a secure linerlock system, made of stainless steel (the frame of the handle is also stainless steel). Both knives have a backspacer, which helps keep the frame of the handle strong. And to add to the utility, a tungsten carbide glass-breaker attachment is featured on the butt of the handle.

The 'Tac' in the title of the knives refers to their tactical look and application of them. However, for Australian needs, I would say they are mostly utilitarian in design and functionality. Whether in the field, farm, or in more urban workplaces like a warehouse or packing yard, these knives would definitely be a great option. General cutting tasks like opening boxes and packages would not even be half a challenge for either of these blades. Slashing or slicing



The Walther Pro Black Tac is a stout, full-sized folding knife.



The serrations on the edge tear through high-tensile 550lb Paracord, making light work of heavy cordage.

packing materials would also not be an issue.

I always advise that if a job or position requires you to carry a blade for convenience, a folding knife is always superior to a box-cutter or Stanley-style blade. Instead of constantly replacing weak and unreliable blades, an occasional sharpen to touch up a dull or rolled edge is always a better move. The steel used in the Black Tac and Black Tac Tanto is a high-quality stainless and with normal use, sharpening will be a very occasional yet simple task. The 12C27 Sandvik holds a sharp edge for a long time.

Both knives would also be ideal as simple camp knives to accompany you on any trip. Rope and cordage cutting would again not be a problem. General

wood carving tasks like making feather sticks would also be easy with these knives' razor-sharp edges. The stainless steel and grind of the knives would also make them fine food preparation tools, easily slicing through vegetables, fruits and meats. Additionally, meat processing of game could also be accomplished by either model. Of course, butchering should be a job undertaken by a fixed blade, but if the need ever presented itself, these Walther folders would be perfect back-ups.

This idea of having a back-up brings up something extra, where sometimes a folding knife can be overlooked. Having a knife to bolster your main fixed blade is always a solid assurance. More so, having a back-up that can undertake any

Walther Pro Black Tac folding knives



The Walther Pro Black Tac Tanto points are most suited for penetrating flesh, but serve other useful purposes.

job is important. This could be in skinning game, making a shelter, processing wood and making a fire, or slicing away meat from bone.

Carrying either knife in a deep, or cargo pocket would be very comfortable. Although both knives weigh in at a beastly 190g (hefty for a folding knife),

the additional weight in the pocket is not overly noticeable. Neither knife features a pocket clip, which is usually a 'no-brainer' feature for some knife manufacturers. However, Walther justly compensates with the inclusion of a Ballistic Nylon belt pouch, made hard-bodied for rigidity with a neoprene inner. The

pouch features a sure button snap closure, belt loops for hip carry and scout style (horizontal carry), with a rubber patch featuring the classic Walther ribbon - just to show off that you are carrying an authentic Walther product.

Wearing the knife in the pouch means that you can easily access your blade and house it securely when the task at hand is completed. Plus, it is always right there with you when you need it. Also, wearing your knife in a belt pouch shows that you are a responsible user of your tools. Most probably, some more conservative workplaces will be quite appreciative of a sheathed blade.

Walther again gifts the user with utility. Both knives, the Black Tac and Black Tac Tanto, come presented in a matte grey, aluminium tin. These 19x7x5cm aluminium tins are a valuable alternative to store extra gear for the car, camp or even to carry in a pack. The steel construction means it is durable, yet the aluminium is still light. They would be brilliant to use for a basic survival kit, to store fire-making items as they are water resistant, or at a pinch, to boil water.

If you choose either of these knives, you are not only gaining a reliable folding knife, but an extensive package of items. The Walther Pro Black Tac and Black Tac Tanto are an excellent choice as a back-up to your fixed blade, primary work blade, or a knife to keep as a 'just in-case' item. With quality materials and years of experience making tools for real field use, you are assured of a great buy, whichever style you opt for. I highly recommend either. Both Black Tac knives retail for around \$110 each, which represents an outstanding price for the materials and package.

Walther Pro products are distributed in Australia by Frontier Arms. For more information, contact your local gunshop or visit www.frontierarms.com.au ■



The sheathed Black Tac folder accompanying a fixed blade, positioned in the horizontal scout set-up on a belt.