

Shooter's Bible

GUIDE TO KNIVES

2ND EDITION

*A Complete Guide to Fixed and Folding Blade Knives
for Hunting, Survival, Personal Defense, and Everyday Carry*

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SKYHORSE PUBLISHING

ESEE Knives and its brother company, Randall's Adventure Training, are closely related. Randall's Adventure Training might sound like a vacation company for outdoorsmen, but in reality it is a high level school teaching military, law enforcement, and qualified civilians in the art of jungle survival. The parent company of both concerns is known as TransEquatorial Solutions, Inc. and it was set up to provide global training, gear, and logistical solutions in remote environments. So you can see where the design and production of specialized cutlery fits right in.

Randall's Adventure Training has been in business since 1997. Early on, it was recognized that students and training personnel needed knives that were far more rugged than were currently available. "Machetes were too thin and flexible," reads company history, "and sheath knives were too small and lacked cutting efficiency." The team of Jeff Randall and Mike Perrin developed the RTAK, a large sheath knife that was more versatile and effective. The RTAK was commissioned to and built by Newt Livesay of the Wicked Knife Company. Not having considered the commercial possibility of knives as a regular product line, they were surprised with the RTAK's popularity. It wasn't long before there were more orders than Wicked Knife could supply.

In 2002, Randall's Adventure Training (which had earned an excellent reputation, becoming known as RAT) licensed the RTAK to the Ontario Knife Company for a period of five years. During this time, RAT developed additional knives that were also built by Ontario and secured government NSN numbers on two of the designs. Retaining an NSN number was an important step, putting the company on the list held by the Federal Supply Group. This means being officially recognized as available for government supply contracts.

After RAT's contract with Ontario ran out in April 2007, TransEquatorial renamed and redefined its cutlery interest by changing the name from RAT Cutlery to ESEE. The purpose of the change to ESEE was to mark a new beginning wherein the company set a new standard of manufacturing efficiency as well as a higher standard of quality in the knives, sheaths, and related accessories.

Author's Favorites

What strikes me about the latest edition of ESEE knives is their unity of construction. The coating on the blades appears to be bonded in such a way that it seems natural, not applied after forging. The handle scales are bolted on, but again, they fit so naturally against the tang it's difficult to imagine the knife and scales were not somehow machined from a solid piece of billet.

I've never claimed to be a great adventurer, but I do like varmint hunting in the Dakotas and I spend more time in the prairie than most. But flash floods are a fact of life in Southeast Texas, where I live. That said, my favorite ESEE knives are the 3HM for all-around use and the big Junglas for keeping in the vehicle for emergencies. The Junglas (pronounced "HOON-glas") was named after the Colombian Jungla Special Operations Forces designed for Latin American jungle and counter narcotics operation.

In terms of overall design, the knives are not fancy or trick. Then again, I'm pretty sure when it comes to jungle survival, fancy just gets in the way. ESEE knives are proven designs thoroughly vetted by professionals that have given them every opportunity to fail.



⚡ ESEE knives was formed to provide knives tough enough to withstand remote environments. Top dog in the ESEE stable is the Junglas. It was named after the Colombian Jungla Special Operations Forces designed for Latin American jungle and counter narcotics operations. Photo courtesy of ESEE Knives.

ESEE Fixed-Blade Knives

3HM/4HM

Blade Steel: 1095

Blade Finish: Powder coat

Handle Material: Green canvas
Micarta/gray canvas Micarta

Blade Length: 3.63 in./4.38 in.

Blade Thickness: 0.125 in./0.188 in.

Overall Length: 8.13 in./8.88 in.

Weight: 5.6 oz./7.7 oz.

Features: Leather belt pouch-style sheath.

MSRP: \$170/\$174

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Blade Steel: 440C

Blade Finish: Powder coat

Handle Material: Canvas Micarta

Blade Length: 4.5 in.

Blade Thickness: 0.188 in.

Overall Length: 9.0 in.

Weight: 8.0 oz.

Features: Ambidextrous injection molded sheath; removable handle scales

Options: Plain or serrated edge blade; MOLLE-backed sheath; blade colors: black, orange, dark earth, venom green, desert tan; uncoated (plain edge only); sharpened top edge

MSRP: \$174 (base price)

IZULA

Blade Steel: 1095 or 440C

Blade Finish: Tumbled (uncoated)

Handle Material: None (skeletonized)

Blade Length: 2.63 in.

Blade Thickness: 0.156 in.

Overall Length: 6.25 in.

Weight: 2.0 oz.

Features: Named for the small Isula ant, a.k.a. the Bullet Ant; carabiner hole at pommel; injection-molded sheath

Options: Belt clip or black, khaki, OD green MOLLE-backed sheath; blade colors: black, desert tan, OD green, pink, venom green, dark earth, purple, white; handle scales: natural Micarta or black G10

MSRP: \$96 (base price)



3HM/4HM



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IZULA

ESEE Fixed-Blade Knives

JG3 CAMP-LORE SERIES

Blade Steel: 1095

Blade Finish: Stonewashed (uncoated)

Handle Material: Canvas Micarta

Blade Length: 3.5 in.

Blade Thickness: 0.125 in.

Overall Length: 7.63 in.

Weight: 4.5 oz.

Features: Pouch-style leather sheath; removable handle scales; James Gibson design

MSRP: \$186

JUNGLAS

Blade Steel: 1095 or 440C

Blade Finish: Powder coat

Handle Material: Micarta

Blade Length: 10.38 in.

Blade Thickness: 0.188 in.

Overall Length: 16.5 in.

Weight: 23.0 oz.

Features: Removable handle scales;

Kydex, MOLLE-back sheath

Options: Blade colors: black, venom green, dark earth

MSRP: \$302

RB3 CAMP-LORE SERIES

Blade Steel: 1095

Blade Finish: Tumbled (uncoated)

Handle Material: Canvas Micarta

Blade Length: 3.5 in.

Blade Thickness: 0.125 in.

Overall Length: 8.13 in.

Weight: 6.0 oz.

Features: Pouch-style leather sheath; removable handle scales; Reuben Bolieu design

MSRP: \$186

TERTIARY

Blade Steel: 1095

Blade Finish: Powder coat

Handle Material: G10

Blade Length: 2.5 in.

Blade Thickness: 0.09375 in.

Overall Length: 5.0 in.

Weight: 5.7 oz. (in sheath)

Features: Push blade with partially sharpened top edge; Kydex sheath with removable belt clip

Options: Sans G10 scales

MSRP: \$162 (\$130 w/o scales)



JG3 CAMP-LORE SERIES



JUNGLAS



RB3 CAMP-LORE SERIES



TERTIARY