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SUPPLIERS OF MILITARY KNIVES
TO MEN IN ALL BRANCHES OF
THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES

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IMPORTANT! CARE OF YOUR EK® KNIFE

Congratulations, you now own America's Best Military Knife. This is not a run-of-the-mill camp knife to be handled casually; exercise extreme caution at all times. And, as with anything that is the best, it requires some care in order to maintain it in optimal condition. Here are some suggestions.

This is the finest Stainless Steel money can buy, but all Stainless Steel for knives must contain carbon for strength and edge-holding ability, and this is the component that is not absolutely rust-proof. Kitchen sinks are Stainless Steel, but they do not need to be strong or to hold an edge, so they have very little carbon in their content. We have found WD-40 to do a good job of protecting the steel, and this is the *easiest* way.

The *best* option — especially for long-term museum display or storage — is non-automotive *paste* wax — neutral *paste* shoe polish and neutral *paste* floor wax and neutral *paste* furniture wax are good choices (and are actually the choice of Arms Curator friends of ours who are now retired at places like the Metropolitan Museum and the Tower of London). Apply a *thin* coat, wait two to three minutes, then polish as you would shine a pair of shoes. Be careful of the edges and point (read the next paragraph!). Do this periodically depending upon use — once every five years if in storage; monthly if continuously removed from the sheath and used.

Important: When waxing or wiping down an Ek knife blade, do NOT hold a rag in your hand and move the rag back and forth. Reason: The blade can cut right through the rag(!) and CUT YOU! Instead, double up a rag on the edge of a table. Then draw the blade, from shoulder to point, across the rag and towards you, pressing down so the rag stays in place. Do this three times on each side — one for each flat 'facet'.

Never touch a knife blade with your bare hands! This would be bad form — and the mark of a true *amateur!* This is because the blade is the *soul* of the weapon; it deserves *respect* (going back to the 1,100's Samurai Warriors were entitled to cut down anyone whoever *looked* at his sword blade; and the Samurai Warriors were the only ones authorized to wear two swords!). It is also because your hands contain acid, and acid can etch *any* steel — including the finest-quality Stainless Steel used for your Ek Commando Knife blade. Grips are made for gripping; use them accordingly. (Note: Knives have "*grips*" or a "*grip*"; they do NOT have a "*handle*"; car doors, suitcases, file drawers and cabinets have *handles!*)

Do not store in a plastic air-tight bag or a tightly closed container, as condensation — and hence, moisture — can occur. Circulating air is always better. Long-term storage of a knife in a *leather* sheath can be bad, as leather can contain chemicals and acids from the tanning process, and leather can absorb and hold moisture from the air.

With many of our sheaths we supply parachute cord to use as a tie-down strap. This can be wrapped once around the back of the leg and tied in front of the leg. Or this material can be cut into shorter sections for lashing the sheath to your boot, M.O.L.L.E. gear/plate carrier, etc. Important: When cutting this material, immediately take a match or cigarette lighter and hold it, briefly, underneath the cut end. This will melt and, hence, seal the material so it does not unravel.

We get requests as to "What is the best way to sharpen my Ek knife?". Those of us around here at Ek HQ have had, since 1982, state-of-the-art, powered, blade-honing equipment, so if we ever re-sharpen knives we use that! Michael S. Black, writing in *Knife World* magazine, reports his way of sharpening his Ek M5 Bowie after he used it extensively in field tests: "I took the new M5 inside and used a fine grit DMT Bench Stone to reshape the edge. This took about 10 minutes. Five more minutes on the gray medium Spyderco Sharpmaker hone followed by a few strokes on the white fine hone restored a hair shaving edge."

An M.D. who performs surgery and likes a sharp edge (and who collects Ek knives and says, "I love your steel!") reports best results with an Arkansas Stone, lubricated with WD-40 sprayed across it generously. He has found that a big stone (4" x 8") works the best.

If you would like for us to re-sharpen your Ek knife, we will do so at no charge, *IE* you do *ALL* of the following:

- 1) Send your knife to us *in a sheath!* Otherwise it is dangerous.
- 2) Include in the *package* your *daytime* phone number *AND* your return *street address* (not a P.O. Box — we ship UPS).
- 3) Enclose a check or money order or credit card information for \$18 (if in U.S./48 or A.P.O./F.P.O. or \$50 if outside) to help with the packing expenses and shipping charges in sending it back to you.
- 4) If you want it returned in a new Ek black box, add \$7 to the above amount and so specify.
- 5) On the *day* you are sending it to us, call us and let us know when we will receive it.

Remember: Take care of your knife, and your knife will take care of you!™

Release, Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement

Ek Commando Knife Co. ("Ek") sells knives and related merchandise only to military and law-enforcement personnel and individuals who can legally purchase and own such items in the particular jurisdiction where they reside. Your purchase of Ek knives, whether in person, by telephone, by mail, by fax, or over the internet, legally binds you and your heirs, assigns, transferees, and personal representatives as follows. When you order and purchase knives from Ek, you represent that you are of legal age to purchase the knives and that the knives can be purchased and owned in your state, county, and/or city of residence. By offering knives for sale, Ek does not represent or warrant that any specific purchaser may legally purchase, own, or possess the knives ordered. Check your local laws. Knives may be dangerous, even deadly, if used improperly, negligently, and/or illegally. When you purchase knives from Ek, you agree that you will use the purchased knives in a safe and legal manner, consistent with all applicable laws, recognized safety rules and good common sense. You further agree that you will take such steps as may be reasonably necessary or required by applicable laws to keep Ek knives out of the hands of minors and untrained and/or immature adults. When you purchase knives from Ek, you agree to assume all risks related to and/or arising from your ownership and use of the knife and agree to indemnify and hold Ek harmless from any and all claims brought by any person or entity against Ek related to and/or arising from your ownership and/or use of the knife. Ek shall have no liability for consequential or incidental damages under any and every circumstances. The Buyer hereby acknowledges that the inclusion of a disclaimer of warranties and the limitation of liability provisions set forth herein is a material inducement to Ek to enter into the Agreement, which can be modified only by mutual, signed consent, in writing, by both parties. Thank you for your understanding and for your patronage and support!