

Tactical is Practical

TACTICAL! This one word has become a major marketing slogan for the firearms industry and a rallying cry for the anti's.

Let us look at some of Webster's Dictionary definitions of "Tactical."

Tactical: A: of or relating to tactics; as (1): of or relating to small-scale actions serving a larger purpose (2): made or carried out with only a limited or immediate end in view

B: adroit in planning or maneuvering to accomplish a purpose

Synonyms: advisable, desirable, judicious, prudent, expedient, wise.

Now what Webster says about "Practical." **Practical: A:** manifested in practice or action, not theoretical or ideal. **B:** qualified by practice or practical training.

Synonyms: actionable, applied, functional, serviceable, useful, workable.

First, we cannot let the sheep dictate the use of the word tactical based on equating it with combat situations. We use tactics for hunting, fishing, all sports, business, keeping the spouse happy, and more. Second, the needs of our troops have driven many innovations that are very practical for hunting applications.

Ruger has created such a practical hunting tool by accessorizing their tried and true Mini-14 and creating the Mini-14 Tactical catalog number M-14/20CF.

The Mini-14 is Ruger's .223 carbine version of my Army issue rifle, the M-14. The self-cleaning gas operated action drives a simple, rugged Garand rotating bolt with a breech locking system mated to a heavy, hammer-forged barrel that is both accurate and long lasting.

The right side charging handle of this system is easier to operate than an AR type especially when a scope is mounted. A right handed person can operate the bolt with the right index finger or thumb, left thumb, knife edge of either hand and I suppose a toe if necessary. The safety swings beside the front of the trigger guard for easy operation with a gloved or bare trigger finger.

Ruger's patented integral scope mounts are machined directly on the



The practical Ruger Mini-14 Tactical rifle.

solid steel receiver and when a scope is attached using the included Ruger rings it will not move — ever. This is now but one of the sighting options on this enhanced rifle. There is a protected non-glare post blade front sight just behind the muzzle break and an adjustable ghost ring rear aperture on the frame.

The custom synthetic Advanced Technology International stock is a work of art. Picatinny rails are on all four quadrants of the forestock with the top rail allowing additional sighting options such as a forward mounted scout scope or red dot type sights. The other rails add the ability to attach lasers and flashlights. Sling studs are on both sides of the stock in addition to the bottom of the forestock and buttstock make for a myriad of slinging options.

The finger grooved pistol grip is as comfortable as any I have ever grabbed. The butt is 6-position adjustable for length of pull, the cheek piece can be raised or lowered based on sighting choices and the stock has a spring loaded release so it may be folded against the left side for handy transport. The generous butt pad removes the rest of the almost non-existent recoil. The Mini-14 Tactical comes with one 20-round removable box magazine and 5, 10 and 30 rounders are available from Ruger. The 5-round is just the ticket for hunting.



The versatile ATI stock folded.

Three new practical tools are now available from Columbia River Knife and Tool. CRKT continues their history of successful partnerships with many of the country's finest custom knife designers. The Chogan T-Hawk is designed by Ryan Johnson.

Tomahawks have been a mainstay of utility in the military for a long time. From manual utility tasks to self-defense fighting tools, they have carved out a unique place in many a tactical gear bag. The Chogan T-Hawks is shaped of single-piece of black powder coated SK5 carbon steel with a curved handle and grip choils along the front for enhanced holding power. Full-length glass filled nylon handle scales cover the full-length tang and are checkered for added grip security, and can be removed for cleaning. A Molle equipped, form-fitting Kydex sheaths slips over the head and secures with a buckled strap.

Oh sure, you can bop the bad guy on the head with this thing, but for our purposes it is one of the handiest camp tools around. The axe edge is perfect for clearing and light chopping chores. The handle allows for a two-hand grip if more power is needed and you can choke up to the top of the choil underneath the blade for game skinning. The opposite end of the head is a hammer. This tool is built to last a lifetime and more.

The CRKT Eat'N Tool XL is a grown up version of their original and both designed by Liong Mah. The XL offers a larger spoon, and longer handle surface to grab hold of. Use it as a spoon, or fork, to prepare and eat camp chow. Other handy tools include a box wrench, driver/pry tool, can opener and bottle opener. It will hang out of the way till needed on the included carabiner and it only weighs 2.7 ounces. It is versatile and a great way to lighten the load and light on the credit card at \$ 14.99.

The Onion Survival Para-Saw has Ken Onion applying his passion for creating useful tools, and his personal love of the outdoors. It is 8 to 9 foot length (depending on size ordered) of nylon paracord that's braided into a bracelet form—with a plastic encased, tungsten carbide coated wire saw woven into the braided cord. In the emergency survival event that you had to use the cordage and/or wire saw, you simply unravel the bracelet. This paracord survival bracelet uses a quick release buckle to easily secure it on your wrist, or on your gear. Now you can have along two very handy survival tools, in one convenient package. Cordage for securing, lashing, or stripping down for other uses like fishing line and an effective wire saw to



Three practical tools from Columbia River Knife and Tool.

cut limbs, wood, or any number of things in a survival situation. A must have for the outback. The Onion Survival Para-Saw bracelet is available in two sizes/lengths and several earthy colors including, tan, green, and black. This is inexpensive backup at \$24.99. See all three of the above and more at www.crkt.com.

Now, let us practice our new word for the day. Please say after me. . . PRACTICAL! 🌟