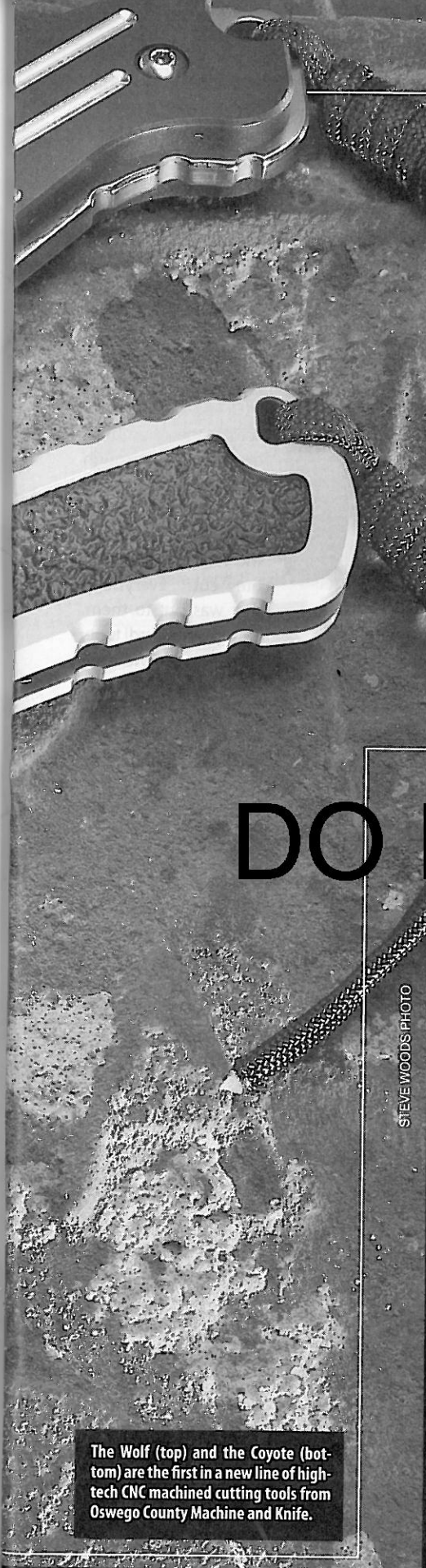


**FIRST  
LOOK!**



**DO NOT COPY**



From a veteran machine shop in upstate New York comes two short-run customs—one folder, one fixed blade—that are ready for duty!

# 2 CANINE CUTTERS

DO NOT COPY

BY JERRY L. CANNON

I freely admit that I am prejudiced in favor of any company that has “machine” in their title. Oswego County Machine and Knife (OCMK) is no exception. A machine company brings to mind a small, very dedicated shop that excels at precision and quality. OCMK is that kind of shop. OCMK started as a producer of small quantities of extremely precise machine fittings for industry. Knife making became part of their line when OCMK owner Mark Palencar, having been an engineer and machinist for over 20 years, began making knives five years ago. Palencar uses CAD software to both design and manufacture all OCMK knives and his beginning with precision design and tools heightens the overall quality of finished knives and ensures an ability to replicate with little variation.

## A Look At The Wolf

I subscribe to the notion that something that looks good is very likely to be good. The swallow-like Supermarine Spitfire comes to mind. Therefore, I first picked up the Wolf when the two knives were laid before me. The Wolf is the fixed-blade knife. However, at first glance it appears to be a folder with the blade open. The handle is black anodized aluminum with several grooves machined along its length. The uniquely styled metal work is very attractive.

CNC machining is used solely in the construction of the Wolf. There are no stamped or molded synthetic parts. The Wolf has a full tang blade made from S30V steel with a tanto point. OCMK sends the blade out to a firm that specializes in heat and cryogenic treating of aircraft components. With a slightly oversized tang, notches are machined in the spine and belly of the knife near the hilt and butt so as to help aid in maintaining a sure grip and controlling the knife while cutting. There are also three holes in the blade near the hilt that are principally aesthetic but do reduce the weight a little.

The Wolf is described as a prototype and will be limited to 25 pieces. Why it's a prototype is unclear, as it is clearly a knife that will be popular in the marketplace. The knives are individually serialized with “Proto 1/25” on the back of the blade.

The Wolf (top) and the Coyote (bottom) are the first in a new line of high-tech CNC machined cutting tools from Oswego County Machine and Knife.

