

Bargain Blades

Mark Underwood takes a look at some of the less-expensive knives available and what they offer for the price...

> We all like a good quality knife and, although they can be very expensive, most outdoor enthusiasts tend to have more than one, including one we keep 'for best'. The downside of carrying an expensive knife is the risk of damaging or even losing it out in the field and for that reason sometimes having a cheaper back-up blade for heavy work is a good idea. With this in mind, the author decided to take a look at a selection of very reasonably priced knives from Knife Warehouse, to see if they represent value for money and offer a functioning blade for use in the field.

Anglo Arms 7½-inch Laced hunting knife

This fixed blade knife is a very simple one-piece design with a handle of tightly wrapped paracord on the full tang. The stainless steel blade is 4½-inches long and has a decent edge to it which is pretty easy to keep sharp. The nylon sheath is a very basic design, but it keeps the blade safe and secure. At only 3-ounces this is a very light knife, not suitable for heavier work, but it is still strong and functional. Overall, it is a really good value knife and it is more than capable of meeting the requirements of a general-purpose knife. At the price it is ideal for keeping in your kit as a back-up just in case you leave your usual knife behind.

RRP: £5.99

Anglo Arms 8-inch Rescue Knife

This liner lock folding blade knife has a 3½-inch anodised stainless steel tanto blade with a partly serrated edge and a stud on either side for one-handed, ambidextrous opening. The aluminium scales



Four great value general purpose knives from Knife Warehouse

are very nicely textured to give good grip and there is also a pocket clip on the side. The very well-shaped handle incorporates a 'seat belt cutter' which is a really handy tool for cutting smaller

diameter rope and glass breaker in the end. Overall, the knife is very well made and has a decent blade which is easy to sharpen. As a general-purpose carry in the field this is a great knife

and it is fantastic value for those that prefer a folder.

RRP: £19.99

Metallic Blue G10 Huntsman Knife

First impressions of this knife were that it was too 'showy' and aggressive, but after giving it a go it proved to have some great features. The handle is made of G10, which is a fibreglass composite, and it is very comfortable indeed. The oversized finger guard and the very deeply contoured finger grooves in the belly of the handle make it virtually impossible for your hand to slip either forward or backward and jimping on either side of the thumb rise provide even more grip on the back of the knife. The blade has a tanto style tip and a 2-stage edge, with the section nearest the handle stepped-back from the forward section. This very clever design allows you to keep the rear section protected and very sharp for more detailed cutting work while the forward section can do the heavier work. With all



Top to bottom: Heavy Duty Bush Knife, Metallic Blue G10 Huntsman Knife, Anglo Arms 8-inch Rescue Knife and Anglo Arms 7½-Inch Laced hunting knife

of these features, what was first judged as an intimidating looking 'toy' is actually a decent bit of kit. The blade is strong and easy to keep sharp, just a shame it is blue!

RRP: £24.99

Heavy Duty Bush Knife

Heavy for sure at 18-ounces this very chunky and solid knife is a real workhorse built for the toughest jobs. The 7-inch 440 Stainless Steel blade is 4mm thick on the spine and through the full tang, making it extremely strong and the very basic wooden handle is held together with three large rivets for additional sturdiness. The cordura sheath is well made and, overall, this is a truly durable package.

Although the blade does not have the sharpest of edges its strength allows you to drive it through large timbers easily and you can hammer the spine (yes, this is not good practice normally) if needed without having to worry about ruining an expensive knife. If you are going to be doing a lot of heavy cutting, and do not carry an axe, this knife is ideal and at this price you won't have to worry about it taking a real hammering.

RRP: £34.99

Conclusion

All of these knives represent very good value for money and they prove that you can get a reasonable knife on a tight budget. They are not the finest of blades or the very best of materials, but they are more than capable as serving as a general purpose knife and it would not break your heart or your bank to lose or damage one of them. They all come with a suitable sheath of decent quality and they are all well-constructed. These knives are of course not legal to be carried in a public place but in the correct setting they are a great, and very well priced, option.

Contact: Knife Warehouse:
knifewarehouse.co.uk

Give Us A Wave

Pete Wadeson checks over the Leatherman Wave Plus, a familiar model of multi-tool and one that the company have recently upgraded...

► It'd be true to say that of all companies, US-based Leatherman offer one of the most varied and extensive ranges of multi-tools on the market. And while some of their models have been discontinued – relatively recently some have been upgraded and modified. I mention this because the original Wave has been on the company roster for many years and has now joined certain other longstanding models which carry the 'Plus' denotation to signify they've had a facelift and been given a little something extra. The result is a stronger, well featured and user-friendly butterfly opener that retains its place between their less featured compact models and the larger multi's offered.

In fact, there are now three models of the Wave Plus, all equipped with the same tools, but can be dissociated from each other cosmetically as they are offered in Stainless Steel, Black and Silver and a fully Black Oxide covered option. While the first and third speak for themselves, the B&S model has a finish that comprises of a natural 100% stainless steel chassis and handles while certain other areas and all tools have a black oxide coating for protection.

The next Wave

At last that brings me to the crux of this review and that is the 'Wave' we see today, which has a noticeable heavier duty chassis to hold the equally rugged outboard tools plus it's modified pliers can excerpt a much increased 'gripping power.'

Manufactured from 100% stainless steel it measures 4-inches in the closed position, 6¼-inches long in pliers' mode and weighs a substantial but not overly heavy 8.5oz.

Even though the tool is quite broad and wide when closed, the Wave's still relatively compact but so well designed that they afford the user a very assured sturdy grip. In the closed position you have access to four very strong outboard tools comprising of a 3-inch long 420HC clip point fine-edge knife, 420HC serrated edged knife, aggressive toothed wood saw plus a heavy-duty diamond coated wood/metal file. All easily deploy using



With quick one-hand opening blades, comfortable handles, and 17 essential tools, it's easy to see why the Wave Plus is the best-selling multi-tool ever

elongated thumbholes or lugs and lock outs solidly using strong lock liner mechs.

Tools galore

Opening out the handles reveals the Needle-nose pliers, Regular pliers, Premium replaceable wire cutters, Premium replaceable hard-wire cutters and Wire stripper. It's while open you can access the other tools from the inside of the handles. These include a large and small bit drive which hold the eyeglass screwdriver, Philips #1, 2 & 3/16-inch screwdriver bits (all supplied), spring-action scissors, can opener, bottle opener, Medium flathead screwdriver and lanyard ring.

Conclusion

As hunters and outdoorsmen ask and expect more of their field cutlery then it stands to reason certain staunch models in the company roster deserve to move with the times. In that respect the Leatherman Wave Plus has certainly benefited from the attention the company have lavished on it. This results in the Wave Plus still being one of Leatherman's key models and also now apparently their bestselling one so little wonder it was chosen to be given the 'Plus' treatment. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name:	Leatherman Wave Plus (Black/Silver) with Black Nylon Sheath
RRP:	£134.95, plus 25-year guarantee
Contact:	Whitby and Co: whitbyandco.co.uk leatherman.co.uk