Looking for a new Kershaw

Posted by mark76 - 29 Jan 2013 05:00

My Kershaw Blur has gone missing

In one respect that is a pity, since I really liked its assisted opening mechanism. It is just as strong as the mechanism on, e.g. assisted Benchmades, but the advantage is that it closes much easier. (There is no "counterpressure" when you close it.) Unlike the Benchmade assisted openers it is easy to close it single-handedly.

So I was looking for an assisted opener that has the same/a similar mechanism as the Kershaw Blur. Also, it shouldn't be too large (I wear it almost daily). And preferably not have a recurve. That's one of the things I didn't like about the Blur.

I was thinking of a Kershaw Leek. Are there any other knives I should consider?

[Edit: it doesn't necessarily have to be a Kershaw, but a knife with a similar assisted opening mechanism.]

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw

Posted by mark76 - 24 Feb 2013 13:49

Hey guys,

It’s been a while since we discussed this. In the meantime I found my Blur back. (A month later, somewhere hidden in a cupboard… Is there an English expression for this?)

Nevertheless, I don’t like the blade shape of the Blur anymore. It’s got a recurve and is far too wide for my purposes.

I’m still looking for a replacement. I think the Kershaw Leek comes closest to what I am looking for. The only things I don't like about it is that is has hardly any belly and that there are no versions with a grippy handle (like G10).

The SOG Flash II is great too, but I think I like the assisted opening of the Kershaws slightly better. I could go through the entire BladeHQ catalogue to find something better, but maybe you guys have suggestions.

Here's my wish list.

- Simple no frills knife, blade doesn't have to be made of an advanced steel
- Relatively thin and small (3-3.5")
- *Very easy* single-handed opening and closing. This is why I prefer an assisted opener (easy opening) and also why I prefer Kershaw assisted openers over Benchmade ones (which are not easy to close single-handedly)
- Blade shape: not too wide, no recurve, *slight* belly

Currently my Benchmade 940 functions as my EDC. It is near-perfect for my purposes. It opens very smoothly, but I'd still like it to be an assisted opener. And the blade is not too wide, I'd only wish it were more "pointy". (Don't know how to express this, but the blade shape of a Spyderco PM 2 is perfect.)

I the meantime I also tried two Spydercos. The Tenacious was ok, but its blade is a little too wide for me. The Paramilitary 2 was near-perfect. Only it has got its ("compression") lock on the back. Maybe it's just me, but this makes single-handed closing much more difficult.

Any suggestions for a Benchmade 940 with assisted opening and a PM 2 blade shape? Or should I just go for the Leek? Or does Kershaw have more assisted openers that fit my wishes?

Thanx!

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw

Posted by cbwx34 - 24 Feb 2013 14:56

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I've got a Kershaw Random Task II coming next week... you might look at that, although not as "pointy"... it's gotten some good reviews on other forums, so thought I'd give it a spin.

I just ran across they're now making the Zing assisted opening... although they switched to their 8Cr13MoV steel in it. I've got a non A/O one (in their 14C28N)... though it's so smooth you'd never know it wasn't A/O.

Still hard to beat a Leek... if you're attracted to it... go for it. You can snag one so cheap occasionally, it's hard not to have one or two in your collection.

Edit: Also check your PMs.

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw

Posted by BillWood - 24 Feb 2013 15:12

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Hi Mark

I am new to the knife game so take what I say as a new comer. About 5 months ago, thru my shop I picked up a Kershaw that was well used (lot of scratches on the blade and really needs a sharpening, waiting on my PP1 hopefully this coming week). From what I can tell the knife is a Kershaw Ken Onion USA 1550ST. These are the only markings on the knife execpt for pat.#'s

This knife is an assisted blade that is diffently a one hander. Even though it is an assisted knife it seems to almost close itself. About one third of the knife from the heel is serrated and comes to a nice point and in my opinion it has a slim blade that is 3 1/4 in long. since I have not been able to sharpen the blade I can not testify as to how the edge holds up. I use this knife as my EDC and use it for every thing and for it's current blade condition it still does a great job. Just cant wait to see what it is like when it is sharpened.

I hope this helps you out some, just my two cents worth.

Bill

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw

Posted by mark76 - 24 Feb 2013 19:39

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Thanks for your suggestions.

I seem to come to the conclusion that I "need" a Kershaw. The Blackout has a blade shape that's similar to the Benchmade 940. I really like the fact that it has a G10 handle.

Another thing I like about the Kershaws is their blade steel. I know I wrote before that this didn't matter much. But I was slightly wrong about this. I love sharpening and 13C26 is about the finest grain stainless steel I know. It can take a wicked edge and it's about the closest stainless steel I know to carbon.

Anyone have any experience with 14C28, which Kershaw also use?

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw

Posted by cbwx34 - 25 Feb 2013 18:50

Random Task II came in... here's a couple quick shots comparing it to a S30V Leek that has G10 scales...

Noticeably bigger, but feels good in the hand. Tip is deceptively "pointy"... more than I expected... spine tapers to a fine point. Only thing I noted is the thumb studs don't have much clearance... I could open it with either hand, but it's close... not sure I could hit it with gloves on. But flips well! You can carry it tip up on either side, tip down on one side.

You should also take a look at the knife Sauce posted... that looks pretty nice.

Decisions... decisions...

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw
Posted by cbwx34 - 27 Feb 2013 00:30

Hey Mark...

Just ran across this... did you see Kershaw/ZT is coming out with a smaller 560?

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw
Posted by BUCKrub91 - 05 Mar 2013 01:05

I just got a cryo.. it is a great knife especially for the price.. the only downside is its all steel so its a tad heavy.. I don't see that as a big deal though

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw
Posted by mark76 - 05 Mar 2013 03:45

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cbwx34 wrote:

Hey Mark...

Just ran across this... did you see Kershaw/ZT is coming out with a smaller 560?

Interesting... I love my 560! It's just quite big.

However, what makes it less suitable for my purpose here (ability to use it blind, so to say) is that it doesn't easily close single-handedly: the thumb stud often accidentally hits my thumb when I close it. (I guess that's why it's called a thumb stud :)

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw
Posted by cbwx34 - 05 Mar 2013 08:43

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I GIVE UP!!!

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Re: Looking for a new Kershaw
Posted by mark76 - 05 Mar 2013 09:00

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I know what I want now: a Kershaw Leek with a G10 handle. Now I've just got to find a European store that sells it or a US store that ships to Europe. (Which is not that easy. For example, BladeHQ and Amazon don't ship knives to Europe, even when they're perfectly legal.)

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