STEVE WOODS PHOTO





Although it's a graceful-looking folding knife, the Coyote is right at home in the rugged backcountry. The Coyote was more than up to the task of making large wood into small wood.

are very fine parallel lines across the width of the blade. It would be crass to call these "tool marks," as they very much appear to be applied with the skill of an artist. The Coyote, also called a prototype and is limited to 50 pieces. They are serialized "Proto 1/50" on the back of the blade.

Dragging the blades across the thumbnail revealed no rough spots. Slicing paper into ribbons was smooth. So what will the Wolf and the Coyote cut? Everything that was put to them. Paper, cardboard, tape, twine, rope, whittled kindling. Both the Wolf and the Coyote are of reasonable size for cleaning game animals, although they are probably too large for most freshwater fish.



**"The tanto point gives the Wolf the look of a fighter, yet the length suggests that it is not the Wolf's forte."**

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The handle is skeletonized on one side for a soft rubber inlay. These inlays and the sheaths are the only synthetics used in the Coyote and the Wolf. The rubber inlays are not only attractive, but provide for a sure grip. The pocket clip on the opposite side of the handle is located for a tip-down carry only. Looking closely at the blade, there

**Field Worthiness**

Going out into the field, the Wolf fit well into my bare or gloved hand. The belly with finger grooves at both the hilt and butt kept my hand well in place when working with the Wolf. The Wolf's sheath is a simple belt pouch made of heavy duty tubular nylon. No Molle this or tactical that. A simple button strap retains the Wolf. The tanto point gives the Wolf

Careful work with the Coyote can create camp tools and implements.

**The Folding 'Yote**

The second of the two knives is the Coyote, a liner-lock folder. The Coyote did not immediately attract my eye. I noted that I could buy a dozen similar factory folding knives from any decent knife shop. Happily, after examining the Coyote, I found that it would be a wolf in sheep's clothing compared to factory knives. What immediately stood out is the cost of the Coyote. It is not much more than a similarly styled factory knife. Therefore, what a marvelous gift the Coyote would make. A custom folder at a factory price!

The Coyote is also a completely CNC-machined knife. The Coyote uses high quality materials: S30V blade, titanium pocket clip and lock. In addition to the blade, the pivot pin, and stop pins are also heat-treated. On the back of the blade is an aluminum ambidextrous thumb knob for easy opening and to aid in control of the knife.



With or without assistance, the Wolf accepted large challenges and succeeded in fine fashion.



With assistance, the Wolf could easily work its way through large branches for firewood or camp implements.

the look of a fighter, yet the length suggests that it is not the Wolf's forte. With careful and methodical work with the naked blade or with the assistance of a mallet, the Wolf put a stake point on modest size branches and cut paired notches for shelters. In the field the Coyote looked somewhat out of place. Too pretty? Not the Coyote was able to make short work of the tasks set before it. Shavings and tinder sticks of soft woods were no chore. The Coyote fit and handled equally well. Peeling bark, trimming small stubs and splitting slivers from branches made quick kindling. The Coyote was very rugged for a folding knife.

### Practical Approach

So what are the Wolf and the Coyote? The Wolf, with a thick full tang, tanto point



Careful and judicious handling of the Wolf can make short work of much larger challenges.

and deep belly grip, leads into the breach as a warrior. But the short blade, pleasing machine work on the scales and simple sheath proves it to be a fine field knife. The result is a balanced, utilitarian knife. The Wolf will be well at home regardless of where it is taken. And so the Coyote? It is nothing but its rugged, never-do-well namesake. Regardless of its ability in the field, the Coyote stands out as a gentleman's knife. Albeit slightly large for a gentleman, it is ideal for the gentleman going into the field.

Palencar's disposition towards finely made custom knives presents a unique opportunity. Palencar seeks and accepts short run commissions. This is ideal for the trainer who has seen it all and now has the answer or the special operations team leader requiring a precision instrument. Then there is the commemorative presentation knife. Each situation could be addressed by a short-run custom knife. Palencar's experience with engineering and machines, a strong working knowledge of materials, and the versatility of CAD and your design could come true. So grab a cocktail napkin, doodle away, send it OCMK and ask, "How much?" Remember to tell them, "Jerry sent me." TK

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MACHINE AND KNIFE**  
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315-806-1874; www.ocmk.net

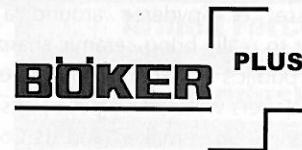
## FIELD TESTED



BOKER IS SPONSOR OF



- Blade material: 440C stainless steel
- Black micarta handle
- Overall length: 13 3/8"
- Includes leather sheath
- Item No. 02BO170



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