


 A photograph showing three Walther Pro knives and a multi-tool. Two fixed-blade knives are standing upright on a rock, and a multi-tool is lying flat in front of them. The background is a natural outdoor setting with moss and trees.

Walther Pro knives

by Darren Marks

The esteemed name of Walther immediately brings to mind the range of handguns that this company has been producing for more than 100 years and for which it is renowned. It is a brand that has been synonymous with quality for generations. The Walther PPK and P99 gained fame as the pistols used by James Bond as well as shooters and armed forces all over the world.

Aside from its range of firearms, a new line of products under the Walther Pro name are now available. Knives, multi-tools, torches and more are part of the array of items to carry the German manufacturer's name.

I recently received some samples for review, including a multi-tool and two knives: one a folder and the other a fixed blade. The first thing that struck me was the classy and attractive packaging these products are supplied in. A grey and blue cardboard sleeve is wrapped around the metal tin, with the knives inside nestled into a foam base. This appealing presentation makes these products ideal as a gift for the outdoorsperson in your life.

The Walther Pro TFK II, left, and FBK knives and Tool Tac M multi-tool.

The TFK II

The Walther Pro traditional folding knife (TFK II) is a handy-size folder that will fit easily into a pants pocket, ensuring it is always ready when needed. A sturdy nylon pouch with a snap buckle is provided if the user prefers to carry it on their belt instead. The blade locks solidly in place with no play or looseness in evidence using the tried and tested liner lock system.

It weighs in at 126g and measures 177mm long when opened with a 78mm blade. The spear-point blade is crafted from Sandvik 12C27 stainless steel - a blade material renowned for its ability to take and hold a razor edge, combined with excellent toughness and corrosion resistance.

A thumb notch is provided on both sides for opening by left- or right-handed users. The finish is a practical, non-reflective titanium grey. There is a grooved section on top, positioned right under the thumb, to give extra grip if more cutting force is required. A contoured finger-guard allows the index finger a secure grip, to prevent it sliding forward onto the wickedly sharp edge. The pivot pin that the blade swings on is quite large in diameter, inspiring confidence that it will stand the test of time and hard use.

The handle of the knife is made from near-indestructible G10 material with a non-slip rubberised coating and the Walther logo embossed in it. A recessed pin at the base of the handle allows a lanyard to be connected if the user desires.

With the quality materials and workmanship clearly evident, I was keen to see how the TFK II handled a few camp chores, as well as some game preparation. A couple of rabbits we had taken were destined for the pot, so skinning, cleaning and



The TFK II folding knife.

butchering them were the first tasks for the TFK II. The spear-point blade design performed much the same as a drop-point blade, allowing me to make incisions without cutting into the gut cavity. The two bunnies were prepared easily, with the knife being very comfortable in my medium-sized hand, whether held with the edge up or down. I used the knife for quite a few other missions around camp, ranging from cutting rope to preparing meals and did not notice any dulling of the edge at all.

The FBK

The fixed-blade knife (FBK) is the big brother of the TFK II folder. It sports the same blade and handle material, as well as the same finish. At 235mm long overall with a 109mm spear-point blade, the FBK however is more of a workhorse tool, suited to heavy camp chores, hacking vegetation or butchering large-bodied animals. The spear-point design is similar to its little brother and will make skinning an animal without slitting open the gut pouch easy.

As supplied, the blade was honed to a sharp edge. The styling of the

knife and nylon pouch puts it into the survival category, but this product would be just at home on a hunter's belt. A grooved section on top of the blade affords the user some extra grip when performing heavy cutting tasks, while a generous finger guard will prevent fingers sliding onto the blade. The full-tang construction is good to see and will ensure that this knife does not let you down when you need it most.

The FBK weighs 254g, which is a handy weight without being overly hefty and inspires confidence in its quality. There is a useful lanyard attachment point at the base of the handle. The nylon pouch impressed me with the quality of its manufacture, as well as a couple of well-thought-out features. The snap buckle strap has Velcro as an added measure to prevent losing the knife. Additional loops will allow the knife to be worn vertically or horizontally. A plastic sleeve sits inside the sheath to contain the knife and stop the sharp edge from cutting into the sheath material. Another excellent idea is a pouch positioned on the front that could contain a sharpening

stone or even a multi-tool or Swiss Army knife for those jobs beyond the ability of a knife. This is a feature which just adds to the product's versatility in the field.

The Tool Tac M

While knives are useful, they cannot match a multi-tool for versatility and the ability to perform many different tasks. The Pro Tool Tac M multi-tool can perform a range of duties with its array of tools. These include a knife, file, saw, glass breaker, belt cutter, Phillips and flat screwdrivers, bottle opener, wire cutter and pliers. The handles are made from G10 material with a textured finish to improve grip. The 57mm blade is constructed from Sandvik 12C27 steel, sharpened to a razor edge.

The Tool Tac M weighs 187g and has the feel of quality. All of the various attachments open easily and firm spring pressure keeps them in place



The FBK fixed-blade knife.

when fully opened, with no sloppiness in the mechanism anywhere. A nylon pouch is supplied so that it can be easily carried ready for use.

A feature I particularly liked about this tool was the fact that most of the attachments can be deployed without opening it up completely to access them. This is unlike some other multi-tools on the market. I kept the multi-tool on my belt during a recent hunting trip and found it handy for all the small jobs that crop up around camp.

Summary

All in all, I was most impressed with these new additions to carry the Walther Pro name. Quality was evident in each and I have no hesitation in recommending them to anyone looking for practical, well-made products to take on their hunting trips or just as everyday tools.

The Walther Pro TFK II has a recommended retail price of around \$80, which represents good value for money. The larger FBK retails for around \$120, while the Tool Tac M will cost about \$115. For more information about Walther Pro products, ask at your local gunshop or visit www.frontierarms.com.au ●



The Walther Pro Tool Tac M multi-tool with its attachments opened out.